

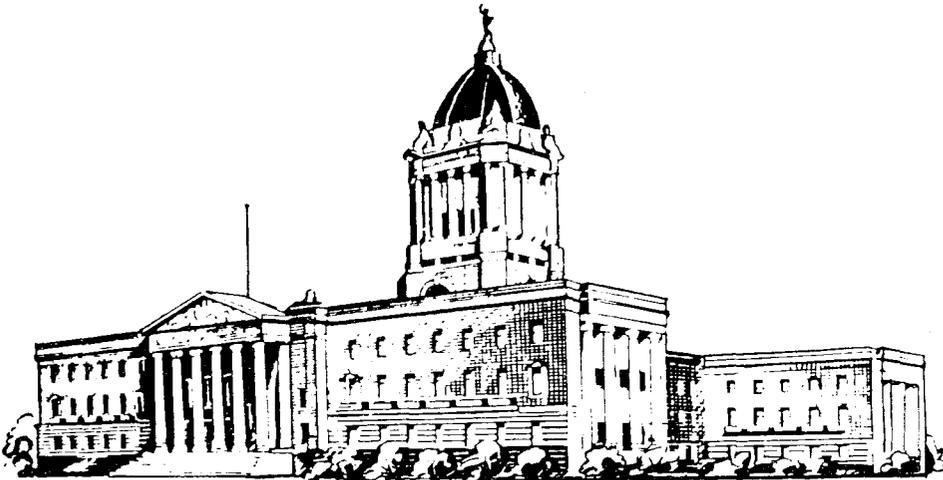


Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

Speaker

The Honourable Peter Fox



Vol. XXIII No. 54 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 26th, 1976. Third Session, 30th Legislature.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 p.m., Friday, March 26, 1976

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed this afternoon I'd like to draw the attention of the honourable members to the galleries. We have 80 students, Grade 7 standing, from the Royal School, Charleswood, under the direction of Mr. Atkins. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Charleswood.

We also have 40 students from the Gilbert Plains Collegiate under the direction of Mr. Bob Dodds. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Dauphin, the Honourable Minister of Highways.

And we also have 15 students, Grade 7 to 9 standing, of the Norberry School under the direction of Mr. Yip. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Riel, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

On behalf of all the honourable members, I bid you welcome to the Chamber this afternoon.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: I would refer the honourable members to Page 38 of their Estimates book. Resolution 79(a)--pass; 79(b) Other Expenditures--pass; Resolution 79. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$304,500 for Labour --pass.

Resolution 80. Fire Prevention, (a) Salaries \$250,700. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. HARRY E. GRAHAM (Birtle-Russell): Mr. Chairman, in the very recent past I think we had a rather serious fire just down here on the corner of Broadway and Main in the Fort Garry Court. I'm sure the Minister has had an extensive investigation in that . . .

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. I don't think that that matter can be subject to discussion at this particular time as the matter is under investigation. I believe the matter has been referred to under the Fatalities Enquiry Act or Coroner's Act, it used to be, and is a subject of intense investigation insofar as the legal authority is concerned. I believe it involves the court. Maybe one of my legal advisors, if there happens to be one in the House, could give guidance on that. But I do want to say to my honourable friend, the member who is asking the question, if it was asking for details of that, I'm not in a position to be able to answer due to the position at the present time in regard to that fire.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to ask the Minister where the investigation stood at the present moment, because I'm sure that there will be a very intensive investigation on that and I was just curious to find out at what stage the investigation was at the present time.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, then maybe I gave my honourable friend the answer without really hearing his question priorily. So, I guess my honourable friend will accept that as my answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 80(a). The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BOB BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I should say that maybe we should have passed the Estimates now. I notice when the Member for Fort Garry and the Member for Fort Rouge and the Honourable Labour Minister get going, I don't think there's anybody in the House can equal the pages of Hansard being covered by those three gentlemen.

But at this time I would just like to make several comments with regard to fire prevention, and specifically as it deals with the voluntary fire services in rural Manitoba and the cost of carrying out this fire protection by the rural municipalities. As the Minister realizes the cost of buying equipment, whether it be pumpers or any hose equipment or any nozzle equipment for the smaller municipalities whose assessments maybe are around 1 or 2 million dollars, represents a fairly substantial amount of money to these smaller municipalities, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to provide

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(MR. BANMAN cont'd)the kind of fire protection that the citizens of the area deserve.

I would just make reference to an incident where, for example, the Town of Steinbach just bought a pumper - I think it's about a 1,000 gallon a minute capacity - they paid \$40,000 for that pumper and the provincial sales tax on that particular unit was \$2,000. Now last year I asked the Minister if he was going to be making any recommendations to the Minister of Finance to possibly taking this sales tax off of equipment that was purchased by municipalities as it applied to different fire-fighting equipment, and the Minister gave me assurance that he would. I would like to know at this time what progress the Minister has made with his colleagues in Cabinet in trying to get the sales tax removed. I realize it's only a small portion of the overall cost but I think it would already make a difference, for instance, to the Town of Steinbach, a difference of \$2,000 on that one particular unit that they bought.

The carrying out of proper fire protection as I mentioned is of concern to all the municipal councillors and when we look at smaller communities such as Ste. Anne and Niverville, the small villages, whose assessment base is relatively low, when you're looking even at buying a used piece of equipment such as a pumper for maybe \$15,000 or \$20,000, it already represents 10 to 15 mills in their taxes.

So I would ask the Minister if he is planning any input into trying to alleviate some of the problems as far as the financial burden that's being put on the municipalities in order that we can assure our residents of rural Manitoba that they will be receiving the fire protection they should be getting.

I'd also like to say that members of the Minister's department have been going out and holding training schools in rural Manitoba and I think this has been very beneficial to the people involved in the voluntary fire protection of our town. The volunteers I think deserve a large amount of recognition because they have held down the costs of fire protection to all the small rural municipalities and I definitely think they deserve a real round of applause from everybody in the community.

If a lot of these smaller places were to go to full-time staff I know the cost would just be prohibitive and they wouldn't be able to afford that particular service. It's not a luxury, Mr. Chairman, it's something that the people of rural Manitoba are entitled to, that the families are entitled to, and I think that the Volunteer Fire Department definitely deserve a good hand.

I would like to encourage the Minister through his staff to continue to hold regional and possibly zone fire training schools. As I mentioned some of his staff have been coming out into my particular riding and have been holding two three-day training schools, and the people in the area appreciate it very much. I think there was a pretty good turnout at the last school and the volunteers did learn quite a bit at that particular school.

So I would once again encourage the Minister to maybe develop a certain system of schools. I know the Minister has been speaking about developing a certain school in Brandon, possibly, for volunteer firemen, and I think this is a step in the right direction to give these people all the training they can; they are holding down the cost of municipal fire fighting in rural Manitoba.

With those few words, Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear from the Minister as to the intention of his department with regard to establishing training schools, continuing along the line that he is, and maybe expanding the facilities that he is offering now; also what is in store for the municipalities who are facing the heavy costs of fire fighting equipment, equipment that is desperately needed by these volunteers in order to do their jobs properly and fulfill their functions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the involvement of my honourable friend the Member for La Verendrye in the area of fire prevention, fire training inspections, and what have you. May I first of all direct my attention to his first point dealing with the sales tax exemption. It is true that a year or so ago I did indicate that I would make requests of Treasury Department for consideration of the abolition of the sales tax insofar as it applied to fire fighting equipment and I have done that and have the assurance

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) of the present Minister of Finance that the matter is under consideration, whether he has formalized it or not it will be revealed, or not revealed, when my honourable friend the First Minister, Minister of Finance, brings down his budget. Right now I'm inclined to think, or maybe I shouldn't really say this, but I'm inclined to the position that the matter is under consideration but a definitive action has not been decided upon as yet.

But I do want to say to my honourable friend that there is another aspect of the cost of the provision of fire fighting equipment is under active consideration at the present time, and this is in co-operation with my colleague the Member for Selkirk, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, is that of trying to find ways and means where we can utilize one or two funds available to government that have been not used to a full degree for some time now, to see whether or not that we can't arrive at a program of making a financial input into the various municipalities for the cost of fire fighting equipment. I indicated, Mr. Chairman, some time ago that an assessment against premiums for home insurance, which includes fire insurance, is utilized for the provision of services in fire prevention and inspection; I'm not quite sure and I'm having this investigated as to whether or not the funds that are raised as a result of this assessment on insurance premiums can be used for the purchasing of fire fighting equipment.

I appreciate and realize, as my friend from La Verendrye does, that the cost of providing fire fighting equipment has escalated, oh, I would say about tenfold in the last five or six years. I recall that when I was Mayor of Transcona back in '48 we purchased a piece of equipment then at a cost of about \$5,000, which was at that time the ultimate. A similar piece of equipment today costs somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$60,000, without much change, except maybe a little more polished brass. But it is a problem and I'm sorry that I am not able to give precise answers to the exemption on the sales tax this afternoon; I do indicate to my honourable friend and members of the committee that consideration is being given to try and alleviate the municipalities from some of the high costs for the provision of fire fighting equipment.

In addition to this, one of the recommendations of the consultants to me, a Mr. Claude Wright, in the field of fire services, and the Fire Services Advisory Committee has been an extension of the Mutual Aid Program involving several municipalities. We are undertaking an educational program to have more municipalities do the same as they have done in the southwestern part of Manitoba, which I believe included the constituency represented by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, where they have got together on a mutual aid basis, set up, and most of the fire fighters are volunteers, but so that one municipality aids the other, and then a third municipality stands by to look after the needs of the other, and sort of on a rotating basis.

I have had one or two meetings personally with the municipal representatives of this particular area; I had one in Brandon - I believe it was early in December - where I met with a number of the reeves and municipal councillors from other areas that are investigating into this possibility. I also am going to Brandon tomorrow, and I hope my honourable friend the Member from Brandon will be around because there is an important conference at Brandon tomorrow of the fire chiefs of the Province of Manitoba to consider the reports that Mr. Claude Wright presented to me awhile back, which was unveiled to the public incidentally, also at Brandon.

I might say the Honourable Member for La Verendrye made mention of the possibility, original possibility we had of the establishment of a fire fighters college on the Indian Residential School property at Brandon. I was down there two or three years ago, I believe it was, took a look at the facility, it seemed to me to be sort of an ideal location for a fire fighters college for Manitoba but I ran into a little bit of flack after the announcement in that one or two other organizations thought that they had prior rights on the facility and as a result, no further progress has been made, although I believe that recently there has been some further correspondence between the Department of Public Works, federally and provincially, as to the facility. So it's not entirely a dead issue but it's run into some difficulty.

I might also say that we intend to have about ten students under our STEP

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) Program in the Dauphin area making an assessment of fire protection resources in some of the smaller towns, also to consider the availability of fire fighting resources such as water, and also the question of fire prevention measures by inspections on the farms and the likes of that.

So I do appreciate the contribution made by the Honourable Member for La Verendrye and I think that I've covered generally the present situation and I want to assure him and also all the members of the committee, of the deep concern of the department in this most important area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank the Minister for his timely reminder on the convention being held in Brandon tomorrow of Manitoba Fire Chiefs. I noted in the press that this event was taking place but I'm pleased to have the Minister's invitation to attend. I take it from that that the meeting is generally an open one and that members of the Assembly will be able to attend.

Mr. Chairman, I've been reading from the report on fire losses and fire services in the Province of Manitoba, referred to by the Minister a few moments ago, and on Page 15, Table 2, there are some interesting statistics in relation to the average numbers of fires per 1,000 population in major centres. In noting the average number during the years '65 to '74, the figures contained therein might move residents of Brandon to point with pride, and perhaps those from Thompson to view with alarm. There seems to be quite a spread in the number of fires per 1,000 population, and I'm wondering if the Fire Commissioner's office would be able to explain in some way the consistently low figures over the past number of years in Brandon and somewhat higher figures in relation to other centres. It would be nice, of course, to take it that these good results have been achieved through efficient fire prevention service providing directly through the fire departments in Brandon, but there may be other reasons that are not apparent on a casual inspection of these figures, and they would be interesting, I think, for the members to receive some explanations on them from the experts in the field of fire prevention.

Again, on the same Table, Mr. Chairman, it's worthy of note that there are statistics based on Winnipeg, Brandon and Portage la Prairie and Thompson, and then the final category is cities greater than 1,000 but excluding Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage and Thompson. I would take it that means Flin Flon, Mr. Chairman, because I don't know that there are any other cities left after we have . . .--(Interjection)-- Well perhaps the term city is not really used in its strictest context there and that might be worthy of some explanation by the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, there's one other item, again mentioned a few moments ago by the Minister in his reply, it relates to the fire prevention fund which is authorized under our Statute F-80, an Act Respecting the Prevention of Fires, and I note that there is a percentage appropriation from each fire insurance premium going to that fund. There is no, so far as I can see, indication in the Estimates how these funds are used, whether they're used as a credit to certain expenses relating to fire prevention; nor is there, I think, any information given here, so far as I know, about the extent or the amount of this fund as it has been accumulated over the years. Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister can tell us how much money has been accumulated, or if it has been expended on an annual basis, then specifically in what departments these funds have been used to reduce the expense to the taxpayer of the general services relating to fire prevention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: May I start with the last query of my honourable friend, Mr. Chairman. Basically there's no assessment, or very very little assessment on the general taxpayer for involvement in the Fire Commissioner's department. The largest portion is out of the fund created by virtue of the assessment on home insurance, which used to be fire insurance and now because of the change in the setup in the insurance industry where it's all-embracing, it's called Home Owners Insurance, I believe. So practically speaking all of the amounts are chargeable to the fund that is created as the result of the assessment against premiums. I could almost say in its entirety but there

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) may be a few dollars here and there for special purposes that might be raised otherwise but "I have me doubts."

If memory serves me correctly, at the present time in the reserve fund, or in the fund for fire prevention purposes, that the total amount in the fund at the present time amounts to somewhere close to half a million dollars, 460-odd thousand if my photogenic mind - if I have such a thing - is correct, having recently perused the Fire Commissioner's report. It would be somewhere in that general neighbourhood. And it's anticipated that as we expand in our fire prevention services a greater utilization of that financial input will be made.

If memory serves me correctly it is our intention to bring on staff two or three more fire inspectors in the fiscal year that's under consideration at the present time. We feel that there should be an extension of the provision of fire inspection services to a greater degree, and in northern Manitoba. We do have an agreement entered into between the Minister of Northern Affairs under the Northern Affairs Agreement and the Department of Labour to provide more input in fire prevention so that we hopefully can cut down the incident of fire losses in the remote areas of the province.

Now the Member for Brandon West referred to the Table on Page 15. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I'm leaving the Chair for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for Royal Assent.

IN SESSION - ROYAL ASSENT

His Honour, F. L. JOBIN, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba, having entered the House and being seated on the THRONE:

MR. SPEAKER: We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in session assembled, approach Your Honour with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and Government, and beg for Your Honour the acceptance of these Bills:

No. 33 - An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Further Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st day of March, 1976.

No. 34 - An Act for Granting to Her Majesty Certain Sums of Money for the Public Service of the Province for the Fiscal Year Ending the 31st day of March, 1977.

MR. CLERK: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to these Bills in Her Majesty's name.

His Honour was then pleased to retire.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, just before the entrance of His Honour I was attempting to reply to some of the points phrased by the Honourable Member for Brandon West. He referred to Page 15 of the report by the consultant for the Fire Advisory Services Committee, and made reference to the relatively low incidence of the average number of fires per 1,000 population in some of the communities, and in particular his own home City of Brandon being less than three percent per 1,000 population over the years from '65 really to '74. Now I think this is a remarkable achievement for the City of Brandon and only wish it was applicable by and large across the province as a whole. I think maybe some of the reasons is because of the input within the community, an awareness, coupled with at least to some degree that the type of construction in Brandon may be the type of construction - I'm thinking of highrise apartments and large rambling units that are more conducive to reduction or maintenance of a low incidence of fires in that area. I don't mean anything derogatory of the City of Brandon when I say that, but I think that it is a peculiar situation to the City of Brandon by comparison, not only insofar as the province is concerned but I think it would be equally true on a comparative basis across the Dominion. That is, a community of the size of Brandon having such a low comparative incidence of fire per 1,000 population.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont d)

It's interesting to me to note, Mr. Chairman, that if we look at the average of the range between, or rather the average from '65 to '74 on the same page, that Winnipeg has retained the relative same percentage of incidence of fires per thousand, that is the average being 4.5 over those years; Brandon, 2.5; Portage la Prairie, 3.8. And if we look at the record for Thompson from '65 to '69, the average was 13.4 per thousand. In 1970 to '74, 4.5 for a net average; '65 to '74 of 8.9. I think one of the reasons for the decline percentage-wise of the incidence per thousand in Thompson has been the increasing awareness and provision for more adequate fire fighting facilities, fire inspection. And during the period from '70 to '74 we also had an involvement, which I suggest has a reflection on the lowering of the incidence of fire in Thompson, an Assistant Fire Commissioner appointed to take care of the area of Thompson and Northern Manitoba. And it is in this area, as I mentioned a few moments ago, that we hope to have a greater involvement of Assistant Fire Commissioners to carry on educational inspection programs.

So I think, Mr. Chairman, they're about the only comments I can make at this particular time to the points raised by the Honourable Member for Brandon. Again I say to him that we've enjoyed having a number of schools and seminars in his home City of Brandon insofar as fire is concerned, and I want to assure him that he will not be turned away at the door if he turns up tomorrow in Brandon. And I'll be staying in there, I'm leaving here early in the morning and if he runs into any difficulty at all, I'm sure he'll find me and I'll give him an escort into the assembly so that he'll be able to do the same as I will be doing, listening to words of wisdom from the fire fighters of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is making an offer I can hardly refuse. He is going to vouch for me in the constituency of Brandon West and ensure that I get through the door, and I thank him for that offer.

Mr. Chairman, I don't want to dwell too long on these statistics but it occurs to me that in the statistics relating to Thompson there must surely be some major fire disaster that distorts the figures from '65 to '69, that might have involved a number of units rather than the average occurrence of fires of a sporadic type.

The other thing is that, is there a geographical factor involved here? Looking at a city like Brandon the construction is much older and yet the incidence of fires is much lower. Is this a condemnation of modern construction because Thompson is a city of very recent times in which the very latest, presumably, building methods have been used. And I would like the Minister perhaps to enlarge upon that from the records of the Fire Commissioner's office. I just can't quite understand why there should be a high incidence there, assuming that there was some fire protection provided in those days in the area of Thompson - I'm sure there was. It may not be nearly as elaborate or as efficient as it is at the present time but again it seems hardly conceivable that there should be that spread between two communities, one having much older construction on the average than the one having the higher incidence of fires.

May I revert just for a moment to the discussion relating to the fund, Fire Prevention Fund. I understand from the Minister that his recollection is that it amounts to something less than half a million dollars. Could he tell us for how many years this has been accumulating? What disbursements, if any, have been made from that fund over the years, and by whose authority? Is it specifically and directly under the Minister's authority or does he designate this responsibility to some other person or group of persons in his department?

MR. PAULLEY: As to the last question, it's under the authority of the Minister after the establishment and approval of the Estimates, subject of course to scrutiny by the Provincial Auditor in relation to the use, proper use of the fund. Basically when we approve the Estimates, as we're going through them now, the total amount of money involved for the Fire Commissioner's department, those funds come out of the general fund. The fund, as I understand, is really quite an old fund that has been in effect - and I'm sorry I can't be precise as to the year that it first came into effect. My Deputy informs me that it's 20 years or more that it has been in effect, and it's controlled, as

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) I say, to the degree, first of all I would suggest the approval of the Estimates by the Assembly, and then I believe that there is provision contained within the Act in any extenuating circumstances or likes of that we can go beyond that and use the fund. And my staff now have referred me to the legislation, Mr. Chairman, regarding disbursements from the Fire Prevention Fund. "All moneys paid under Section 66," that is the assessment against premiums, "shall be credited to an account to be known as the Fire Prevention Fund and the money of the amount shall be paid out on order of the Minister, which order shall certify that the expenditure is for the purpose of this Act only. In other words, Mr. Chairman, it's on the order of the Minister but it can only be used in the area of fire prevention use, and annually of course as I indicate we ask for an amount in our Estimates of approval by the Assembly, and then of course in addition to that for the use of the fire prevention purposes the Minister a certain amount of authority in that particular area. I trust that answers that part of the question of my honourable friend.

In reference to the percentage comparisons between, say, Brandon and Thompson, I cannot answer my honourable friend precisely, but I would imagine that from '65 to '69 where the 13.4 percent average of fires per population, it could conceivably be that they didn't have the fire fighting facilities there in the new town as it has today, because there was a notable reduction from '70 to '74, and it was just at that time there was an expansion in fire fighting services, and I would also suggest in addition to fire fighting but fire prevention as well. If memory serves me correctly, during the years '65 to '69 there were one or two major fires in Thompson that may or may not have been put out with a greater speed had there have been more adequate fire fighting facilities.

Getting back to Brandon again, I would suggest that it is the type of community that has always been fire conscious and that's to their praise. I don't think really it's - the honourable member mentioned - because of the type of buildings being older, I think they are a different type of a building that, say, some of the older buildings here in Winnipeg are. I also want to say to my honourable friend in the last year I have had some difficulty in respect of one or two of the older establishments in Brandon attempting to get them to conform to orders issued by the Fire Chief in Brandon. One facility in particular, and I don't want to mention it at this stage, but I would be glad to discuss it with the Honourable Member for Brandon West, we had to close down simply because they wouldn't abide by the decisions of the Fire Chief or the Assistant Fire Commissioner because every fire chief in Manitoba in effect is an assistant fire commissioner under the Fire Commissioner. So that direct control emanates from the Department of Labour and the Fire Commissioner, and in this one particular case, in one of the older buildings, I found it necessary to issue a Ministerial Order that you comply or you close down. I think it was closed down for about a week before the proprietor decided that, better change our ways and provide the necessary fire prevention services. I think really that is the reason of a greater consciousness of the incidence of fire in the Community of Brandon than prevails in others unfortunately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for those further explanations and just a final question on the Fire Prevention Fund, and I thank him for the information that he is personally responsible as the Minister for disbursements from that fund. Now is it the general policy of the Minister to disburse the total fund annually or to accumulate over a period of years, or could he say what specific use of funds when they are dispersed is made. Do they go to a general credit to total cost of fire prevention or are there some specific uses that are made?

MR. PAULLEY: Just in accordance with the Act I read out, Mr. Chairman. The funds are in a separate fund, reserve fund, recorded in the Public Accounts for the specific and only purpose as provided for in the Act, The Fire Prevention Fund, and I refer my honourable friend to the statute F 80 The Fire Prevention Act, and there is where the provision is, and that I have no license at all to use the funds for any other purpose than fire protection.

Now I believe there is a general understanding that the fund will not be

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) accumulated to such a degree that it is a constant assessment without utilization against the premium payers of property insurance - I was using a house insurance terminology, property insurance means insurance against loss or damage to property, which is all inclusive. We can vary it and we have varied by act of the Assembly of levy made against insurance policies from time to time. I believe that we can go up as high as 1- $\frac{1}{2}$, no, not exceeding two percent assessment against the premium fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council of moneys received in the preceding calendar year as assessments. We can't go over that and I believe that there is - and I'm sorry I can't pinpoint it right now - a precise amount within the reserve fund, and as I indicated earlier in reply to the Member for La Verendrye, we have under consideration a possibility of utilizing part of this fund for the purchase of fire prevention equipment or fire fighting equipment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 80. The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, I also have a couple of questions for the Minister at this time.

The Minister indicated to the House that there will be improved prevention programs, and certainly the members are glad to hear that, but the report prepared, Mr. Chairman, was quite an extensive report on fire safety review, it was quite an extensive report, and I think it examined the incidence of fires in the province, it talked to all the fire people responsible, the experts, and there were some recommendations in the report.

My question to the Minister is, he mentioned that there will be some improved programs, but the question I have for the Minister, it also recommended increased training of personnel: Will that be undertaken, and in what way will this be done?

My other question to the Minister is, increased training of personnel. I know that the Minister has indicated that there will be an improved prevention program, education, in various ways. The Minister has indicated that already, and we accept that. But the other point that I am concerned about is increased training of personnel. I don't think the Minister elaborated on that.

The other point that I wish to make is the upgrading of equipment. I wonder how the Minister will, you know, how can that be enforced? That is one of the recommendations in the report. Will the Minister be making a recommendation to the people in the fire departments to improve their equipment? That was one of the recommendations in the report, I am just asking in what way the Minister can recommend or request or upgrade the fire-fighting equipment?

The other point that I would like to ask the Minister is, we know that in 1974 there was a very high fatality rate, death rate in Manitoba as a result of fire of some 72. I wonder if the Minister has the statistics for 1975. I would be interested. Has that increased or has that decreased, because at one point I believe the Minister indicated to the House that there was sort of gradual fire losses, but according to the report since 1970 there has been quite a sharp increase in the way of loss of life and loss of property, so perhaps the Minister can give us some indication what was the loss of life in 1975, if he has that information; and what is the loss of property through fire in 1975, so that we can have some idea; what is the increase from 1974 or years prior, because it seems to me that it's only in the last several years that there has been a sharp increase as far as losses and life and fire losses in property are concerned. So that would help if the Minister could give us that information; if he hasn't, perhaps he can give it to us some other time, the 1975.

But I would like to hear from him in what way he can implement a program, what action he will be taking to improve the training of personnel and the up-grading of equipment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: As far as the increased training of personnel that is just one of the reasons for all of the conferences, of which I believe there have been five, that have been taking place in Brandon to attack that particular problem of how to go about it, and the Department of the Fire Commissioner is conducting training schools to a greater degree now than hitherto. I believe there are about five set up for this current

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd). . . .calendar year in various parts of the province, where personnel from the Fire Commissioner's Office domiciled here primarily here in Winnipeg, go out to the rural areas and conduct schools with the volunteer fire fighters; I also believe that we will have a continuation of the fire school, the training school that takes place here in Winnipeg down near Empress Lanes - where is it? Ellice Avenue, the fire training school of the City of Winnipeg. And incidentally, having mentioned that I do appreciate the total involvement and co-operation of Fire Chief Cam Shewan of the City of Winnipeg. We have found that his co-operation is invaluable. So I'm sure that that will continue, but as I say there will be four or five additional schools in various parts of Manitoba for training of personnel. I attended the training school at Thompson earlier last year. So it's an ongoing process and is going to be augmented.

As far as the upgrading of the equipment is concerned, this is a matter that is under local jurisdiction, but the Fire Commissioner's Department is constantly being requested to give expert advice to municipalities who are engaging in purchasing equipment. In the recommendation from Mr. Wright, I believe there is a suggestion, or a recommendation, that no municipality purchase equipment that is over 15 years old. Now it used to be that many of the small municipalities, particularly those that didn't have a great deal of financial reserves, would buy old equipment off of some other more affluent municipality, and sometimes to their regret because it wasn't quite what is desired for our fire-fighting equipment. So one of the recommendations of Mr. Wright is that there be a time input - I believe it's 15 years - but at the present time we don't issue directives to the respective fire departments as to what their equipment should be.

A few years ago, however, through the Fire Commissioner's office, and I think this was even before this government took over, to bring about standardization of the threads on the various pieces of hose equipment and the likes of that, so that there could be an interchangeability of fire-fighting equipment either in emergency or on transfer of the equipment.

Now in respect to the number, the fire fatalities, I have the information requested of my honourable friend. I'll go back to 1973, there were 35 total fatalities as a result of fire, as the honourable member mentioned. In 1974, that's the year of the last report previously, we had that doubled to 72. However, for the calendar year just passed, 1975, the total fatalities again went back to 35, or about half of the fatalities of 1974; and thus this year up until the beginning of March there have been 13 fatalities. So there's the information requested by my honourable friend. As far as the question of costs, I have here a cost, January to December in 1975, \$22,176,979; for January - December in 1974, \$23,162,429. These figures of course do take into comparison inflationary factors and the likes of that.

As far as the comparative number of fires concerned, it appears to me from reading these figures there were about 158 less fires in 1974 than there were in 1975.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 80(a)--pass; (b)--pass; (c)(1)--pass; (c)(2)--pass. Resolution 80, resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$385,700 for Labour--pass.

Resolution 81, Research (a)--pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I recognize that the research operations of the department focus to a substantial degree on Annual Wage and Salary Surveys as noted in the descriptive paragraph. But I would like to know from the Minister to what extent the activities in this sphere go beyond, hopefully go beyond Annual Wage and Salary Surveys, and to what extent there is research into the whole field of labour relations, into the whole field of preventive mediation and the measures that can be taken to expedite and facilitate the collective bargaining process before breakdown, and also research into the area of health and safety.

I recognize that Occupational Safety and Health is a separate item and we'll be coming to that. But what I'm getting at is, what is covered in this research area where that \$196,000 that we're voting goes beyond simply the matter of Wage and Salary Surveys? I would hope it goes substantially beyond that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It just happens that the Research Division has given me a documentation of what they do so that I can answer my honourable friend. I want to express my appreciation to Cam Sheppard, the Director of Research, who is the young gentleman that's just in front of me, for the provision of this information for my honourable friend.

"The Research Division carries out a variety of research and administrative work, which is of assistance in developing new legislation and changing departmental programs. It also provides information to many segments of the public on a continuing basis concerning such matters as wage and salary trends." And that's what the Member for Fort Garry referred to. "Such matters as wage and salary trends, working conditions, collective bargaining and labour legislation. In specific terms its current functions include continuous reporting on legislative changes and other jurisdictions of interest to the department, an analysis of the provisions of collective agreements." I'm sure my honourable friend is aware that all collective agreements have to be filed with the department and an analysis is carried on by the Research Division.

"Another function is the preparing of background research reports for such bodies as the Minimum Wage Board, The Apprenticeship and Tradesmen Qualification Board and the Manitoba Labour Management Review Committee," or the Woods Committee. "Providing secretarial and administrative assistance to the aforementioned boards of the department.

"It's also involved of course in the drafting of annual reports for the department, preparing information necessary for planning the department's budget each year, operation of a departmental library for the use by the department, personnel of other departments and the general public when requested of the Research Department.

"It's also involved in participating in many interdepartmental and government working groups, particularly in the manpower field." As the Minister somewhat responsible for co-operation in manpower with the federal authority, I find our Research Department invaluable in assisting.

"As I indicated also in compiling the annual wage and salary surveys, conducting ad hoc surveys to obtain information required by the department or the government by participating in the work of national industrial relations and labour research associations."

So their activities cover a multitude of fronts, Mr. Chairman, and I might say that the division is most valuable to me in making an assessment, particularly in legislation that is under consideration for advancement in this House. That broadly, Mr. Chairman, is the function of the Research Department.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, would this branch monitor operations of the department for example? And I would cite by illustration the matter, for example, of inspections. Would the Research Department monitor the degree to which the department was able to carry out inspections required under laws and statutes pertaining to the

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) Labour Department, the Labour Ministry? For example, let us go back to the question of mobile homes and trailers, and the inspections necessary to be carried out to correspond with the new regulations; or the inspections of elevators, or the inspections of buildings. Does the Research Department monitor those operations to determine whether there is sufficient personnel qualified or whether additional personnel should be trained and added? Does it function in that sphere?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Chairman, that is the responsibility of the individual divisions, and if they encounter any difficulties the matter is referred to the Minister or to the Deputy to take such remedial action as may be necessary to overcome any difficulties that the department or the section of the department might have, and it could conceivably be that the Minister would request of the Research Department to give any information or any data required to overcome the difficulty. But the prime responsibility, and that's what I'm suggesting, the prime responsibility rests with the divisions concerned to report the same through the director of those divisions to the Assistant Deputy Minister or to the Deputy Minister and thence to the Minister for action.

MR. SHERMAN: . . . monitor trends and developments in the industrial relations field generally, and if not, who does monitor them? - for example, new techniques or new suggestions, studies coming out of universities, out of labour seminars, out of industrial negotiations, discussion groups, techniques in the area, as I've said, of protection of the collective bargaining system, preventive mediation to try to devise a better way to avoid breakdown. Does this division carry out a certain activity in that field, or if not, who in the department does?

MR. PAULLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is the division that does that in various ways. They are involved to a very great degree in constant consultations with other jurisdictions and they also conduct investigations into new trends referred to by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry. They're greatly involved in the program of operation we call the Woods Committee. The Research Department attends various conferences dealing with all matters pertaining to industrial relations to have an assessment in cooperation with their like personnel in other jurisdictions, compiles reports to the Minister; and also representatives of the department and in particular the Director of the Research Department goes with the Minister to conferences on industrial relations matters, conferences with the other Ministers of Labour in the Dominion and feeds back information and data obtained as a result of this involvement. Also there is an involvement of the Research Department in some sections of the university as an ongoing internal function.

MR. SHERMAN: Does the division or the branch report in a way that's accessible to the public on its activities, or is that done in a confidential way to the Minister and then incorporated in the Annual Report of the Department of Labour? In other words, what I'm asking is, would some of the activities and investigations in which the Research Branch was engaging, would some of their conclusions and their propositions be available in a report from that specific branch that could be accessible to others in the Legislature or in the general public, or is it all part of a feed that goes into the Minister for the preparation of the department's total Annual Report?

MR. PAULLEY: Really, Mr. Chairman, it's a dual operation. First of all anything of a confidential nature, of course, is reported only to the administration and in particular the Minister. But from time to time we do receive reports as a result of the involvement of the Research Department that after having been received by the Minister is declared public information. And I give to you the very fact that honourable members of this Assembly received copies of the Woods Committee report. The Research Department was largely involved in compiling that report which was made public. Now anything of a general nature that is non-confidential is by and large available to the department through the Minister. I'm sure my honourable friend recognizes that that is the only way really that we can operate so that the Minister and the other officials of the Department of Labour are knowledgeable of what's going on in the respective divisions. But there is no directive as such that no information can be given to the public after assessment, because quite frequently we have to respect confidentiality within the department because of

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd) what has happened or continuously happens in our trends towards changes in legislation or modus operandi or have it what you will.

I've had requests, personal requests from many members of the public and of industry for certain papers that the Research Department compiled and I've made them available. But it has to be on a sort of a spot-check basis.

MR. SHERMAN: The Minister made reference to university courses, and I note that a \$1,500 grant was recently made available to assist students taking a three-year university extension certificate course on labour. Would the Research Branch be working in close consultation, for example, with the directors of that course and either employing students in that course to assist or participate in research activities that they were carrying out, or undertaking specific research projects for use in that university course itself?

MR. PAULLEY: No, Mr. Chairman, the grant to the three-year course is given by the department, not the section but the department as a whole, to assist the Winnipeg Labour Council, I believe the University of Winnipeg, and I think there's an involvement to the Canadian Labour Congress in a three-year course. I had the honour last Saturday of presenting five certificates to graduates of the three-year course. I believe Dean Lawless of the University of Winnipeg, Faculty of Continuing Education, I believe it is - maybe my honourable friend can help me out, the Member for Fort Rouge - was the prime motivator in the course this year, aided by such distinguished gentlemen as Professor Pentland and others who have an involvement in the field of labour-management relations. But as far as the involvement of the Research Department or the Department of Labour, only on call, they're not directly involved in the course itself. It's been going on now, I understand, for about 15 years. Contributions were made by the previous administration and are continued by this one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would be willing to share with the committee some of the results or assessments made of the consequence of the research that is going on in his department, particularly those relating to the Manpower labour trends in the province. I believe it was reported in the reports prepared by Professor Phillips for the Economic Committee that's run by our Industry and Commerce on manpower issues, that indicates that the baby boom that we've all been coping with I suppose in the public field and in the building schools and responding, is now coming to an end and that most of the people produced during that period are now entering into the work force and that there will be an absolutely critical labour shortage in the prairie provinces beginning around 1978-79 and that in fact there will be a shortage of required labour skills. And what I'd certainly like to know from the Minister in the assessment of those labour trends, the development of the labour force in the province, if we've been able to pinpoint specific areas in the economy where there are apt to be or likely to be labour shortages or shortages of skilled labour so that those particular sectors whether commercial or industrial, manufacturing, mining, whatever it may be, will not suffer from blackages in the ability to produce or grow or provide for more productivity. That would be one set of questions that the Minister can provide us with an indication of whether the assessment of those trends, what is ongoing for the research, have reached the stage where they can now target in on some of the critical labour areas where there is going to be requirements for either additional manpower or skilled training in order to bring people into those areas.

I would sort of transfer or continue that line of thought, Mr. Chairman, by asking the Minister if in fact that kind of information or those kinds of evaluations of trend are then related to the different kinds of educational programs that we are presently offering in the province to ensure that there is a proper match-up between the skills and the needs and that we're not caught short in a period of two or three years where we have a large number of demands in certain areas and there are not enough skilled manpower to properly supply their needs. I'd like to say that one of the issues that was brought to my attention just recently for example is the way the system gets out of whack, and that there were I believe something like ten or fifteen PhDs in Physics produced in the University of Manitoba the past couple of years who can't find employment because there's

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) no longer demand for people in the field of chemistry and physics, in the natural sciences. Needless to say those who have spent eight or nine years in higher education getting those degrees get frustrated by it, seeking other forms of employment, and yet the anticipation is, in four or five years will we need those people back working in those critical areas. It seemed to me that in a previous age we allowed the system to get out of synchronization or out of whack because we weren't matching the skills up, the needs, or at least for whatever the causes were, the system wasn't functioning properly. So I would like to know if the Minister is able, and perhaps not in specific detail at this point, but be able to start supplying some formulation of target areas where there is apt to be either labour over-supply or under-supply and that therefore the educational training programs in the province would give themselves specifically to adjusting that problem; or beyond that, whether we should then change our immigration policies or work with the Federal Government to adapt immigration policies to make sure there's an adequate supply of workers coming in from other provinces or from outside the country to supply those needs. I wonder if at this time the Minister can indicate whether he foresees those kind of shortages taking place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: I think, Mr. Chairman, in many respects my honourable friend answered his own questions by referring to Professor Paul Phillips and assessments that are going on under his general directions, mainly within the Department of Industry and Commerce in co-operation with Canada Manpower Industrial Division. The questions of input insofar as immigration and assessment of availability of personnel in different fields is under constant review by the federal authority. Now as far as the Department of Labour is concerned, we have a sort of an involvement in these assessments but not as the prime developers of an assessment. Canada Manpower is charged with the responsibility of an ongoing review constantly in the type of approaches to be made to sort of slot-in people, to use that expression, it's a broad approach to various areas of activity and requirement.

My honourable friend mentioned about a surplus now of PhDs and the likes of that. Of course I recall that a few years ago it was the desire of everybody to become a Doctor of Philosophy or to a Master of Arts, a Master of Science. I find that even in the field of some other professions there seem to be surpluses being created, and some of them may not be able to pursue the areas of their chosen endeavours and might have to work in a different sphere. So that is ongoing, but I do want to say to my honourable friend the Member for Fort Rouge that I don't think that it is a responsibility of a Department of Labour per se to become involved other than in a consultative or an ongoing connection with these major problems. Certainly in the area generally speaking of employment we are concerned and have a great concern with the provision of certain types of personnel, but when we get into the academic areas, and they were the ones that the member touched on by and large, they are being undertaken by other sections of government and not the Department of Labour. One of the things that I have always been against is duplication of services.

Yes, as one of the Ministers involved in Canada Manpower in co-operation with Robert Andres and others, we do have an involvement, and I along with my colleagues, the Minister of Colleges and Universities, the Minister of Industry and Commerce and the Minister of Northern Affairs on this committee on manpower, and these matters are discussed there, but not precisely insofar as the Department of Labour is concerned. So I really can't give my honourable friend any more definitive information as of that. I think the answers to the questions he posed can be obtained to a more proper degree in some of the other areas, not the Department of Labour. Not that we are not concerned, I'm not suggesting that at all. We are concerned, but the prime responsibility is not ours.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, coming back to the issue, I don't think that the answers to the questions were available in those other reports and I guess I can still come back to the central question, that from the different sources that his department would have access to, whether Federal Manpower or Industry and Commerce or whatever, does he foresee in the next five years that there will be a shortage of labour in certain

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) key areas of the economy that would therefore require some major change or adaptation in manpower policies or training policies, whatever it would be? I'm still not sure if he is saying that it's not the responsibility of the Department of Labour to isolate the question of labour supply, so I'd be interested to know who in the provincial arena specifically has the responsibility of identifying the imminent developments in the labour field, the manpower field, so that we could isolate those areas where there may be shortages or requirements for additional supply of labour so that those assessments could then be passed on to the respective training, educational, whatever arrangements. I still would like if, even if it's an educated guess of the Minister at this point, whether he sees at this point in this province that we are heading sort of out of the cycle where we have had in some cases a large over-supply in the labour field that's had to be absorbed and therefore the economy's had to heat itself up in large part, absorb large numbers of people coming into the work force as a result of that 1945 baby boom - if we're now in the period of baby bust and the population cycle is on a really downward curve and that therefore we may be faced with the opposite problem which is a labour shortage. I'd like to know whether in fact that is going to happen in this province.

MR. PAULLEY: Well, my honourable friend asked me to make an educated guess. My educated guess would be that in most areas the answer would be that we will not be facing a manpower shortage. On the contrary, we're constantly - that is dealing in the field of apprenticeship, I think, as I mentioned the other day - being requested to cut down the ratio of apprentices in the various categories, of which I am rejecting because my own personal or educated guess is that we will be requiring greater input of expertise. Now that's insofar as the general area of involvement normally attributed to a Department of Labour.

I note the result of the apparent reduction in the number of hospital beds in the Province of Ontario, that there has been created, or possibly created, a surplus of nurses, trained nurses. My honourable friend referred to possible surpluses of PhDs and the like. Well I'm not going to make educated guesses into the field of education, I'll keep my remarks to the general areas of those services that I am involved with. It could conceivably be that in certain areas that there will be labour surpluses, as I indicated, as the result of certain actions in the political arenas. I don't mean this derogatory of the jurisdiction that's taking these steps, but just by way of illustration it seems to me that - I don't know if my honourable friend the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, who I understand still has an involvement in law school, may agree with an observation that I have made that there soon may be a surplus in the legal profession, that it's sometimes a little harder now for graduates of law to readily obtain employment so that they can utilize their expertise. I find that insofar as the Civil Service Commission is concerned we're getting more applications than before from people who may have their BAs, their MAs and other degrees, applying for jobs that do not require those types of expertise, which indicates surplus rather than shortage.

But I would agree with my honourable friend that it's a matter of concern to try and continue, or trying to bring about a balance, but my educated guess is that as of this particular moment I do not foresee a shortage of personnel generally speaking. Yes, there could conceivably be shortages in certain areas and certain categories, but as I say there's an ongoing assessment being made by the provincial authorities in co-operation with the federal authorities and we have established, in the Province of Manitoba, a sub-committee of Cabinet comprising the Ministers that I mentioned a moment or two ago. And there is a continuous assessment being made as to whether we have to change the direction, say, for instance, in the Community Colleges, that placings should have to be changed from one category to another in order to have an even keel approach to the future.

MR. AXWORTHY: Before I ask another line of questioning I would like to make an observation to the Minister, and it's simply this. I think that the usefulness of having some annual review or assessment of future job trends in a province like Manitoba where you would be able to pinpoint key areas of the economy which may or may not be - one may be heading towards a surplus if it's in the health field, and another may be going

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) towards a shortage of supply in the commercial field, accountancy or something - because there's a very large time lag in education. I know now that in universities or community colleges when students are looking for advice as to the kind of programs they should be undertaking, they are set on certain directions that will not produce anything for four or five years, and that therefore find themselves in a situation where there isn't adequate training. I know in my own field, for example, there's a desperate shortage now of trained managers in local government, in the administration and management of local government fields.

A MEMBER: The elected ones or . . .

MR. AXWORTHY: No, the elected ones, there's more supply than the demand requires I think. But in the field of training the administrators and managers or whatever their proportion is these days --(Interjection)-- actually it changes from day to day, it depends who counts them, it alters. But I would simply want to make the observation, Mr. Chairman, that I think the requirement for a much more finely tuned kind of planning that goes on in schools is really necessary and that it doesn't happen to any large extent now, and as a result many students I feel become penalized and oftentimes badly hurt by the system because they're encouraged into lines of study or training and they find that four or five years later all of a sudden that there was no longer any demand for those skills.

Conversely on the other side, you find that there are many areas of the economy which have extreme demands for trained labour and that demand cannot be supplied, and as a result you find that that's one of the inflationary pushes. One of the problems in inflation is that we often don't have the supply of skilled people in certain areas and therefore prices and demand and the whole cycle begins to work, and I simply say if that kind of documentation or general assessment could be made available so that those in the field of education in all its aspects would have that ability to perhaps more properly counsel and guide future students into areas where there would be need it would be of some importance in developing a more well matched manpower program in the province.

Making an observation though, Mr. Chairman, one of the other questions that I would have for the Minister, and I was intrigued, he said one of the things that takes place is that there is an ongoing updating of the Woods Committee, and I think both myself and the Member for Assiniboia said before that we feel that the report produced by the Woods Committee two years ago was a very important document containing I think some very essential assessments of the problems of labour relations in the public service field. I'm not sure I heard the Minister right, but I do believe he said that the Woods Committee continues to meet. And what I'd be interested in knowing is whether there has been since the publication of that report two years ago any further refinement in the findings of the Woods Committee Report. Have any of the kinds of recommendations that they offered two years ago been updated, been altered in light of other experiences, in light of other research, in light of other developments; that could then be brought forward again for the attentions of those members of the House that are particularly concerned about the area of public service bargaining so that we could see to what degree the very many recommendations - I say many of them were extremely helpful to members on both sides of the House in coming to grips with that issue - whether there in fact has been a change or adaptation in any of those findings, or at least an updating, and whether that would be made available or could be made available to members of this House for perusal.

MR. PAULLEY: As far as the Woods Committee is concerned, a recommendation was made to me, Mr. Chairman, for it to have the permission to continue on as an ongoing assessment and reassessment of its recommendations that I forwarded to members. I have not received a report back as yet. The authority has been given to the committee to continue its endeavours, and of course with that authority, authority for expenditures as required. But the committee has not reported back to me in those precise areas. As I indicated to the committee a little while ago, they did concentrate on an educational program, to call it that, as to the application of the Anti-Inflation Guidelines in Legislation to the community. So they concentrated on that. I would expect that Professor Woods and his group would be back doing what they requested authority from me to do, which was granted very shortly.

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(MR. PAULLEY cont'd)

Now I don't want to prolong our exchange, I think it's worthwhile. I'm not suggesting closure or anything like that. I was interested in one of the remarks of my honourable friend when he spoke about people trained in areas wanting to know where they are or what they're going to do. I believe it was just about two weeks ago one very eminent scholar mentioned that we all, we all - not me of course, because I'm up at the other end of the scale - but all of those of normal age or younger ages today will have to face themselves with the fact that before they reach age of retirement the chances are that they'll be involved in at least four different occupations and sources of revenue. So this is, I think, an answer in part to my honourable friend that no longer, no longer will the community or will the student be in a position of being assured that if he graduates as a dentist, a doctor, a lawyer, a thief, that he will be able to continue that occupation until he reaches normal retirement age. This is a trend in society, this change, and I pose this. I think there's a lot of validity in it, that we just simply can't be sure of having a job or a position, call it what you will, for which we were originally trained and involved in.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just have one further observation to make to the Minister in respect to the Woods Committee, again emphasizing that the areas of its investigations I think are pretty seminal to the many economic debates that go on in this Chamber and others over the present period. It would seem to me that there are two areas perhaps of investigation that such a committee could apply itself to that would be of important benefit to policymakers. One is the issue of public service bargaining and labour relations under a controlled situation, that while we're not necessarily anticipating the existence of the Wage and Price Control Program for an indefinite period of time, it is indicated we'll be on it for a minimum of three years. As we all have witnessed, that places particular constraints and difficulties in the labour field because of the very nature of the control program, and it would seem to me that if there would be any assistance that the Woods Committee could provide on that particular issue it would be very welcome.

And going beyond that, Mr. Chairman, I think that one of the other areas which strike me as being one that we haven't examined too well in this country, and that is the area of the growing position of the Public Service Union on the municipal field and the impact it has upon the whole area of municipal government. It's a relatively new phenomena, it's really only been in the past four or five years that most municipal unions have had the right to strike, entered into that field, and I would say again that it would be particularly useful because of the pull that that issue has into provincial areas to have a committee such as that addressing itself to the question of municipal unions, public service unions in the municipal field - again the kind of dynamics that result within a municipal government as a result of the very important leverage that that union can occupy in the delivery of services and getting into the whole question of Essential Services again. I would simply provide those as recommendations perhaps for priority that the committee might examine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 81(a)--pass (b)--pass. Resolution 81, resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$196,200 for Labour--pass. Resolution 82, Women's Bureau (a). The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, we're probably not going to have time in the seven or eight minutes remaining this afternoon to explore the resolution before us fully, but perhaps we can get started on it anyway. Curiously enough, among all the increases with which the taxpayer of Manitoba is faced in public spending, we have a resolution before us at the present time, an appropriation having to do with the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labour in which we see a reduction in the expenditure; where last year we voted \$123,400, this year we're voting approximately \$6,000 less, a total of \$117,500. I suppose this would be the first question that would come to mind on the part of anyone examining this particular resolution in the Estimates. I would appreciate a full accounting from the Minister of what the Women's Bureau has achieved, is achieving in aims, is doing in terms of expanding its value and its function in the ensuing year.

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)

But first of all, why and how is it going about it with a reduced budget. This is not to suggest that we would not like to see the budget and the expenditures tightened up in every area, but there certainly seems to be little consistency when we have increases in many other areas and a reduction in this one. If we're going to reduce across the board, fine; if we're going to reduce in selected areas, fine, but then there has to be some justification for those selective choices. This appears to be one of those and it requires an explanation, I suggest, from the Minister. As I've said, I doubt that we'll be able to get through the resolution today, we don't have much time left, but perhaps he could start on an explanation and to pave the way for a thorough going examination of it before we complete his Estimates early next week - hopefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. PAULLEY: The point raised by the honourable member deals with the financial aspect of the Department of Labour, Women's Bureau. I'm not quite sure right now, Mr. Chairman, of the actual amount. I believe it was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$30,000 that was contained within the Estimates of the Women's Bureau in the present fiscal year. I believe it was \$30,000 that was provided for in the Estimates because of Women's International Year, and the involvement by the Bureau in co-operation with other women's groups in attending seminars and conferences and other aspects of Women's International Year. Now that provision, Mr. Chairman, having been made a year ago in the Estimates will be reflected by an apparent reduction - well, it's not an apparent reduction, it is a reduction in the expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year. There's no reduction of staff, it's just the reduction in the total amount because of the provisions that we made last year in recognition of Women's International Year. So that basically is the reason for the dollar reduction. As a matter of fact there is provision in the Estimates, if my honourable friend would take a look at the salaries, there is an increase there of about \$20,000. The basic reduction comes in other expenses of about \$25,000, which last year included the amount for Women's International Year.

So we are expanding the expenditures for Salaries by about \$20,000. There's an offsetting reduction in Other Expenditures, due as I say to Women's International Year. I think that, Mr. Chairman, is about sufficient for me at this particular stage, so that my honourable friend the Member for Fort Garry can be assured that we're not chopping the heads off of the Women's Bureau. He raised the question, I'm sure that that is the proper answer, an accurate answer for my honourable friend to muse over the weekend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 4:30, Private Members' Hour - Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

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

IN SESSION

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

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

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is a general desire that we adjourn, but before doing so I think that honourable members should be advised that the House Leader of the Conservative party apparently is celebrating his 39th birthday for the 19th time. Unlike the Minister of Labour here, he doesn't actually . . .

Mr. Speaker, I'm hoping that there will be general consent to hold a Law Amendments Committee meeting on Monday at 10 o'clock, and the Clerk has already been advising people that we would like to do that. If Thursday is open, which I rather think it is, then we would like to hold Law Amendments on Thursday as well. Other than that, the order of proceedings as I've already announced. We would like to be back in two confirmed committees on Monday with the Corrections Minister in the other meeting, on the assumption that hopefully the Member for Swan River will be back by Monday. Unless there is anything other than any of the honourable members want to hear from me, I would move, seconded by the Member for Morris, that the House be now adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon.