

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
2:30 p.m., Friday, April 9, 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 on my left here where we have 26 students, Grade 7 and 8 standing, from the Sifton School under the direction of Mr. Ron Shewchuk. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Dauphin, the Honourable Minister of Highways.

We also have 17 students, Grade 12 standing from Bemidji High School, Bemidji, Minnesota under the direction of Mr. Skinner. This group is here as guests of Mr. Speaker. On behalf of members of the Assembly, I bid you welcome here this afternoon.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: I now would refer honourable members to Page 27 of their Estimates Book. Resolution 58(c)(1) - \$213,300. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell me how many people are involved in this salary of \$213,300. I wonder if he could tell me whether there are any doctors on this particular salary, any psychiatrists. I wonder if he could tell me under which section over here we'll be able to discuss the Ryant Report. -- (Interjection) -- Well I hope that we'll - the Minister tells me that we already have discussed the Ryant Report. We were on that under 3(b), but the report refers to a review of child welfare policies, programs and services in Manitoba and if I read the heading of this, provides program support and funding for statutory child welfare services provided by regional office, child care institutions and children's aid societies. So I wonder if the Minister could provide us with some of these answers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: The staff is the same as last year, 18. There are no doctors on that staff.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if he can tell us how many regional offices there are in this particular program, your child and family services, how many regional offices are there and how many child care institutions do we have in Manitoba?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON (Rock Lake): Mr. Chairman, sorry I missed the session this morning but I was wondering, and these headings on these Estimates can be very confusing, and I'm wondering, I'm seeking now information, I'd like to ask the Minister, where can we discuss abortions? Would that come under this heading? Abortions, pertaining to abortions; it's a subject that's of great interest to citizens of this province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I guess this is as good a place as any. Either that or at the hospital. The programs for abortion are usually performed in a hospital so those programs probably would be in the Manitoba Health Services Commission. But I have no objection if you want to discuss now. Providing if we get involved in programs that are administered for instance in hospitals, I think we should wait under the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Now if we're talking about just the general principle of abortion, it would be perfectly all right to discuss it at this time.

MR. EINARSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think then it would be in order. This is a subject that has been brought to my attention by a number of citizens around this province, and it pertains to the way the law is administered. Now I have had people say to me that they're not satisfied the way the laws are administered in the Province of Manitoba insofar as abortions are concerned.

Now it's a very touchy matter, Mr. Chairman, in discussing this with many people because of their strong feelings towards this particular subject. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister feels satisfied, and if he would explain to us the setup insofar as our abortion cases are concerned. What is the setup insofar as the Department of Health is concerned? If he would describe the composition of the board, how it

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) functions, and are there any abuses by individuals insofar as the taxpayers are concerned because, Mr. Chairman, I have been informed that some cases they may go to New York and if there are cases performed there, they are done at the taxpayers' expense in the Province of Manitoba. I am merely seeking information. I would like to know if this is correct or if it's not. So I think with those few comments, Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister could start to elaborate then we can go from there.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, to the Member from Rhineland, there are seven regions in the rural areas and one in the city, although there is a paper now in front of HESP, a policy paper suggesting that we have seven regions in the city.

Abortions: If we're going to discuss the funding or the financing or the payment of abortion in New York and so on, that should come under the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Now as far as the - it is the Criminal Code that is the law of the land on this. Every hospital that wishes to have such a program have a committee of doctors and before an abortion is allowed the doctor that is recommending the abortion has to place the case in front of this committee. If this is accepted, well then an abortion could be performed. Now I would suspect that those that are leaving Manitoba are doing so to evade the law, the Criminal Code, which does not permit abortion on demand. I will wait until we get to the Manitoba Health Services Commission to make doubly sure, but as far as I'm concerned there is certainly no abortion performed like this in the States that are covered by the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, that's one point of contention that I am pleased to hear the Minister say - and I want to reiterate and hopefully that I understand the answer he gave me, that at no time where an abortion is performed outside the Province of Manitoba that that would be a bill of expense against the taxpayers of this province. That's one thing that has been mentioned to me and I just wanted to make sure that the matter was clear.

I'm wondering also if the Minister is satisfied with the system that we have operating in the Province of Manitoba or has he received any complaints in regard to the way the system operates. I know he explained that there's a group of doctors - he didn't say how many - that forms a committee whereby every case has to go before that committee before it can be justified. I'm wondering, is the Minister fully satisfied with the system that is now operating in the Province of Manitoba insofar as cases of abortion are concerned.

MR. DESJARDINS: The statement that I made that there is no illegal abortion, abortion that would be illegal here that would be covered if they are performed outside of the province. Now there could be certain conditions, I guess, that this might happen but I'd want to make sure with the people from the Manitoba Health Services Commission, I'd want to check with them.

I'm not going to get involved in my personal feelings if I'm satisfied. I don't think anybody is satisfied. There's no way that you're going to please everybody. There is a very strong, very vocal group who feel that abortion is criminal, and so on. It's a question of religion with some people, with belief, and so on. Some think that it is murder, and other people feel that there should be abortion on demand. Now this is a federal law. My responsibility as Minister of Health is to see that the law is upheld, that we follow the law, and what I described a little earlier was the way that the law works now that on request the case is studied; if there are certain reasons, and so on, if the doctor feels that it is for the welfare of the mother that there should be an abortion, he has to present this to a committee of his peers that they have in hospitals, and if this is accepted, well they have an abortion. So I don't care to comment, to say if the law should be changed, and so on, because I have my belief as an individual and I've my responsibility as the Minister of Health.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just want to pursue one thing further, and just to say to the Minister that in posing the question, I didn't feel it would be fair to him to ask him his personal views. That was not my intent; rather I was asking him a question on the basis of him as the Minister of this government and if he's satisfied with the government policy. Oh, no, I would not want to ask him his personal views on this

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) whatsoever, I don't think that would be fair to him. It's the policy of the government I'm concerned about. Is he satisfied as the Minister, as part of that government? That's really what I'm asking.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wasn't being touchy, and I wasn't suggesting that my friend was trying to rope me into a debate, that's not the situation, but I said as the Minister of Health I'm trying to uphold the law of the land, the way it is now. And, you know, who is satisfied? There is no doubt that the people that want it, and there are many of them, that want abortion on demand, are not satisfied. This is an issue that you're never satisfied. In fact I don't think we're satisfying anybody, not only half of them, like in some instances, because those that want it on demand are certainly not satisfied, and those that oppose abortion as they feel that it is criminal, that it is murder, well they're certainly not satisfied with the situation. All I can say is this is why I chose to answer in this manner. All I can say is that I'm satisfied that in Manitoba we are trying to do as much as possible to interpret and follow a law that is very very difficult.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I wondered if I might be given the opportunity under 213,000, the 18 employees, and combine it with the maintenance of the children, to speak about something that was touched upon earlier by the Member for Fort Rouge, and I certainly agreed with the Minister when we talked about - I'll look at it from a municipal point of view if I may at this time, from the point of view of the taking back in this area the presentation or the prevention of - to get these children back into a rural setting. I think that the Federal Government is shirking their responsibility in the particular area of our native population in bringing them into the City of Winnipeg when prevention should be taken care of in a rural setting, because what is happening, when we turned around and increased the demands on urban areas, such as I represent, for day care facilities, that means that the working mothers who use those facilities before are now being re-placed. I wonder if the Minister might comment on the present policy as it stands pertaining to the school system. I know in many of the Children's Aid Society homes that I have in my area, the children must attend school. I'm glad the Minister of Education is here because these are all, in my thinking, a direct cost to the taxpayers of Winnipeg, and if it is a federal responsibility maybe there should be a strengthening of the accountability system or something, to see that we do get the cost of these programs paid for by the Federal Government, and I share the Minister's concern in that regard.

I also wanted to touch upon a meeting that I attended today which gave me some facts which were interesting and the Minister sent Rev. Green, in his place of course, and I was looking for the Children's Aid Society Annual Meeting Report, and I wonder if the Minister could comment. I certainly support him and thank him for his support of this organization but there seems to be a great decline in the number of areas of people, for instance in cases of unmarried parents and cases of placement sources, and that, I wondered is the government playing a larger role in reducing the role of the Children's Aid Society. I also was wondering in the area of the possible breakdown under this 14½ million of the cost per child, how we got any figures that would indicate how many children are being helped and the approximate cost per child?

I wondered if I might also suggest to the Minister that we might consider relaxing the qualifications for these group homes and possibly spreading them out. I have a report here which indicates the majority of them are in my riding, and while I don't quarrel with the humane parts of this program I would urge the Minister to look at the possibility of spreading these throughout the city and, as I mentioned before, into a rural setting because they do create problems in that we now have a crisis teacher at Gordon Bell, we have one at Laura Secord, we possibly may need a nutritional program in the downtown core. I understand the rumours are about that this program may be cut, and I suggest that so long as you are going to continue to locate these group foster homes in the particular downtown core, you certainly can't remove the very programs which are required because of the transportation of these rural children and problem children into the downtown core of the city, and I'd like to see them spread out.

I wondered if we couldn't possibly look at a policy of suggesting that we have

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) better maintained homes, and possibly we could. . . I would like to ask the Minister, what is the per diem rate now, and could we reduce the per diem rate? I would like to ask him, have people been making money on this program because these reports indicate that some people have moved in as high as six and eight homes and they now seem to be managing under limited corporations, and I refer to the Bridgeman Homes Limited, which has six or eight homes in my area, and at the per diem rate of \$20 a day this seems to me a possible area which I would think that I would want to have some reasons as to why we are unable to attract more people into group homes. Is it because of the qualifications? What seems to be the problem in being unable to get a larger expansion in the group home area?

So I'm not quarreling with the Minister's \$18.7 million figure in this, I'm just talking about the priorities of spending. Why is the per diem rate - if the Minister could give me the per diem rate - in my opinion the figures I have, why is it so high, what is the difficulty in getting more people to move into the group home area, and how many ex-employees of the provincial department have gone into this business? This is the type of thing that I'm interested in, because if it's becoming, because of qualifications, so attractive that it is becoming a money making proposition, then maybe we should relax the qualifications, spread these throughout the City of Winnipeg rather than concentrating them into one area and creating problems for both the children and the taxpayers of that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(c)(1). The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, as my honourable friend has covered pretty well the waterfront, and I don't think I understood all his concern. There's one concern that came out quite clearly, I think that the honourable member feels that there are too many of these homes in his constituency. There is no doubt that we would like - it's just like schools - we would like to decentralize these as much as possible, but we're certainly not thinking of bringing in regulation that will start regulating how many people per constituency will have these homes. These applications are made by residents of his constituency in many instances, and so on, and if they are qualified, you know, there are not that many volunteers, especially good ones that we can turn . . . on them. If they apply and they are found that they would make good foster parents, we will accept that.

Now as far as the per diem rate. Well the per diem rate is very difficult because it changes, it's not always the same, it depends on the level of care. But I will admit that this is a very very difficult problem. It is a problem. I must identify this as a problem that we are facing now and I think I said earlier that we are opening an office of the residential care where we can look at the per diem of all these areas, find out what kind of level - I guess we can compare that to the hospital field where it has been said that there's too many acute beds and not enough personal care beds, and that we have people that are using acute beds where they could be in a less costly bed. It's the same thing. And that definitely exists in this area also. We are not pleased with them, we're moving in that direction to try to assess to see what kind of a care we need and then to review the per diem rate.

We have a situation where an agency, the Children's Aid Society, for instance has to place a child in a hurry, whatever, the first place open this is where they're going to go and it might be \$40 a day instead of something that could be done for maybe \$12 a day. So we're very much aware; I admit that this is a problem. We're very much aware of that and we're moving to correct that as soon as possible.

MR. WILSON: I apologize to the Minister. I guess I should have levelled the questions probably one or two at a time instead of grouped together. But what I was getting at is that I would like to better understand the policy as to what are the qualifications, because we've done some research and we've made calls in response to federal and provincial ads. At least the last one I was involved with was a federal ad that appeared in the paper. We said we lived in St. James and the people were not interested in us because they wanted to be downtown, they wanted to be near the services, whatever services those are, and I'm saying that concept in my opinion is wrong. I think if you take

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(MR. WILSON cont'd) . . . a particular school, that if you have less of these problem children in the school then it's not necessary to hire a crisis teacher, they could be integrated throughout the community.

I did want to talk about, as I mentioned, have people been making money out of these programs, and I do have this report in front of me. It indicates as the Minister pointed anywhere from \$42.23 a day to \$20 a day. Now the particular organization that I was interested in pays \$110 a month to MHRC, I believe it's 162 Arlington and yet they charge for eight children, \$20 a day. That to me would seem to, combined with their other five or six houses, and the one that I'm looking at now talks about four houses, Bridgeman houses at \$20 per diem, the question I am raising is that it seems to me there's a decrease in the report even from the Children's Aid Society, other than the Minister's Department, which indicates that the private foster and boarding homes are actually diminishing from 812 to 600. So that means that fewer people are going into the business. It shouldn't be a business, it should have been an encouragement of volunteers to take one or two children; it seems that we're congregating six and eight. And I am saying, what are the special qualifications that would warrant the government supporting a corporation that has gone into this business. Are they experts in the field vis-a-vis the private home in St. Vital that might take one or two children into their home. I just would like that explained if possible.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I believe that I've answered or tried to answer most of the problems. First of all I've recognized that there are problems. We are, as I've stated, we are developing standards in trying to find out the licensing, the level of care; we are doing this.

I think it's true that individual homes have been diminishing but there has been more group homes. We would like to have homes where people will take one or two children. It has been difficult. On one hand the honourable member states that maybe they're making too much money, and that might be the case; and in another area he feels, why are they going down, why is it difficult to have people to open these foster homes? All I can say again is repeat what I've said, that we're looking at the standards, we know that there is a problem. There are some people that are coming in, some private individuals that can do it, they know there's a need for these homes so therefore they are offering to fill that need and they're doing a very good job; and there is no doubt there are other people that are there for the money. And this is exactly what we want to do, to make sure that we get our money's worth, that we have the proper level for the proper child and that we determine the standards. I'm afraid that for the moment there's a lot to be desired in this field, and this is what we're looking at, this is part of the recommendation of the Ryant Report and this is an area that we've started moving in already.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might direct some questions to the Minister concerning the enforcement of the Child Welfare Act that was passed last year. There were a number of areas of debate that were the subject of some concern when that bill was passed and I wonder, being a year hence, if we could look and see to what degree the particular application of that bill has succeeded in its objectives.

Perhaps I could begin by first asking whether the part of the bill which up to this point I understand has not been proclaimed, the part allowing for subsidized adoptions in fact will be proclaimed, whether it's going to be a dead letter or if in fact there is some plan in the near future to bring that particular part of the Act into force.

I can recall I believe the Minister at the time when he brought the bill in suggesting to the House that the reasons for the subsidized adoptions was to provide particularly lower income families with the opportunity of taking children that they might have had in foster home care and allowing them to take over the adoption which would normally be prevented because of lack of income. I wonder if there's been some reason why that particular part of the Act hasn't been proclaimed.

The second question I could raise with the Minister is the issue of the workings of the adoption registry. If the Minister would recall at that time there was some concern being placed by the fact that those people that already applied for adoption permissions in the City of Winnipeg felt that when the registry came into effect they would be

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) placed lower down on the priority list and I would be interested in knowing again if in fact what was a mix-up at that particular time where the fact that people who had been on the list in the City of Winnipeg were placed lower on the list or that those who were outside the city were jumped over them. And again that was the information I had which I would be interested in knowing whether in fact there's been any correction on that particular problem of the workings of the adoption registry.

The third set of questions I'd like to ask the Minister would be on the question of treatment facilities that are available. There were some newspaper reports just recently that children who were taken under supervision or custody under the Child Welfare Act were in fact being placed in the Manitoba Youth Treatment Centre, and treatment facilities which are normally reserved for children who are juvenile offenders. It seemed to me that the mixture of those two groups of children might not necessarily work to the benefit of those who are simply being brought in because of custody reasons. I suspect the reason why they're being placed there, if they were, was the fact that there isn't anywhere else to put them. And I would ask the Minister to comment upon the availability of alternative care facilities for children who are taken under custody aside from the normal foster home concept and see if in fact there is a shortage of facilities at the present moment, thereby requiring that children be placed in the Manitoba Youth Treatment Centre or other facilities that are basically reserved for juvenile offenders. reserved for juvenile offenders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, as far as the subsidized adoption, we should have a policy, we're working on that. We should have a policy very soon on that. We haven't anything to announce at this time.

The Adoption Registry, we're very very pleased, we feel that it's been working, it's been very fair. The average length of time the people have to wait now is 18 months. There's no doubt that in an area in the core of Winnipeg they have to wait longer. I think that their time would have been six months, but all in all it is working well. The great majority of the people are certainly pleased, and it is certainly a fairer way than we had before.

It is true that at time the Youth Centre has been used. Our Director of Child Welfare has instructed the people at the Receiving Centres not to have people that will stay there permanently or too long a time, to free these beds to be able to have these children taken in. We are endeavouring, and as I said, that's all part and parcel of what we are trying to do after these recommendations, to see how many beds we need. We're not too sure of the space that we need now. This is what we're trying to determine, but at least we are informing the agencies not to place these people in the receiving beds, to keep those available instead of using the Youth Centre.

As far as one of the areas of that Act that we're concerned with that hasn't worked as well as we thought, because we've had to reach a compromise, it has been with the Treatment Panel. I think that probably that hasn't been really understood by the courts, by certain judges who have not, we feel, or our people feel, that have not co-operated as well as we would have liked to have seen them co-operate, so we've had some compromise, it's not working quite as well as we would have like to see it, but it's working. This is probably the area of the weakness, but as I say, the Adoption Registry, we're very pleased.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, on the last point raised by the Minister, about the problems of the Treatment Panel, the Ryant Report suggests that one of the problem areas has been in the lack of co-operation or collaboration between workers in the department and officials of the courts. Seemingly that, for whatever the causes, there seems to be two different sets of attitudes about the treatment of children, and suggest that there be efforts made to undertake joint educational programs between child care workers and officials, the court, judges, and others to ensure that there would be a proper co-operation and a combination in purpose, and I would be interested in knowing if there are any steps contemplated in meeting that particular problem in the way that the children are treated in the courts.

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)

I also would like to raise with the Minister the further problems which perhaps he can just, I won't say give his own personal opinion, but an issue which I know is always a delicate one, and that is the balance between maintaining children in the home and the taking of custody by the Children's Aid Society or by the Director of Child Welfare. It came to my own attention I guess in a very dramatic way last summer when I was doing work with the Police Commission on problems in the core area, and spent too many nights, I guess, in the Main Street strip area, and found to my dismay that at very very late hours of the evening, one or two o'clock in the morning, there would be literally dozens of young children roaming the streets at that particular time, oftentimes without apparently any custody of either parents or workers, and when asking the police about it and asking for their direction, they simply said, first, it was almost impossible to get someone in the child caring field to respond about that time of night; and secondly, oftentimes when the responses were made, it was done on the basis that they would simply take the child back into the family unit and say, you know . . . there next time. It seemed to me that that was an awfully unhealthy situation, frankly, for a bunch of young kids to be hanging outside a bunch of hotel beer parlors at that time of night without any seeming care. I know that the Member from Point Douglas has suggested a curfew is the answer, but I don't think it was the answer in that case at all.

I'm wondering if that problem of the treatment of children in an area like the core area where there seems to be a large number of children who are derelicted really in a sense, or abandoned, at least for temporary periods, whether that balance . . . the child care agency I know wants to keep people in the home and the family unit together, but it seems to me it's a kind of almost a losing battle, or a battle that was really prejudicial to the interest of the kids in this case, whether the department is looking at that problem and has any kind of guidelines or any really instruction that can be given that would govern the activity of the child care workers in that area, first to ensure that there is almost a 24-hour type service so that when the major problems occur again after the normal working hours, that there are people there to respond to the problems in an immediate way as opposed to waiting, till you know, work starts again at nine o'clock the next morning; and secondly, whether in fact there are ways in which we could be a little bit more careful about the way in which we deal with the children - and I know the problem backs up, but if you don't want to take a kid out of a family there's no place to go, and if you have to throw him in the Treatment Centre it doesn't help much, in those kinds of concerns and I know that there is a continuum of problems. By the visible evidence that is in front of me, it was disturbing to see, it obviously meant that there was somehow a breakdown in the system that we've established in the Child Welfare Act and in the various speeches and proclamations that have been made in this House, and I guess on the part of the social agencies, to what degree can we really address that particular problem of children who really are abandoned and neglected, because I think the evidence was pretty apparent that there are a number who are.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, this last speech could have been made 50 years ago, 10 years ago, last year, it'll be made next year, in 10 years, no matter what we try, we've got to keep on doing as much as possible but as long as we're dealing with mortals there is no way that we can be gullible enough to think that all these things will go away. This will stay with us; we can improve the situation, and then we have to be careful, we're not running a police state, I think that the majority of this House anyways . . . this business of the curfew. It is very difficult also to have outsiders, social workers, and so on. . . I don't like the term that was used, be more careful; we are as careful as we can, we'll make mistakes; it is a very very difficult decision, and it is not something that can be done very easy. No matter what I think that if there is any doubt you will certainly leave the children with their families. Society has different ideas, and so on.

There is a different pattern of living and this is very very difficult. So the last thing that we want to do, the last thing that we want to do is take the children away from their families. We are not always dealing with just families that can give them a two car garage - I'm not suggesting that my friend is suggesting that - but I want to make a point that if you go into certain slum areas of any city, any country, you will find such

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) a thing as that, certainly children that will be neglected, but you can't legislate goodness and the government cannot take care of all the ills of society. This is something that society has to take care of themselves, now. There's two things that can happen — if there is no hope at all then you are going to remove the child from the family and he becomes a permanent ward of the state, of the agencies, and so on. This is the last thing we want to do. Then there might be times when we've removed the child temporarily from the family, and this we do, we do quite a bit of that, and then we work with the child, but mostly with the family to see what the reason is, and so on, and you find all kinds of reasons.

So, you know, I certainly agree with everything that was said but I also feel that it is impossible to solve all these things. We can only try — we can only try to improve the situation. This is what we're doing. We have people on call now, the police, the emergency number, where someone will contact these people. I personally am not satisfied, and people on our staff are not satisfied with that. We intend to bring in a recommendation to try to have policy, to try a staff man-year where we have a staff that will work. We certainly will not have a staff of 24 hours a day for all these problems, but we should have a skeleton staff. We think that we would like to have a few social workers, for instance, that would be trained, that would know where the help could come, talk to those people that might be on call also. So this is something. I don't know if this will be approved, if we'll be able to make this stick as one of our priorities, but this is something that we are looking at at the present time to have somebody available to at least look at the emergency case during the night because many of those happen during the night.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I think the last indication by the Minister is one step that could be taken. I don't agree with him that it's a sort of helpless proposition as he seems to indicate. I think that you almost seem to be advocating a position of benign neglect somehow. I think that it is not true again that perhaps the speech could be made the same way 50 years ago or ten years ago. I think that what is taking place in the core area of Winnipeg is quite different from what was taking place five or ten or fifteen years ago. There's always been poor people, there's always been families with trouble, but the fact of the matter is that there's just far more of them now, coming oftentimes from a very different cultural context. The problems in the core area are much more severe and much deeper and much more abusive and there's just far more of it, so that where perhaps we could get by with the traditional methods in the past, I think that the scope of the economic and social deprivation that is now being experienced, not just in the old traditional core area, the strip around Main Street, but in a much wider orbit, does require something more than just the saying, well, that's the way it's always been, the poor have always been with us and that we'll do our best and leave it.

I guess what I'm saying is that it seems to me that because of the numbers that are there that the problem has expanded in scope, and that as a result suggesting that the department itself undertake something of a special program in the core area dealing with the problems of children and doing more than just maybe a 24-hour service, I guess, in terms of other kinds of solutions would be the availability of day care centres that might be operating on a round the clock basis, at least to provide some place for the children to go rather than sort of hanging on the corner of McDermot and Main, which is not particularly healthy, and it's not one or two, it's many of them that they are -- (Interjection) -- We'll look at the results. . . -- (Interjection) -- We'll look at the results of that. We're perpetuating continual CFT's if we allow these things to happen.

Mr. Chairman, the point I'm trying to make is that the -- (Interjection) -- Well, in fact you could almost pick any corner in that area, and many others besides, that the urgency that was experienced in that area has been expressed by many of the community organizations who reside in the area, pointing out that the problem of children is almost the number one concern, that they're not being looked at and the problem is expanding and developing. Again it would seem that rather than just again doing the conventional kinds of things that it may require something more than that, it may require an effort to see if we can mobilize the resources and team people up to find out what could be done. And, you know, I guess frankly I just find the sort of philosophy that somehow, well, those are the way things are and that's the way things are going to be and that we'll

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) sort of kind of keep plodding along and doing what we've always been doing, is not really the answer to the conditions in that area. -- (Interjection) -- Well, I think that aside from the fact the Minister said he might find a social worker or two to put there on a 24-hour phone call is not really what I would consider to be an adequate answer. I think that you have to go an awful lot beyond that and the problems dictate that, and they realize it, and I frankly would say I don't think it has been a priority in terms of either money, resources, or attention. I think that there has been a little bit of a blasé reaction to it because I guess we've become accustomed to assuming that life will go on in the core area, as long as it doesn't bother us too much, we won't bother it, and I just simply think that if the government, and I've said it before, is as prepared as it seems to be to mobilize millions of dollars, \$40 million for physical reconstruction, that it might be able to muster a little bit for the human reconstruction in that area, the problems of people in the area, not the problems of buildings. And which I say I think is always a kind of upside down sort of priority, but be that as it may, it would seem at least there should be a balance in priorities, and that one of the real critical areas is the area of the problem with children. It has an awful lot to do with the administration of the Child Welfare Act, of the services and facilities that are available for children in that area, and some understanding about how they can combine the work of police departments and social agencies, and others, who are attempting to face the problem, to get a more satisfactory answer than the one that is there now.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, again, my friend is trying to misrepresent the words that I have said, the statement that I have made. He did acknowledge himself that I said that it is a difficult situation, that we're going to do our best, but he's not pleased with that. Well I can't do any better than my best. I don't know who can. Now my friend all of a sudden discovered that there were problems, he worked with the police last year, and so on. I'm saying that these problems are there, maybe if more of us would go around we'd find out that these problems existed before. Yesterday, I'm told we're trying to take over from the agencies. There are many many services out there that are given out by the agencies. And now we're told that maybe we should do that. Yesterday, we're told, well don't you butt in, the agencies are doing it. I did state that we formed a committee, that I did, stated yesterday and again this morning, that there are more problems in this area, in the core area, and that we have started with a committee discussing with the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, that we have recognized some of these problems, to try to co-ordinate that. I also stated that we recognized there's been some problems in some areas, in some of the homes that we have; that we lack the standards, I've admitted all that, the weakness that we had. I also admitted that we had a very poor system of selecting homes because we were taking the first bed, and if it was a \$40 bed, fine, if that was the one it didn't matter if it fitted a kid that needed a \$12 bed. I recognize all that.

I did state that we're going to try to have somebody work during the night, that this is another thing that we have, but I also want my honourable friend to remember - you know, all of a sudden we're talking about the core of Winnipeg because we see dirty kids running around and I say that these problems are not maybe quite as obvious but the problem exists in Fort Rouge, in St. Boniface, and in Tuxedo also, and everything is supposed to be all right because you have a family that might be getting \$30,000, \$40,000, and so on, and a two or three car garage, but they're not giving the children the love that they can, and I'm saying that a lot of these poor kids and a lot of these kids from the north-end and the areas are receiving much more love. So there is no way that we're going to turn all of a sudden, become a police state, that we're going to try to rectify everything and start sending inspectors around and take kids away from their family. We're going to do the best we can and that's all we can do. We're going to try to co-ordinate, we're working with the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, we're going to try to co-ordinate the service and there's many services and it's costing the province and the taxpayer of Manitoba a hell of a lot of money. We're going to try to get better return for our money.

I admit that, there's a lot of weakness. This is one place that we're very weak. This is why we commissioned Dr. Ryant to prepare this report. We're moving in this

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) direction and we're very vulnerable in that, I'll admit it, but let's not be too naive also if all of a sudden we were exposed, some of us maybe for the first time, to some of the problems in the north-end. Sure, they're growing. The society is changing, society is much more permissive. There's a lot of things that are changing, and I don't think that the government Gee, not too long ago, I was told with these damned socialists, and so on, they start from the cradle to the grave and they want to control everybody's lives. And I say, fine, I'll repeat what I said, and that doesn't mean that I'm not interested. I'll repeat, we'll do everything we can, we'll try to co-ordinate this, we'll try to get more for our money, but I'm saying, I repeat, that the same speech that the honourable friend made just a few minutes ago, he'll probably be able to do it in 50 years, to repeat that speech in 50 years now because we're dealing with mortals and there's no perfection on this earth. That doesn't mean that I'm not interested in trying to reach perfection. But I don't want to be brought in on the carpet next year and say okay, we still have problems, because we'll have problems.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister at times seems to be a little bit defensive about what he's doing and what he's not doing. Let's go over some points: First, I'm not saying that he's not trying to do his best but I think that sometimes there's a commonplace problem of spinning your wheels and that you can be exerting all your energy and intellect and resources and not get anything for it because it's not being done in the right way. I think that that's the kind of question we're trying to pose to him, is to what degree are we attempting to do more than the conventional kinds of patchwork in the core area? And by the way, I'd like to inform the Minister because he obviously doesn't take a look at the electoral maps too often, the constituency of Fort Rouge includes a good part of the core area. Now as a result, I think it's not just a --(Interjection)--I was talking about parts of my constituency which include Main Street. And so, Mr. Chairman, I think that the Minister tends to be a little too quick to run off and sort of veer off in a direction of defending his planning as opposed to trying to take the problem seriously.

Let's go back on the thing we're saying. First he says, I don't want to intimidate the private agencies. And I agree. We raised that point with him last night. Well I would quote to him, if I might, from the Ryant Report. He asked for evidence last night about what I was saying. I'll quote to him from his own report if I may, Mr. Chairman. -- (Interjection) -- Well report written for his department, independent source, an individual who's held obviously in the esteem of the department. He said: "In essence despite attempts to influence the department, the delegate agency," that is the private agencies, "bear a set of responsibilities for government under provisions which are determined unilaterally by the government." That's the word unilaterally, Mr. Chairman. It said, "As a result that the agencies are not able to fulfill, is that the department appears unaware that it has made it virtually impossible for the delegate agencies to realize the full benefits of their private status." Now, Mr. Chairman, that's what I was saying last night, that the thing isn't working. And all I'm simply saying is okay, let's first identify that there are special kinds of need in that area, needs that I don't think have been recognized by this government frankly, needs in education, in police work, in housing . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the member please not hold his hand on the microphone because when you do so you make a noise in the recorder and you're not going to be heard so that the staff cannot record it.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, Friday afternoon gets to be a long day and I just need a little support.

Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that if the Minister thinks that he can sort of say, look, let's all recognize here that it's always going to be with us and that 50 years from now we can make the same speech, I would be very disturbed, Mr. Chairman, if I felt that that was the sum of the purpose of this government is to simply say that 50 years from now we'll be dealing with that same problem. I would hope that we would be able in terms of the abilities that this community has to make some improvements in that area and to make some changes so that in 50 years we're not dealing with the

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd)same problem. Because the fact of the matter is that I don't want to be making the same speech 50 years from now. I think it would be a deplorable circumstance if we had to be saying that the same problems exist and we haven't been able to find the ways of solving them by that time. In fact, Mr. Chairman, I'd be disturbed if we had to make the same speech next year or five years from now.

I agree that the problems are serious. And the point I'm trying to make to the Minister is that it's not that they're the same, they're growing, they're developing, it's spreading out. There's far more people in deprived circumstances, far more children who need care, a much greater need for an integrated approach that brings together the ability of integrating problems of education and child care and everything else in a program. And I'm saying it's not there now. It is not there. The only thing this government has done is we're going in and building court houses and Autopac buildings, and other than that we're letting the same kind of agencies work the same way, we give them their money year after year. We're simply saying, as I said last night, it is a responsibility of government to provide some leadership, take some initiatives, and to do some proper planning in concert with them, and to orchestrate those activities. That's the kind of intervention that the government can do. But not simply say, we're going to hold a couple of meetings, we're going to sort of talk about it a little bit more. I'm simply saying that perhaps the point that the Minister should be acknowledging - if he's prepared to - is that it's not something that you can simply pass by and say, families have trouble and there's nothing we can do to legislate morality. We are saying that there are conditions that we can legislate in there, whether it's closing of beer parlours, making sure that there is proper care facilities for children in the area, and an educational system that works in that area, unlike the one now that doesn't work. That's the kind of address and perhaps the Department of Health and Social Development should be taking the initiative with the rest of the department and pooling their resources together to do a real major kind of operation in that core area. And I don't care what he wants to do with them. If he wants to be smart-alecky about it, fine. But I'm trying to address a serious question, that the problems in that area require more than we're doing now.

I assume that it's the Minister's responsibility because in the field of Health and Social Development that seems to cover a major proportion of the problems that are arising in there. The populations are expanding, there are far more people in desperate straits - the income levels by the way, Mr. Chairman, are not the same, that the disparity between the incomes of the people who live in the core area and those who live in the suburbs has grown wider in the past 10 years, not got smaller, it's grown wider. And that simply means that the problem is growing worse. And all I'm trying to suggest is that the traditional conventional approaches no longer work. I simply want to say, is the Minister prepared now or in the near future to pull together as part of his mandate the combined resources of the provincial and other governments and agencies to do a major kind of program in that area that will deal with all these problems in a combined way.

Now I don't see why that necessarily requires sort of a response that says, we're going to be dealing with it the same way 50 years from now. I would hope that we would be able in this House at least to mobilize enough kind of support to back up the Minister if he decided he wanted to do something in a major way in that area. I don't think we can let the problem just roll on the way it has been.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(c)(1). The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Yes, I wanted to kind of agree with the Minister on the . . . The reason I voted against the curfew by-law was I did feel though of course that the Minister could indicate some further tightening up under The Child Welfare Act, which to me seems to be the source. I don't think legally we can go into a Main Street project to go around snatching children from parents who may be sitting in the beer parlour, and that. I think there would be certainly a black eye on any government that was in power if they got into that type of a program. I think the emphasis has to be on bringing the parents to some form of justice or bringing home the seriousness of the possibility of taking these children away from them.

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(MR. WILSON cont'd)

However, the reason I rise at this time under this section is I felt that I didn't deal properly with the group care thing, and the Minister talked about better return for our money. So I thought I might possibly assist him in that if he would note that children that return to their homes, that under the former administration there was a 55 percent increase in the number of children in 1969 returned to their homes. And since that time in 1969-74, only 15 percent, and as of this year, 1975, there's actually a decrease in the number of children that have been returned to their homes. One has to draw the conclusion that there's either more problems in the homes or that we are entering into an acceleration in taking the children and placing them in group homes. The indication here seems to be there's an 1,893 percent increase since 1964 in this group home program.

I did want to read into the record if I could, in the home I referred to it says: "This 2½ storey building at 162 Arlington is occupied as a group foster home; eight girls and foster parents reside there." Well I've met the foster parents but when you turn to this other thing it says, "162 Arlington, eight girls, operated by Bridgeman Foster Homes Limited, a probationary service by Children's Aid Society. The home is owned by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation." So one obviously draws from the conclusion that the foster parents don't really live there unless one who is engaged in this industry, which the Minister talked about, has the option to farm out a foster parent for each individual home that comes under their management. So I am saying, who decides whether the foster parents that are in 162 Arlington, while the cheques are going to the Bridgeman organization, they in turn are hiring out people to run these particular homes in my area that I'm talking about. And so therefore maybe that explains why there's a decrease in the number of placement requests from 812 down to 600. It may not necessarily mean that the per diem rate is not high enough, it may mean very well that it's very attractive. But it may mean that more people are getting into the business because a possibility that maybe, as I alluded to before, I have no quarrel with it, but have people been making money out of this program.

And then maybe the question that I felt, if the Minister felt that the per diem rate was a little high, would he agree with my suggestion that maybe an educational program and some emphasis on pleading with the general public that they have a responsibility to help some of these less fortunate children and maybe we could, like the report says, in 1975, there was a volunteer service and recruitments and assignments were basically nil. This year they're 136 and 125, which indicates that if some outside organization or government puts on an educational program, you know, appeals to the public to do their responsibility and if they are getting some remuneration for it, maybe we could take the child care program out of the business concept and back into where it was intended to put these children into a family setting.

So what I'm basically saying that on one hand you have it appearing as if it's a reasonably large business, and on the other hand you have this type of a home where at 234 Sherburn, there's five boys, the staff consists of five social workers, a night watchman and a cook to look after five boys. So my question there is, you have, on one extreme children who have, I suspect, limited supervision under homes that are maybe not so highly maintained as you have on the other extreme at 234 Sherburn five social workers, a night watchman and a cook entertaining these five boys at this address. So I am saying, it seems to me that the Minister asked for better ways to return, you know, better return for our money and possibly priorities; I am saying that I would agree that his department at \$395 million is one department that must certainly be a chore in itself to try to keep track of what's going on. But I would like him to examine those two areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(c). The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Wolseley makes a comment here about one institution where there are five boys in a home, and five social workers as a staff to look after these five boys. To me, Mr. Chairman, this is incredible! I would sure like to get an answer from the Minister.

He talks about trying to do his best, he talks about trying to save the taxpayers money. You know, how old are these boys? And why, I would like an explanation

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(MR. EINARSON cont'd) why we need five social workers to look after five boys. Now from the comments that the Member for Wolseley has made . . . Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering what kind of an institution is this when I hear a staff equalling the number of boys that are in this place. I'd like an answer, Mr. Chairman, this is ridiculous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: These people are very interested in repetition. I'll state again for my honourable friend, that I said that we realize that there are some people in there that are trying to fill the gap because there is a need. There are some that are doing good work and others that are in there to try to make a few bucks.

I stated that we are discussing all these problems. We realize there's more problems in the core area, therefore that is why we started, we selected the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg to start discussing. We have a committee with them to discuss all these problems that were referred to by the Member from Fort Rouge and the last speaker.

I also said that there are some areas that the per diem rates we really frankly do not know. I admit all that, I don't know what else you want. If you want blood, I can't give you blood. I am telling you that we realize that there's some areas that we don't even know what we're getting for our money, that we're establishing this office to set up standards, rates, and so on. Now I doubt if what my honourable friend, the statement that he made, there's five social workers for five people. Then if that is the case I'd like to have this information and I'd like him to give me the particulars and we'll check into it. I can't add any more than what I've said. I recognize you're right, and so is the Member for Fort Rouge, there's a helluva lot of problems. And we're doing everything we can to rectify these problems. And I am so sorry that I said that it's going to be difficult that in five years we'll still have problems. Maybe they'll be changed, or in 50 years we'll still have problems, but that's my opinion and I repeat that. It doesn't mean we're not going to try. Now these people wanted a chance to get it off their chest and I'm letting them. But I'm not going to stand up every two minutes and comment, I've repeated the same thing five times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 58(c)(1). The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK, Q.C. (St. Johns): Mr. Chairman, I've been listening to the debate this afternoon with some interest. I harken back to last night's debate, was it, when the Member for Fort Garry commented about the need for a different and extended service in the field of dealing with emotionally disturbed children, and spoke about some organization which he believes wishes to be formed to deal with that kind of a child to which he says there is no service available in Manitoba.

Now he described a situation that was extremely serious, that needs a great deal of intensive work, in-depth work done with children, and I'm aware of what he was talking about. I don't even know if a province the size of Manitoba could afford to maintain the kind of institutions that the Honourable Member for Fort Garry described, but there is no question about the need of it.

Now for the Member for Rock Lake to stand up and say, this is ridiculous, five boys, five social workers, is ridiculous in itself to make a comment without knowing the nature of the problem that is being dealt with in that home. I don't know a thing about that home, but I know enough that there are problems that exist where you could have one staff person for 30 children, you could have one staff person per maybe 100 children if they're all of the calibre of people such as the Member for Rock Lake no doubt, or you can have a case where you may need one staff person for every individual problem of a child. And to just in a blanket way say, this is ridiculous in itself indicates that he was prepared to judge without knowing.

Now the Minister rather than judge immediately said, yes, yes, I know there are problems, and I am happy to know that the Minister and his department are working in this very field to try and assist in coping with these problems. I would not say in mending or curing these problems because I do agree that problems of emotionally disturbed children, problems that result from broken homes, problems that result from poverty, problems that result from so many aspects of society are problems that will be with us

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) . . . always. And the Member for Fort Rouge is blinding himself with his own oratory to say as he did just earlier this afternoon that it is worse today than it was before. That's nonsense. Well he's a young fellow. I'll have to say that for him. He's shaking his head that he didn't say it, and I guess maybe it's worth the exercise to go back to Hansard when it's published. But I believe that he said that things are worse today than they were. Now, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge on a point of privilege.

MR. AXWORTHY: I did not say things were worse, I said that in terms of the income levels of people in the core area there's a larger disparity than there was ten year's ago. That's the exact statement that I made.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is correct . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. I said this morning and I'm going to repeat again, I'm going to repeat for the recorder because we have a different recorder this afternoon, nobody, but nobody is going to be recorded unless the Chair recognizes them. The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, whether the recorder recognizes the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge or not, I heard him make a statement that he said that the disparity is greater than it was. Of course he did say that, but he may not have been listening to all the other things he said, and amongst other things that he said, I believe he said that the situation is worse today than it was before, and I can't contemplate the possibility that in 50 years from now there will not be anything better.

Mr. Chairman, there have been improvements from year to year during the regimes of various governments. Nobody, to my mind, actually questions the sincerity of any of the governments of years gone by in their efforts to deal with the problems that are on the Order Paper at the moment. But to pretend that there's not enough done because it's going to continue as a problem is to really expect Utopia and the millennium to come all at the same time, and within this year, because the Member for Fort Rouge is hoping that next year there will not be this kind of debate.

Mr. Chairman, it is naïve to say the least, and it does not help to deal with this problem in a rational way to expect blanket improvements such as he described, and for him to waive aside efforts that are being made at this time as being the construction of an Autopac building, and some other nonsensical example he gave, is denying the question. And he is saying I am doing that when he ought to know that for year after year we are listening to reports of progress, and I note progress, he doesn't because he doesn't want to. But there are changes that are taking place and we are finding a backlash amongst more conservative members of our society who are saying there's too much being done. Welfare bums. There's too much of an effort being made, on those people who should be helping themselves. Well, it is very difficult to be exactly right even in your own eyes, much less in the eyes of others. But I would say that in this area that we are discussing now, there is much more that has to be done.

I am encouraged by the fact that the Minister has not made an effort to say we are going gloriously ahead with a great program. I am encouraged by the fact that he, and that means his department, recognizes inadequacies in the program. I think that that is promising. That in acknowledging - that's the first important step in evaluating any program, is to acknowledge a situation and work from there.

I am looking forward to further reports, further debates on Estimates in this field where we will be questioning further the extent that work is being done. I am hoping that the Minister will be able to answer the question raised by the Member for Rock Lake in a more direct way, to try and find out why the situation exists. I know that there was just a discussion half an hour earlier, I don't know if the Member for Rock Lake was here when it was talked about, 24 hour service. And I know that if you divide 24 hours into a decent working day, you're bound to have more than one person per job. You've got to have at least three people occupying one 24-hour day. And there are children - he may not know it - but there are children that need constant supervision. So that one should not just in a blanket way say this is - I think that his term was ridiculous.

It may be that there's some overstaffing. What concerns me more is the point

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) raised by the Member for Wolseley where he talked about the private enterprise being involved in this very field of care of emotionally disturbed or children who come under the Children's Aid and require foster homes. I deplore the fact that people are required because of the need for homes to become available on a profit basis. I don't like it. I don't know whether other members agree with that, but I would like to see institutions that are operated by non-profit, charitable organizations, and I say that the more they rely on government to pay the per diems, and pay the capital costs, as we discussed yesterday, the more there becomes the danger of a distortion in priorities. And I think that that's the other important aspect. Number one, I don't think there should be a profit motive involved in the care of children, because you can go back to the days that Dickens described to us when you talk about the handling of children with a profit motive involved, and I'm not suggesting anybody in today's society is comparable to Dickens, although I must tell the Member for Fort Rouge that maybe he ought to go back and read Dickens to reassure himself that there have been some improvements in the time since then.

But I do feel that we have to take the profit motive out of that very field, that very effort of dealing with disturbed children, with children that require special kinds of care. Having done that, we have to in some way get all the voluntary help that we can get, but remember this, there is a move now more and more for people to demand the recognition of the service they give voluntarily. And that is related to the fact that they are demanding more and more money to come through tax sources. And I'm not critical of that either. But people are more and more, society is saying, never mind relying on the goodwill of somebody else to support one or another endeavour, let's make sure that this is properly handled, properly organized on the tax dollars, so that the burden of handling this is distributed in an equitable manner on the ability-to-pay principle. Those words are words that we use in the NDP all the time but they are not unique to the NDP. These are words that came about and programs that were developed by Liberal governments, by Conservative governments, and by all three parties. But as government becomes more involved in the financing of institutions, so does there take place a distortion in priorities as amongst the voluntary agencies that are promoting one or another type of service, be it people who are dealing with—Mr. Chairman, I know that the next sentence I'll be out of order but I promise to come right back again dealing with the matter of special care for especially emotionally disturbed children we discussed yesterday, or be it for the care of the research and the cure of cancer, or be it for Red Cross, or be it for the Art Gallery or be it for any cultural institution.

And now I'm right back on the subject by saying that those priorities in the past were set by society because voluntary effort and volunteer money determine the extent to which any one of these various kinds of community services would receive the support of the community. A good fund raiser, a wealthy person, could redirect the service of a community into any one of the fields I've already discussed. But now that government is being required more and more to participate in the funding so government must establish certain priorities. And these priorities may well include such an organization as described by the Member for Fort Garry yesterday, or may be lower in the set of demanding priorities such as the concern about children who are on that grand corner of McDermot and Main where I earned a living for many years of my life, these are priorities that have to be established. I've discussed the profit motive involved, I've discussed the volunteers, but in the end, it may well have to come to the stage that is regrettable, I think, but it may be there, where the volunteers themselves will start pulling back and withdrawing. I think that's regrettable because I place a great deal of reliance on the sincerity and good motivation by so many people who are giving of their time and effort throughout their lives for various causes. But there is that problem, that society is changing and that people are no longer being that much motivated to give of themselves freely as they have in the past; and we have to find that proper blending, and that was referred to also yesterday, when the social audit commented about the fact that you have to conserve all the energies, be they financial, be they material, be they of a spiritual motivated kind. We have to work towards that and I think we have a long way to go and

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(MR. CHERNIACK cont'd) I don't think it's going to be mended in the next few years. It isn't, it can't be, because as matters change, so do problems change in nature or in description, but they are still there and will be for years to come.

So that I conclude by saying that I am pleased that the Department and the Minister recognize the need for a greater control, a greater grasp of the problems so that they could better cope with the immense demands that are being seen and recognized and will be able to deal better with them, bearing in mind that the burden on the taxpayer is great, the demand for the service is probably greater than ever before, people are recognizing more than ever that there is a need for society to deal with problems that were ignored in the past, and like it or not, under a democracy, society, dealing with a problem today, means turning to government to solve the problems, to deal with the problems. I think that on all sides of this House we have to be careful and concern ourselves with how government can supply the service which people demand and which becomes apparent to us, where years back they were swept under the carpet and were not even visible to so many of the people who formed the community and who blinded themselves to what was around the corner and behind a building or behind a school. We're seeing more and more of the need, and maybe to that extent we have to be more and more alert to having to deal with it.

I'm happy that the Minister agrees that the problem is one that is continuing and is one which deserves much greater attention and I would hope that more and more do we become involved in the evaluation process to make sure especially that the organizations that are being formed that are just mushrooming around us, are providing a service which is better related to the costs involved and comparatively is an improvement over that, than it was before. I think the evaluation process is probably the most essential part of it, so that there will not be the kind of disparities that appear to have taken place as described by the Member for Wolseley, but which of course are not necessarily there because they are isolated examples that could be two altogether different problems and yet the same kind of statistic might have applied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member from Rock Lake was shocked a minute ago because I didn't jump up and make a comment and agree with my honourable friend that this was a very bad situation at 234 Sherburn. I think that this would be very dangerous to jump up when you hear one side of the story and make a comment that you might regret later on. And now I happen to have a little more information on this. I think that it will show, I hope, an example of, you don't just read something like this and underline the word that you want, 234 Sherburn, five boys, five social workers and so on. There's more to it than that.

First of all, the home is run by the Manitoba Community Treatment Association, which is a non-profit organization. Now it is true there's a staff of five. We are dealing with people that have very severe problems. There are some of these kids that are sent in from probation also, not only our kids. They are extremely serious, they are aggressive and anti-social, and that's 24 hours around the clock, so that means 1-2/3 staff. Now I'd like my honourable friend to look again, and to think if that is so absurd, once you find out what the details are, is this so absurd. And Mr. Chairman, yesterday, and even today, it's even worse. Trying to give you an idea of what, standing in this seat, the advice and the criticism that I have, first of all, we were trying to take away from the agencies, then maybe we should take away from the agencies and do more because that's our responsibility. We've been saying that we've been spending too much money on the per diem rate and that we're not doing enough. We are told also that we should be trying to keep these kids, trying to do something for these kids, not let them go to the Youth Centre and so on, and if we have a facility such as that, we're being criticized. Maybe there should be a huddle of the people on the other side and then they can come in and give some advice, that right now I'm going around like a chicken with his head cut off, I'm writing this on some advice and then I'm taking another piece of paper and then you know, nobody agrees.

I think that this should indicate that it is a very serious problem and we recognize

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)that. We recognize that we can do more and we intend to do more. But it is not an easy solution and it is very dangerous to bring in a report and to single something out and say, okay, these are the abuses. No doubt, no doubt that there are abuses and this is what we're trying to minimize as much as possible, by saying that we're going to . . . we want to bring in standards, we want to bring in the rate where we will have the proper care for the proper children, you can't send kids like we have . . . Sure we can compare this for another kid, that everybody is well behaved and they just have no parents so they'll have foster parents and maybe there's two or three who don't need parents and I suppose I'll be told, well this is a great success, but look at this, look at what you're doing at Sherburn Street. Five people to take care of five people around the clock.

So I'm saying that we're told after that, well, listen to the experts, listen to the experts, what they're telling us, and then when we do that, well, what is the government trying to do. The government is trying to run everybody's lives and so on. And then I don't know, I've been chastized because I daren't say that we'll have the same, maybe not the same problems, but we'll have problems when we're dealing with humans and we'll have slums and so on. I'm practically chastized when I say that. But I'm a little afraid of the things I hear. It's practically like we're going to have the master race all over again, where we're going to go out and send people in every home and pull kids because maybe the parents are not perfect. You know, there's no way that any government can set themselves up as judge on all these things and start deciding and bringing laws that will determine that these children should be taken away from their parents. It is a very delicate thing and I don't want to be in that position.

I say that we're going to do our utmost to leave the kids with their family. And that doesn't mean that there will be a minimum set, that they've got to have so much money and so on. They might be damn poor. But they might be very, very happy and rich in love, and that's important also, Mr. Chairman. There's many factors that we have to look at, and if we have to take the children away, we will start first of all and try to do it for a limited period of time where we can work with the people to see what the problems are. And it's not all money, sure money is a big problem, We're talking about closing beer parlours and so on. Well, we had discussions on this before. My responsibility now is to run the Department of Health and Social Development and I don't make the rules on drinking and so on. There were free votes on this. You know, we let the kids 18 years old go and drink. We did that. Sure. So if we try to check people we're told, well, you know, my friend was saying, well what about the liberty, the freedom of this, what are you telling these people? Not too long ago, a few days ago, I was questioned what are you doing for the people on welfare, what about their rights, you know, what the hell, you can't win. I'd like somebody to tell me what you want and then maybe we'll try to do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the hour is approaching that nice time in the end of the week where I want to deliver myself or relieve myself of a few comments on this matter that has been interesting to say the least. And I also acknowledge having been a member in this Chamber for some time that at this time of the day in the week that one is fairly safe to say whatever one really wants to say without being duly noted by the members of the Fourth Estate, they have had their columns in for the day and for the week and really, we're in a bit of a private club right now.

I sympathize with the Minister's remarks and his concerns and the problems that he faces in this particular aspect of his department, Child and Family Services. The fact that we're dealing with a budget item involving some \$18 million, which I think is a reflection of our society as we move along; the fact that that budget was less five years ago or much less ten years ago, is of little consequence. The problems that this particular aspect of his department is involved with, were there 10, 15, 20 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I, as a rule do not believe that individual members should call on personal experiences or backgrounds in their debates in this session, but I'll break that rule on this occasion, and indicate to the Minister that I am a product of that core area, very much so. Throughout my formative years, I and my family were bounced

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)around as tenants in various rented quarters, usually alternating between the streets of Pacific Avenue, Alexander Avenue, Jarvis Avenue, and then in 1942 when we hit Kate Street, we knew that we were coming up in the world, if you wanted to call it that. I don't know, I think some would argue in this House that I haven't advanced much since those times, but the thing that I want to indicate to the honourable minister, and I think he understands it, and he has in a round about way given us answers to these questions that perplex us. There are of course, solutions to the problems with respect to this whole area of child care that perplexes our society at this time, but he knows that I would be the first one to object to them, as much as he would object to them, and I'm referring to the kind of authoritarian solutions, the kind of heavy government handed action that would just overnight solve the problems. Mr. Chairman, some other jurisdictions solve these problems in those ways and they don't have juvenile delinquents running around, they don't have a great deal of problems of young children waiting outside of drinking places late hours of the night. We don't discuss the problems of whether or not we should have curfews in our jurisdictions or not. These things are simply solved by the heavy hand of a totalitarian government on a very authoritarian kind of an approach to this kind of a problem. The Minister is not prepared this government to take that kind of action because I believe it is repugnant to them, as it is repugnant to us.

So, Mr. Chairman, what do we do, and how do we sit in this Chamber and provide some leadership to the community at large whom we serve and for which purpose we have been elected to this Chamber, and how do we accept the fact that the Minister has indicated to us, that the problem was there ten years ago, it's here today, and he indicated to us that it will be there five years from now and ten years from now. Well, Mr. Chairman, there are other solutions than those suggested to us by the Honourable Member for St. Johns who seemed to indicate to us, and I can understand that coming from the Honourable Member for St. Johns, that his solution is at all times only . . . and he sees democracy in this light, that if there is a problem you turn to government, you turn to government, and we can expect under that kind of an approach - and it's certainly an approach that's likely the one that will be taken, likely the one that will be taken, likely the only one that will be acceptable in the broad spectrum of the public that we try to serve in this province, because of our diverse nature. So that only means that the item now that is \$18 million will be \$20 million next year, will be \$25 million some years hence, will be \$30 million five years hence, and we are, or other people like myself will be debating the same issue five years from now, or ten years from now.

The Honourable Member for St. Johns says that that is the only possible alternative, to keep leaning on government and government sponsored agencies and government sponsored dollars and moneys, either private or public, to help ameliorate, which is really the only word one can use, will not solve the problem. The Minister has indicated to us, and I agree with him, we're not going to solve the problem in a free and open society that both he and I would like to see continue in this province. But, Mr. Chairman, I'm not satisfied that while that may be the kind of alternative that is staring us in the face, that we have done sufficient or that we have not been negligent in providing at least some of the time tested sources of meeting some of these problems that have been in force during the years past, and in my judgment could still be pretty effective. I refer to the kind of fundamental things about which I think we should be discussing from time to time in this Chamber, as to where we as leaders of our community stand on providing leadership to our community on some pretty basic and fundamental aspects of philosophies of life. I mean, what have we been doing in this Chamber with respect to maintaining the Judao-Christian concept of family life? As a Christian, I might have pretty narrow and pretty well defined solutions to the problem. You know, I may honestly believe, and as a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I do believe that if we as Christians looked at our responsibilities as set out in the scriptures, that we could resolve many of these problems.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize that we live in a multi-cultural society, including people of all walks of life, all races, of all creeds and religions, that that cannot be done. But I ask, Mr. Chairman, what have we been doing legislatively, both in this Chamber and in the National Legislative Assemblies of this country in terms of reaching the family

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)life, the family structure? What have we done with our tax laws that encourages family life, or discourages it? What have we done, Mr. Chairman, with respect to the kind of instant State Aid solutions to the irresponsible parent who brings children into the world and then leaves them running around the streets of Main Street and McDermot Avenue, or Alexander, or Pacific Avenue, or anywhere, in Fort Rouge, or in Fort Garry, or indeed in Lakeside, --(Interjection)--River Heights.

Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that sometimes we have different agencies of government working at odds with each other in this respect. Mr. Chairman, quite frankly it's because we don't address ourselves, we don't address ourselves in this way. I don't know why, Mr. Chairman, perhaps we think that this is not the place to talk about these kinds of things. Mr. Chairman, we find it possible in many other aspects - you know, if we're dealing about Agriculture, we can talk about what is right and what is the best way of producing a certain product, what is the best way of processing milk, for instance, we've had lengthy debates on that subject, and we talk about building roads or highways in this province, we can discuss at great length the problems of whether a particular kind of construction method should be used, we talk about conservation methods, we talk about the advisability of draining sloughs, leaving wildlife habitat, all these kinds of things, but when we talk about the very human conditions, when we talk about the things that are meaningful in terms of, you know, which direction mankind wants to take - Mr. Chairman, whether we like it or not we happen to be chosen, 57 men and women, only men at this particular stage, to provide that kind of leadership. More leadership, spiritual leadership, and practical leadership, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that we devote totally our time to the aspects of practical leadership, we spend a great deal of time in terms of political leadership, and we spend a great deal of time in fencing with each other in this Chamber, but we spend very little time, Mr. Chairman, and I suspect that some of the difficulties that we arrive at as we build block by block, whether it's a Liberal Government, or a Conservative Government, or a NDP Government, we spend little time in assessing the kind of building blocs that we are putting forward for man as a whole.

I have to agree with the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, that this particular appropriation will grow, will have to grow, because we cannot see inhumane treatment of our youngsters, of our children on our streets, in our villages, in our communities in the Province of Manitoba. So we will exhort from the taxpaying public dollars, moneys, as we are exhorting now, \$18,000,738 to look after this problem, but I see very little corresponding effort to somehow get at the kind of preventive care. Mr. Chairman, even with a problem of alcohol, where we report, you know, and we derive profits exceeding \$50 millions of dollars this year from the sale of alcohol in this province, we at least set aside certain moneys for Alcohol Education, for the Alcoholics Anonymous Foundation and so forth, to try to treat the abuse that that particular habit brings to some individual members of our society that are exposed to it.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that we have in our tremendous effort to be democratic, not to single out any particular recommended or accepted, you know, practiced means of social behaviour - and I'm referring to it right now, in terms of religious or on a cultural basis, that we've kept our hands so far away from that. We have concerned ourselves to a great extent about the kind of individual civil liberties of the person, and freedom, but, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that the path that we're on will ultimately lead to the kind of conclusions that the Minister and the Government have come to with respect to the funding of private agencies. They have said, fine, we see the need, we'll put in the dollars, but we want to safeguard our options on behalf of the public. Mr. Chairman, as this amount grows, we will continue to help the child that needs the help, we will continue to help the Self-help groups that are working in this area, but the government will, the State will in an increasing way become the heavier hand in that child's upbringing, in that child's development, in that child's welfare, because the argument will be the same - we are after all protecting our equity, we are putting our dollars in there. So, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we're on some kind of a treadmill here, with which I have the greatest amount of sympathy for the

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) Minister. I really cannot offer to him a solution of the problem at this time, it would be presumptuous of me to say so, but I would like to hear from the government, I would like to hear from the Minister, and I think a lot of people in the Province of Manitoba would like to hear from our governments, would like to hear from all of us, in a non-partisan way, some rededication to some fundamental principles, some rededication to the family concept of life, and Mr. Chairman, one step further, I'd like to see it reflected in our welfare assistance laws.

Mr. Chairman, the honourable minister has this bit of a frown on his face. I realize I'm not being specific, but I suggest to the honourable minister that if he examines the kind of assistance programs in his own department, that there are instances, very specific instances, which go contrary to that concept which I just announced, that do not, that do not enhance the concept of family living, that enhance the concept of single parent for instance, and the state will provide the day care centre to look after children; that enhance the situation where it becomes, money wise, an advantage not to have a traditional married life situation for the family, where the welfare cheques combined coming in from two individuals is greater than it would be the other way round. These are the kind of situations that I'm suggesting that we have allowed, I don't say with design, but we have allowed to bring into our systems, that do not enhance the kind of concepts that I am speaking about, and I say that that's a very practical lever, never mind the kind of other moral situations that I was speaking of a little while ago.

Mr. Chairman, the appropriation before us, really and truly, Child and Family Services, is the extended hand, or the extended finger of our whole society, it portrays the ills of our society. If that appropriation were to reduce, we would be able to tell whether or not we were doing most things right, and as it increases, we know that we are not doing too many things right and that we are getting ourselves . . . in terms of human conditions we're not improving it, that we are creating more problems than we're solving.

Mr. Chairman, the weight of responsibility of this does not rest on the shoulders of this Minister or this government, because the same situation is around us in all jurisdictions. But, Mr. Chairman, perhaps at 15 minutes after 4 on a Friday afternoon and having attended the funeral of a very fine supporter and long-time friend of mine, it puts me in this mood, perhaps a pessimistic one in that sense, because I see little hope or future for the kind of society that I would like to see for my children developing. I see only promise for a more impersonal, for a more computerized, for a more state controlled society. Mr. Chairman, I say this in a very gentle, soft way this afternoon, I am not even saying that you know, they're seizing this. It's just the direction that we're flowing. It's just the direction that we're flowing.

So, Mr. Chairman, for the few moments this afternoon I don't mind placing on the record that I object to it, I don't think that the end result will provide for any greater happiness on the part of those futuristic children that will be living under that kind of a society or system, and I see in this appropriation the kind of future problems that we are going to be facing and having to deal with, and I get no comfort from the Minister of Health and Social Development when he candidly and honestly admits to us that the problems are going to be there five years from now, perhaps only a little greater.

Mr. Chairman, by leave, I want to tell you just a little story, a little book that I read just the other day, but it has in a round about way some bearing on this subject matter. I can't even recall the author, I can't even recall the title, but it's one of those futuristic books of . . . oh, it makes 1984 ancient, it's 2020, so I'm giving myself an extra 60 years that I didn't think I had. Where the society was such as I just described, so fully computerized, so fully charted, numbered and we were all digits on a computer tape. But there were still, Mr. Chairman, a few people around that had managed to avoid the system. They were known as freelings. They were known as freelings. They habited at night the sewers of London, the tubes and the little shacks, they'd never been computerized. They didn't have a bunch of magnetic cards that you got into your apartment with or got your pay cheque for, got your social allowances for, there were just a few of them that managed to avoid this huge big government entrapment. They were known as freelings. This was a situation world-wide by this time, except for one place,

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(MR. ENNS cont'd)and the Member for Rock Lake will be happy about this, the only place where this system hadn't been enforced yet, was Iceland. Iceland of all places. So this freeling having met another charming young freeling in the sewers of London somewhere as they hid away from the big system, they decided to try to escape and try to get away from the Isles to Iceland, which they had heard of, and somehow or other they managed it through all the bureaucratic tape that they had to get there, they got to Iceland and it was beautiful, they were in a freeling society. And quite a few freelings from other parts of the world had come there; it became an attraction, it became an attraction for these few outcasts in society that refused to be computerized. And one morning, Mr. Chairman, this freeling from London was kind of sleeping late and heard this awful racket outside of his bedroom window, jackhammers tearing up concrete and everything else and he opens up the window and he says, "what's happening, what's happening?" Oh, some workman said, "Don't worry, don't worry, all we're doing is putting in some parking meters." He said, "stop, stop, that's where it all started from. Parking meters, stop signs, stop and go signs, medicare, this, that, . . ." So, Mr. Chairman, that's where the ills of this kind of sadism starts with, I suppose, with parking meters. But, Mr. Chairman, the fruits of it are when we have to, in this little province, in this little province, we are today spending \$18 million for the care of children whose parents refuse their responsibility. It will be \$25 million next year, and sooner or later - in fact, we the loyal opposition, will demand that the government use the heavy hand and bring about an authoritarian control over this kind of a situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I rise, I return, I've got that old freeling, Mr. Chairman, I return to this debate momentarily, Mr. Chairman, to agree in part with my colleague the Honourable Member for Lakeside and to disagree in part with him; to agree in part with the Honourable Member for St. Johns and to disagree in part with him; and to agree in part with the Honourable Minister of Health and to disagree in part. And if you don't think that's a difficult feat at 4:21 on a Friday afternoon, Mr. Chairman, I can demonstrate in the next nine minutes how difficult that is.

I listened with great interest to the remarks of the Honourable Member for St. Johns, and I think he identified a couple of serious and growing problems, and I don't think that he ascribed them to this government or necessarily to any government in particular; as I read his remarks, he was ascribing them to the trend in modern day western, or at least North American society. He pointed up the growing dependency of the community on government to solve the kinds of problems that we are discussing on these appropriations, and he pointed up the growing reluctance of the individual volunteer to commit himself or herself to the kinds of programs that used to be undertaken by volunteers but now become much more deferred to government action and government prerogative. I think those are serious problems that we must address ourselves to if we're to find any kind of ongoing method of at least keeping up with the problems in the health and social services sphere that fall under the aegis of a ministry such as this. I put it to the Member for St. Johns, and I don't expect him to agree with me philosophically, but I think that there is a philosophical dichotomy here that is worth examining and which contains two positions, which both are deserving of respect.

One is his position that he feels that it is undesirable to permit the profit motive to operate in the social service sphere unless absolutely necessary. He would prefer not to see these things done by any individual or any agency that was motivated by profit or had an opportunity to reap a profit from any of these activities. He would prefer to see it done publicly by charitable non-profit organizations or by government, by government if by no other means, in order to keep the profit motive out of it. And I think that that is a valid and a responsible position, but I put it to the Member for St. Johns that perhaps in some of these situations it's not a bad idea to follow the lesser of two evils principles and if one is in a situation, if a society and a community is in a situation where such services are not going to be performed or fulfilled by government, are not going to be, for various reasons and because of various constraints, all of which are irrelevant to the point at issue at the moment, are not going to be fulfilled by volunteers or by charitable non-profit organizations, then perhaps it is better to turn a blind eye, if

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd)that's the proper --(Interjection)--I'll just finish this sentence, perhaps it's better to turn a blind eye if that's the phrase, to the profit motive and allow the service to be performed so that that need in society, that need in the community is fulfilled, even if somebody is making a dollar off it. The member wants to ask me a question, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Honourable Member for Fort Garry for permitting me to ask a question. Under the circumstances such as he describes what would his reaction then be when the first step is made by this private profit organization to ask for some kind of a per diem or other type of support from government, which is historically the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Well I suppose that brings us right to the nub of the question as to what degree the community interest and the taxpayer's interest is being either protected or exploited, and I would say this, that if it can be demonstrated that in order to perform that service, the private operative does need some government assistance, a per diem, and if the alternative for the government is a far more expensive operation than a simple per diem support of the private operative would be, then I think on balance in that situation I would be willing to accede to the request from the private operative, provided he furnished me with a prepared documented audited statement of what his financial commitments were and how he was going to be able to meet them and how he could not meet them short of some per diem assistance. Does that answer the honourable member's question?--(Interjection)--Well the standards of course would have to be rigidly supervised so that . . .to some extent, government is going to have to get into it, but if the government can provide that kind of assistance and provide that kind of supervision and do it cheaper than by putting up and operating the whole facility itself, then I think there is a role for the private operative, and if there is an element of profit involved, Mr. Chairman, I would agree with the Honourable Member for St. Johns that that is not desirable, that is not the best way to go, but I think many of us in this House have agreed in this debate thus far that these problems are not going to be solved overnight, they were with us 2,000 and 10,000 years ago, and I for one agree with the Minister when he says we'll still have comparable problems 50 years from now, because we're not able at this stage of our development to achieve perfection and achieve happiness and achieve gratification and achieve equity for everybody in society. So of course they're going to be with us in one form or another and we're going to be continuing to grapple with them and until there is a way of solving them perfectly, we have to solve them imperfectly; and that means we have to look at what the private sector can do as well as what the public sector can do. And this really gets back to the argument I was having with the Minister last night, I believe, and the Member for Fort Rouge was having with the Minister last night about the opportunity for private agencies and private operatives to function in this field, notwithstanding the desirability of keeping the profit motive out of it. In other words, if you can't do it without allowing somebody to make a profit, then I think that we should choose the lesser of two evils and allow the profit to be made, provided that hand in hand with that goes the service that is necessary and a service that would cost the government far more to do by itself.

And I know what the Minister has answered me on that and I'm glad that he did and he's on record as saying last night that he will maintain an open door and an open mind policy on this question and examine each application in that area on its merits, but I just wanted to respond to the Honourable Member for St. Johns in his remarks and suggest to him that I know that there is a difference of philosophy involved here, and I would go so far to say that his is the right one, but I just don't think we're far enough down the road where we can do it that way. And doing it any way, provided it's not dishonest, doing it any way is better than not doing it at all. If a dollar has to be made by somebody in order to get it done, I don't think we're far enough down the road of our own social and temperamental development to take a restrictive position in opposition to that. I think it should be permitted.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 4:30, Committee rise and report. Call in the Speaker.

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

MR. JENKINS: 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 disposition to forego Private Members' Hour. I gather that there have not been amendments distributed to the Rent Stabilization Act and accordingly I indicated, it was understood that if they were not distributed this afternoon we wouldn't be meeting on Monday morning. So I would suggest that we will schedule the next meeting when we meet on Monday afternoon, by which time I hope the amendments would be distributed.

So that the order of business next week, Mr. Speaker, would be to proceed as we have been. The next department will be the Department of Education and Colleges and Universities. I expect that the Budget will be delivered next week, that Thursday will be - well, will not be Friday because we are not going to meet on Thursday morning in the House - but that Thursday we would have a short day, 2:30, and we would adjourn at 5:30, well 5:30 theoretically. That Friday will be a holiday, that Monday we will be back in the Legislative Assembly, and I think that that is all the information that is needed for next week.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, the House do now adjourn.

MOTION for adjournment presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is consequently adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 Monday afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Sherman.

SUPPLY - RENEWABLE RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Shafransky): Order please. Just before we adjourned we discovered that the Member for Lakeside does not know how to set a trap and it doesn't work. So we shall proceed. The Honourable Member for Swan River. We're on Resolution (d) Wildlife Management: (2) Wild Fur Development. --(Interjection)--I am not casting any kind of aspersions. I just stated that he didn't know how to set a trap. (d) Wildlife Management: Wild Fur Development (a) Salaries--pass - the Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under this item I'd like to bring up about some of the problems the beaver cause in local communities from time to time.

In my particular area I remember a time that was brought to my attention in which they dammed up a creek and when the run-off came, they had trouble because the water took a different course altogether and affected another area. They contacted the people, the game reserve; they had to do it through Portage; they came over and they said, well dig this area out. The beavers replugged it the very same night and as a result they didn't get the water diverted the way they wanted it.

I was wondering - probably some of these things where there is a municipal affair concerned if there couldn't be something more done because what they were told then was they had to contact Portage, it was at that time, and they were going to trap the beaver out and then move them or something like this. It was a very drawn out process I was wondering if maybe some fur-bearing animals like the beaver, if they couldn't be handled different to this because they caused quite a bit of trouble in this municipality at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the standard procedure the department follows is that where there are beaver problems on a farm that the farmer can be issued with a permit to kill the beaver, to remove them. We leave that responsibility up to him further to that. If there are dams to be broken then it's either the farmer's own responsibility or that of the municipality.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, through you. The Minister may be right but if he is then in this particular case they were wrong because they had to contact Portage and they thought the beaver couldn't be killed because they were becoming extinct and they were becoming fewer. They were talking about trapping them and moving them to another area. I don't know whether the statement of the Minister really fits in with the problem that we had at that time.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, there are probably special problems and special cases where the department may become involved in a different way. What I expressed was a general position and a general policy of the department. There may have been a particular case where the department acted in a different way because it was a special case, a special problem. That's the only answer I can give you on that.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering, is the Minister meaning that in this particular case the farmer could have went out and done anything he wanted to remove the beaver or the dam they had put up without going through the Wildlife Association or through Portage as they did in this case?

MR. BOSTROM: No. I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, that the farmer in this case should contact the local Conservation Officers, the local office of the department, and obtain a permit which is readily obtainable from them to remove the beaver that are causing the problem on his land. With that permit he is then legally able to remove the beaver by whatever means.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, in this particular case I believe that the decision must have been to remove the beaver but not to kill them and so it was a very drawn out process. It caused quite a bit of trouble because it so happened that when they diverted the water, dammed it in this particular case, it took a different course altogether. I was just thinking that it was rather cumbersome to have to do it this way.

MR. BOSTROM: I don't know the particular case you're referring to. As I say it probably was a special case where the department got involved directly because of

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)special circumstances. It may have made the most common sense at the time to trap the beaver in such a way that they could be moved to a different area and therefore not cause any future problems. If that makes sense at the time, you know, the department probably could be involved in that way. But that is not the general procedure. The general procedure and the policy is that where a farmer has problems with beaver on his own land, he can obtain a permit to remove them so that he's not charged with the removal of the fur-bearing animal.

MR. HENDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I'll let that question go.

Another problem we have from time to time in our area - there's quite a few muskrats and at times they'll undermine a lot of the roads that go through some of the sloughs that we have roads through and they become quite a problem to the municipality. I was just wondering, how does your department react to cases like this?

MR. BOSTROM: I can't really say offhand. It hasn't come to my attention. No such problems have come to my attention directly. I would assume that the same policy would apply, that where the beavers are causing problems if it's a municipal road for example - or muskrats in this case are causing the problem - if it's a municipal road then the municipality would be given a permit to remove them. But it would be their responsibility to undertake the removal of those.

MR. HENDERSON: Do you mean the removal or do you mean getting rid of them? You know, because they may choose to trap them or they may choose to just destroy them.

MR. BOSTROM: That's right. They would be given a permit to destroy them if necessary.

MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, on this beaver problem. The Minister has a resolution from the Rural Municipality of Swan River and has had it now for some time. I was rather interested in what he had to say, that the farmer could be given a permit to destroy them. The valley is of course bordered by the Duck Mountain Provincial Park and of course the Porcupine Mountains and this is where a great deal of the problems develop. I feel that the time has come, Mr. Minister, that some program or some development should be set up in such a way to handle this problem because the preservation of the beaver, as far as I'm concerned, is paramount to our province, to the wildlife of our province. Where they are interfering with the livelihood of a farmer and causing considerable flooding, and particularly in our area because of the bordering on the provincial park, I feel that a little more interest should be taken rather than a letter over your signature, Mr. Minister, suggesting that a permit could be issued and it's the responsibility of the municipality to remove those beaver.

Now I would like to feel that it would be your feeling that the beaver is a provincial - not a problem, but we have them and we should do what we can to retain them, and it would be the responsibility of your department, in my humble opinion, to alleviate the situation and see to the preservation of the beaver as such in the areas of Crown land of which there are thousands upon thousands of acres. I want to assure the Minister that his reply to a very very considered resolution from the Rural Municipality of Swan River left them up in the air and no solution to their problem. I feel the province has an obligation to do something in this particular regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I believe I indicated to the municipality in question, in reply, that I would be prepared to meet with them on this problem if it is a general problem in the area to discuss specific ways of providing a solution for it. Now they have not replied in such manner to me, although if the honourable member would wish to communicate that to them I would certainly be prepared to sit down and discuss the issue more fully.

There are ways in which the department does get involved in the management of beaver, such that they prevent a lot of the damage that could otherwise occur as a result of increasing beaver populations in certain areas. For example where there are large numbers of beavers and muskrats or such like animals which are causing problems,

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)the department will undertake to obtain trappers who will go into the area and do a salvage operation, a salvage trapping operation, to remove the animals before they do become a problem.

Where they become a specific problem on a farmer's own property and where there may be municipal roads in question, the department is reluctant to get involved on private property and be involved in breaking dams where the breaking of such dams may wash out municipal roads. So that in those areas, because of those problems, we've taken the position that it's the farmer's own responsibility on his own land to remove beaver and he can obtain a permit to do same. Where there is a dam to break which may be affecting municipal property, private property or municipal roads, that it's the municipal government, the local government's responsibility to remove that dam.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the Minister is cognizant of the fact that these dams are built on streams coming out of the Duck Mountain Provincial Park and that as and when there is tremendous overflow, it's flowing down onto valuable farm land. It's a very very important problem in our area and of course the park, being so close to the valley as it is, that I think it is, if I may say so, a special case and I would ask him in all sincerity - I know he's got people there but I want them to sit down with the council and give the Minister a full report as to the whole situation and a possible solution found.

MR. BOSTROM: Well Mr. Chairman, as far as that particular municipality is concerned, I'm certainly prepared to sit down with them and discuss the problem fully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution - the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Just before we get rid of all the beaver, you know it's one of our national emblems, and it's also the emblem of the Royal Canadian Army Fighting Pay Corps which I had the privilege to wear for some years following that little bit of nastyness in the early 1940s.

While we're on Wildlife Management or Wild Fur Development, I should say, I share the same problems that the Member for Swan River has mentioned bordering on Riding Mountain National Park. There are a lot of problems there and they are almost identical and I appreciate the Minister's comments. But while we're on Wild Fur Development I would like the Minister to make some comment on what we're doing in the area of Wild Fur Development. I notice we're covering a substantial amount of money from the Federal Government and I imagine this is a cost-sharing program that has been devised over the years for wild fur development. I wonder if he would care to comment on what is taking place in the wild fur development field. I trust that we're developing beaver also in areas where they're not going to cause problems such as we've heard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, before I begin outlining the Wild Fur Development Program I'd just like to respond briefly to two questions that I took as notice this morning. One I believe was the Honourable Member for Swan River, enquired regarding unemployment insurance paid for firefighters employed by the province. The answer is that firefighters hired for individual fires - that is casuals on a daily basis - there's no unemployment insurance premium collected from them nor any paid by the department. The fire attack crews which I indicated we are instituting this year, deductions will be made for these employees and whatever comparable amount is paid by the department will be paid. For other casual employees of the department such as fire rangers, tower men and so on, unemployment insurance deductions are indeed made.

The other question that was posed was regarding a Highway No. 10 fire, which was brought up I believe by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa. I indicated that if he'd heard about it already that I'm sure someone in the area working for the department must be already working on it. This is indeed the case. The two fires occurred yesterday. They were handled by the northern region, the Cranberry detachment. The first fire was on the CNR right-of-way and was where the CNR employees were burning under a burning permit. Five men actioned the fire and there were eight acres of grass burned. No forest loss. There is presently a clean-up crew watching the fire to ensure that there is no flare up.

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd)

The second fire, origin unknown, possibly CNR again, five men limited this to ten acres of grass burned. No forest loss again. There is also a clean-up crew on this fire. Five men in each case. These men by the way are from the Rehab Camp at Egg Lake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first mistake of allowing this reference is corrected by the second mistake of allowing it to be brought up at this time going back to the resolution we already passed.

We shall proceed. We're on Resolution - Wild Fur Development - Salaries and Wages - the Honourable Member for Morris. The Minister. Proceed.

MR. BOSTROM: I was trying to proceed to answer the question on Wild Fur Development. This is a five-year Wild Fur Development Program which is cost-shared with the Federal Government 50-50. It became operational April 1, 1975. The efforts here are mainly in trapper education, humane trapping. There are trapper officers hired under this program who are working with trappers to assist them in more complete and intensive development of their trap lines to get the best return. The program is expected to become fully operational on April 1, 1976. It's anticipated that through the efforts of this program that we can assist trappers to improve their income.

I might just point out the main areas of expenditure here. In trap line development for the coming fiscal year there's \$135.8 thousand budgeted; for improving trappers' capability there is a total of \$181.2 thousand; fur marketing assistance \$22.1 thousand; improved biological production - that is to assist in development of habitat and so on in the various areas - there's a \$123.4 thousand; advisory and management services \$154.2 thousand; trapper education \$97.1 thousand; humane trapping \$34.5 thousand; the program administration is \$58.3 thousand. There's a grant to the Manitoba Registered Trappers' Association of \$30,000 and an ongoing program evaluation of \$4.3 thousand. I can go into specifics of each one of these areas if you require that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLAKE: I am interested in the specific schemes. The Hydro have undertaken a scheme in the Nelson House area. Are you sharing some of the costs with this, your program, or is Hydro sharing the costs on this with - I guess there are four trappers involved? I understand the early results were pretty significant.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is in those areas where trap lines are to be affected by Hydro developments, Manitoba Hydro will be covering the full costs of compensation and/or whatever the costs are associated with re-allocating them new trap lines. My department does assist Manitoba Hydro and the trappers in determining the losses, in estimating the losses that will be occurring as a result of the flooding activity. They will be also assessing the potential of new areas where the trappers will be placed into as a new trap ground. These kinds of developmental and resource related technical aspects will be handled by my departmental officials as part of their ongoing responsibilities but not specifically as a compensation through the flooding program.

MR. BLAKE: Is the fur-bearing animal of the north showing any signs of increase? Do you hear the odd report about the north teaming with fur and no one to go and trap them? Would this be an idle rumour or do you think the trap lines are being adequately worked and is all the fur that can be possibly taken being taken now, by the trappers already registered?

MR. BOSTROM: No, the problem is the non-harvest of the fur. There are many areas of the province where the trap lines are not being completely harvested. This was the idea behind the Wild Fur Development Program. This was developed after extensive consultation and action, discussion with trappers who identified the main areas of problems and the main areas where assistance was required in order to assist them in improving their capability, improving their opportunity to be able to harvest the fur resource.

MR. BLAKE: Would the answer then - Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister - be to increase the size of the trap lines and increase the productivity of the existing trapper or to educate and encourage new trappers to take up the occupation.

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MR. BOSTROM: Well, I don't believe that in many cases that it would be required to increase the size of the trap lines, but to more efficiently harvest the fur that is available on the individual trap lines that are now established and to improve the trapper's capability in achieving a full harvest of the fur from that trap line. Some cases it would be possible to increase the amount of fur to be harvested from a particular area through habitat development, particularly in the area of muskrats. Through some water control activity the numbers of muskrats, the populations of muskrats can be very substantially increased.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (d)(2) Wild Fur Development: (a) Salaries—pass; (b) Other Expenditures—pass; Resolution (d) Wildlife Management (3) Delta Marsh Development (a)—pass; (b) - the Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, on the question of the Delta Marsh Development I notice that their salary schedule there is \$17,100 last year as compared to \$18,000 this year. I presume that that is the salary of one person.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: The salary here is for one SMY. Right.

MR. JORGENSON: May the Minister explain just what an SMY means?

MR. BOSTROM: Staff man year.

MR. JORGENSON: You cannot tell me whether that is the salary of one person or whether it's several people.

MR. BOSTROM: In this case it is the salary of one person.

MR. JORGENSON: One person.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes.

MR. JORGENSON: He spends an awful lot of money in proportion to what the other Salaries and Wages are compared to the Expenditures. This fellow spends an awful lot of money. Just what does he do?

MR. BOSTROM: Well he is the Marsh Manager who is in charge of all of the activities related to the development of the Delta Marsh.

MR. JORGENSON: Well at the Delta Marsh, there is a Research Station there that has been carried on by the American Wildlife Federation for a number of years. Is the American Wildlife Federation still operative in that area?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes.

MR. JORGENSON: What connection does the Provincial Government have with the American Research Station in the Delta Marsh then?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe it's only a co-operative basis, an informal co-operative basis. The research that is done at the private research station is more of an academic or university-oriented nature where students go there and they do rather in-depth research on marsh management activities.

MR. JORGENSON: Yes, I've been through the Research Station and I'm aware of just what the American Wildlife Federation is carrying on in the way of research and I think it's a very useful kind of a project. I'm just wondering what the Provincial Government, and the total amount here they spent is \$167,700, just what are they doing?

MR. BOSTROM: I can give you a breakdown here. There's \$48.4 thousand for professional fees which are for improving upland habitat for wildlife, carry out studies of commercial fishing and other fishery aspects and to monitor wildlife populations.

MR. JORGENSON: Well what are you doing that the American Wildlife Federation are not doing?

MR. BOSTROM: I don't believe that they are doing these kinds of things. This is related to the development of the marsh, the improvement and development of the marsh. The research station is primarily interested in in-depth research of rather a micro nature. You know I was out there last summer and there were people in the labs cutting up ducks and one guy with a Ph.D was spending his full time studying the vegetation utilized by the ducks in their reproductive capacity or whatever. It was all a pure research sort of thing whereas the people who work for us in this area are interested in the macro aspect, the development of the marsh, the habitat development, the improvement of the marsh to make it a better place for the ducks, the muskrats, the fishery, the whole works.

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MR. JORGENSEN: Are the Provincial Government's efforts directed towards improving the kind of an environment that would be available to the researchers who are working that area or is that an independent kind of an operation?

MR. BOSTROM: Well to the extent that the marsh development improves the habitat for all of the wildlife and fisheries aspects and the research people are able to take advantage of wildlife and fisheries that are in the marsh, and to the extent that they do research that can be utilized by the department, then they will be assisting us. But it's a co-operative effort rather than a conflict of interest or a duplication of effort.

MR. JORGENSEN: Are your efforts incidental to the research that is being carried on or is it specifically designated as a co-operative effort with the American Wildlife Federation?

MR. BOSTROM: It's only an informal relationship, not a specific formal agreement of any kind to the extent that we do things that they can take advantage of, that's a coincidence. It could be a coincidence or a result of informal co-operation but no formal agreement.

MR. JORGENSEN: But you do carry on liaison with the American Wildlife Federation?

MR. BOSTROM: Oh yes. The Marsh Manager is in constant contact with both stations out there. There's one right in the marsh and the university has I believe a research station on the edge of the marsh which is part of the old Bain Estate or whatever and the marsh manager there is in constant contact with both groups and they co-operate in every way they can.

MR. JORGENSEN: My understanding was when I visited the research station several years ago that most of the research that has been carried on was being carried on by students from American universities, universities that have faculties of Wildlife Management. Are there any Canadian students there from Canadian universities who have such faculties or are there any universities - I understand that at that time when I was there that the University of British Columbia were endeavouring to establish such a faculty and there was the possibility that Canadian students would be able to carry on that kind of research at the Delta Waterfowl Management Station.

MR. BOSTROM: I'm informed, Mr. Chairman, that there are indeed Canadian students there. I can't tell you how many.

MR. JORGENSEN: My next question was going to be to ask the Minister if he could tell us just what proportion of Canadian students are there in relation to the number of American students that are conducting that kind of research.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, that is not in my department. But in the spirit of co-operation I will attempt to get that information and forward it to the honourable member.

MR. JORGENSEN: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, just while the Minister is doing that, there are research teams in several areas throughout Manitoba so he may get a little more detailed information than just on the Delta area. I know there are two crews that have been in the Minnedosa area for the last three or four years. That's known as the pot-hole country of Manitoba and I believe - they may have had a Canadian student with them but I believe they were American and some of them were pretty well advanced. Also they have done several studies on the canvasback in the Swan Lake area, east of Swan River there, which is an ideal habitat for the canvasback apparently. So he may get a little more detailed information on how many crews are here and what our input is or what it's costing us and what we're getting out of it.

MR. BOSTROM: All right, I'll try to get that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (3) Delta Marsh Development, Salaries and Wages--pass; (b) Other Expenditures--pass; Resolution (d) Wildlife Management: (4) Research (a) Salaries and wages - the Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: I wonder if the Minister can tell us what kind of independent research that the Government of Manitoba is carrying on under this particular item.

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MR. BOSTROM: There's a number of projects, Mr. Chairman. There's one additional staff man year in this section for this coming year. There were 6.16 last year, this year there's 7.16. That's the only increase.

The main functions of the Wildlife Research is to carry out research on wildlife in Manitoba generally and to participate in co-operative research projects such as the one I just mentioned, at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station - universities and the Canadian Wildlife Service - to encourage Wildlife Research at provincial universities. There's a number of specific activities which have been carried out during the past year which I could go through if you require that information. It's rather detailed.

There's some research ongoing on such things as breeding waterfowl, nest site selection and so on. The distribution, migration and harvest patterns of the geese and ducks in Manitoba, population studies of ruffled and sharp-tailed grouse in the Interlake area, woodland caribou. In particular we've been looking at the deer population and studying very intensively the winter habitat requirements and what limiting factors there are on the deer populations in Manitoba. The white-tailed deer in the greater Winnipeg area, which has come to attention recently, is one of the projects that has been under study by this section of the department. The fur production capability and potential of various habitats in Manitoba in co-operation of the Wild Fur Development Program, muskrat habitat development, and we make some grants for Wildlife Research to the academic staff and graduate students of the departments of Zoology, Botany, Animal Science and the Natural Resource Institute at the University of Manitoba. The Delta Waterfowl Research Station also receives some support from us.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, a number of years ago under the ARDA Agreement the Manitoba Government entered into arrangements with a number of farmers throughout the prairie provinces located in the pothole countries of the western provinces which they rented, in effect, rented a certain amount of land from these farmers with the purpose of providing a Wildlife breeding habitat for waterfowl. That program had been carried on for a number of years and was intended to provide a source of income for the farmers that lived in those areas on land that they would otherwise pay taxes on and would get no return from. At the same time it would encourage those farmers to maintain that pothole country for wildlife habitat. The arrangement was one that I think was mutually beneficial not only to the government but to the farmers as well. But in addition to that it was also a program that was enthusiastically endorsed by the American Wildlife Federation who were prepared to contribute some considerable amount of money on the basis that the American sportsman was deriving a great deal of benefit from the fact that Canadian farmers were providing them with a source of waterfowl that enabled them to engage in the sport that they enjoyed. I recall discussions that I had with Ira Gabrielson who was the head of the American Wildlife Federation some years ago, prior to the introduction of the ARDA legislation in which he suggested that the Americans would be prepared to enter into an agreement with the Canadian Government, an agreement similar to the International Boundaries Water Commission. They had intended to set up an International Waterfowl Commission in which both the American and Canadian Governments would contribute; sportsmen would contribute through a tax that would be levied on sports equipment and in that way they would be able to pay farmers to encourage the production of waterfowl on those areas that were suitable for waterfowl production and would enable them to derive an income from doing so. Rather than as at the present time where they're suffering a loss because the waterfowl are damaging their crops.

Now my understanding was, and I haven't followed it recently, my understanding was that that agreement worked very well in several instances for a number of years until the various governments that were involved decided to turn it into, instead of a program designed to propagate waterfowl population, they turned it into a bloody welfare program which is always a tendency of government. Instead of selecting the best areas suitable for waterfowl production, they gave it to the farmers that needed the money most which ruined the program. Now my understanding is that that program has been discontinued. I wonder if the Minister could bring us up-to-date or if he knows anything about that particular program, whether or not it has been revived, whether the

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'd) governments have learned anything from past experience or whether they're going to continue to make it a welfare program rather than a program designed to propagate waterfowl.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that the Canadian Wildlife Service did in fact have such a program a number of years ago and the honourable member is correct that this program has been discontinued. We, as a government, have not been involved in this area. The American sportsmen that he mentions probably contribute to some extent to the propagation of waterfowl in our province through Ducks Unlimited.

MR. JORGENSON: Yes.

MR. BOSTROM: We have some agreements with Ducks Unlimited in the areas of Delta Marsh I believe and I think they contribute a small amount to Oak Hammock and other areas in the province. They've indicated to us that they have considerable sums of money right now which they would propose to spend in Manitoba if we can come to some agreement as to where they would spend it. I don't think we will have any problem indicating where they can spend money if they want to spend money. So we will be working something out with them on that.

We don't have as yet - and I don't believe we will have - any agreements with the American Government as such since this would probably have to be done Federal Government to Federal Government and the Canadian Government would have to be involved in any agreement as such with the American Government. I am not surprised that the Federal Government has turned such a program into a welfare program. I'm becoming quite cynical about the way the Federal Government operates in the prairie provinces, particularly with respect to the northern areas of our province where they have refused to assist the Manitoba Government in a transportation subsidy in the area of fishing where we would hope to have people working rather than on welfare but there doesn't seem to be the same desire on the part of the Federal Government.

MR. JORGENSON: I wonder if the Minister, who mentioned that he had some money available through the Ducks Unlimited, for that kind of work, now I wonder if he would seriously consider - he mentioned that he was attempting to find out some method whereby they could most usefully spend that money - if he would consider using it in this fashion.

First of all to ensure that the areas that they choose to invest that money are areas that are best suited for waterfowl production, that the potholes for example don't go dry in the middle of summer. You have to select areas that you have some reasonable assurance are going to continue to produce waterfowl.

Secondly, that when an agreement is signed with a farmer to rent the particular area that is pothole on his farm, that you undertake to pay him also to run his seeding drill around the pothole a few rounds to seed barley which would be feed for the waterfowl as the Minister probably knows. The waterfowl population of this country are pretty discriminating gourmets. They won't eat anything else if barley's available. They won't even eat six row barley if two row barley's available. So as a lure crop, that can easily be provided for. That was the original intention of the program and I say sadly that that program has been abused and has been turned into something less than what was intended.

I would hope that if the Minister has any ideas about spending money in any direction at all that it could be entertained, even on the provincial basis. Then he would not have to worry about being cynical about the Federal Government, that he could be cynical on his own and develop his own programs in the way that is best suited for this particular province. I am sure that he would find that he would get the wholehearted co-operation of the American Wildlife Federation and indeed perhaps the American Government in assisting in this program. Because whether the Minister recognizes it or not the American Wildlife Federation are very aware of the contribution that the Canadian farmer makes to providing a waterfowl population for them that provides them with a great deal of enjoyment, and they're prepared to do what they can to assist in the ensuring that that waterfowl population continues.

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MR. BOSTROM: Right. Mr. Chairman, just in response to the suggestion, I believe it's a very good suggestion. We are already as a department having discussions with landowners, farmers, discussing with them ways in which they would be prepared to assist in holding waterfowl and/or wildlife in general on their properties, what kinds of incentives they would have to have in order to co-operate even more than they have in the past in providing habitat for wildlife in general or waterfowl in particular. This suggestion that the honourable member is making is in line with that kind of policy that my department is following and I believe it has merit and that we should indeed try to work with Ducks Unlimited as just one source of revenue, to point out ways in which they could assist in the propagation of waterfowl in our province by working with private individuals on private property in the way in which the honourable member has suggested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I can certainly endorse the remarks of the Member for Morris. While we're on research I'm not aware of it's Ducks Unlimited or the Canadian Wildlife Association but the mallard duck specie is the most popular of the renewable resource in the waterfowl as far as the sportsman and I suppose the attraction of tourists go. They nest and invariably in the smaller pothole areas. Now just outside of Minnedosa there's research being done there and as I say I don't know whether any of this research money is going in there or whether it's being done by Ducks Unlimited or the Canadian Wildlife Federation but they have found in holding habitat for nesting areas or breeding areas that the predators, especially the coons and the skunks, that this has been the greatest enemy of the mallards in the nesting areas. They have found that a crop of alfalfa - I think it's alfalfa and clover - it grows thickly and the coons won't go through this particular mixture that they've used or the skunks either. They've found that this has been extremely successful in providing some fringe areas around the water areas or the breeding grounds for nesting.

When you're getting some of the answers on the research projects that we mentioned if you would just keep that one in mind. I can maybe find that out sometime when I see these people. They'll be out very shortly likely with break-up but it's a very interesting project and this information I'm sure is being exchanged back and forth. It certainly seems like a worthwhile project and it's on maybe a quarter section of land, that's about all they're using.

MR. BOSTROM: Well just on that, Mr. Chairman, I'm informed the Delta Research Station has in fact been doing research in this particular area that you are outlining. As I was saying earlier we do support by grant some of the activities of the Delta Research Station. I believe my department's been working with them on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (4) Research (a) Salaries--pass; (b) Other Expenditures--pass; Resolution (d) Wildlife Management: (5) Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement (a)--pass; (b)-- The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, if the Minister would just comment on Other Expenditures under the Northlands Agreement. Just what does this cover? I see we are recovering most of it from the Federal Government but . . .

MR. BOSTROM: This whole program here, Mr. Chairman, is related to the discussion we were having earlier on caribou in the north. We have a Northern Wildlife Development Program which is under the general heading of Northern Animal Husbandry. We are intending to establish a wildlife development and management station at Churchill for the benefit of northern residents. In particular the main focus is to work with the communities in the area, that are in the remote areas of the province, to work with them in better management of the resource base that's available to them. In most of those far northern areas of the province the only resource base that is available to them. In most of those far northern areas of the province the only resource base that is available to the residents is the wildlife resource Base and in particular the caribou. We will be working with the communities to assist them to better manage the resource by doing such things as taking a more careful harvest of the resource. We'll be not only policing them but working with them in taking a harvest of the resource so that they will not be decimating the herds and killing off the female of the species and so on, too rapidly. In that way we would hope to be able to enhance the total wildlife resource in the north and

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) to more better relate that resource to the community so that they can have a better self-sufficiency base both in the area of food and fur production.

MR. BLAKE: Does this include any research that is being done on the polar bear problem up there or - not a problem - what could be a problem?

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman, that's a separate issue. We do have staff from the department who are in Churchill at the times in which they are required to be there to assist the residents in protecting themselves from the polar bear and to also protect the polar bear in some cases from the residents. Wherever necessary and possible we try to remove the polar bear from the area without resorting to having to destroy them.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, there was an area out of Churchill not far, discovered a few years ago as a breeding ground. Is that area protected in any way? Was it as important as the initial find appeared to be to the continuation and propagation of the polar bear?

MR. BOSTROM: That is one of our wildlife management areas, Mr. Chairman. It is indeed an area where the polar bear is protected. The polar bear in general in Manitoba is protected. There is no polar bear season; no one is allowed to shoot the polar bear. They are only shot when human life is in danger and they are destroyed for those emergency reasons. Wherever possible as I say we remove them and try to keep them in their wildlife management area if possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution - the Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, in looking at this particular section, you know it's Wildlife Development, Development and Research and Agreements and technical support of \$2 million. Just what, Mr. Minister, are you hoping to accomplish on this caribou project? Are you telling us that caribou are native to Northern Manitoba and is it your purpose to work with these herds? Just how many caribou do we have and is it the thinking of the department to preserve those animals for meat for the native people in those areas? Just how big are these herds?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe the barren ground caribou in Manitoba are approximately 50,000 in number. I'm speaking from memory but I believe that they are, and they are indeed native to Manitoba and as I was saying earlier today there is a herd of caribou, woodland caribou in this case, which is south and east of Churchill which is captive in the area. They don't migrate back and forth. We would hope to work specifically with that herd and try to enhance the numbers there with a view of taking an annual harvest for the local people of the area as a first priority for a food resource but to generally improve the numbers of the herd in Manitoba for all the people of Manitoba. We are told and in fact this is one thing that came out from the Russians when they visited Manitoba, that the Northern Manitoba barren lands could support a herd of about 250,000 animals. For various reasons over the years the herd has been cut down to approximately 50,000 and this research station will be addressing itself to the problems and reasons why in fact the herd has been reduced to that level and to try to figure out ways in which we can build it back up again to a more acceptable level.

MR. BILTON: Is it an accepted fact then, Mr. Minister, that there is certain hunts or kills every year that the natives participate in in order to feed their families and if so, how many animals were killed last year for that purpose? Approximately.

MR. BOSTROM: I couldn't answer that off-the-cuff, Mr. Chairman. I would have to take the question as notice to try to get an assessment if we do have one. One of the problems so far, Mr. Chairman, is that there has been really no research done in the north. In that far north country there hasn't even been a station which has addressed itself to that particular problem. With that vast country as you can see on any map of Manitoba, with hardly any population, the poaching problem alone is a very considerable one and one which is very difficult to police.

MR. BILTON: Are you telling us, Mr. Minister, that there's a station there and that there's a staff there and that they're husbanding this item of caribou that you're talking about, 50,000 head? Are they there and sending in consistent reports telling you, or making reports as to their findings from time to time? Are you telling us that?

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MR. BOSTROM: This station, Mr. Chairman, is just being established. The program was brought into effect last year but we were not successful in recruiting all of the staff. It is now just in the process of being established at Churchill. All of the staff has not yet been recruited so that we couldn't be getting consistent complete reports from them at this early date.

MR. BILTON: As I understand the Minister then that when we're discussing this item next year he will have a report as to what this staff is doing, how many there are and where they are and what they're doing.

MR. BOSTROM: That's correct.

MR. BILTON: You'd have been far better off, Mr. Minister, if I may make a suggestion, and handed the responsibility over to a couple of Mounted Policemen up there. They'd have handled it for you. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (d) Wildlife Management: (5) (b) Other Expenditures--pass; Resolution (d) Wildlife Management: (6) Regional Technical Support (a)--pass; Regional Technical Support (b) Other Expenditures--pass; Resolution (d)--pass; Resolution (e) Fisheries Management (l) Program Development and Management (a)-- The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BIAKE: You know there are going to be several areas in this particular section of the Minister's Estimates that we're going to want to get into but one particular area that the Minister made comment on to start off with - there's an area of concern in the Lake Athapapuskow region. I'm sure the Minister is aware of several complaints or items that have been brought to his attention of problems on the lake where they're recommending a return to commercial fishing in some way to remove rough fish and various other studies that have been done which it would indicate would improve the sport fishing of that lake. Because 20 years or so ago that lake was one of the better sport fishing lakes in the north and it would appear from all reports coming to me that the lake is not fished out, that there are other problems. There's all kinds of fish there but they're not rising to the bait the way they did some years ago. Maybe they don't make them like they used to, I don't know. But the Minister may have some information on that that would assist us or would avoid some further questioning that would be repetitious. So maybe he could comment on that particular area as we get into this Fisheries Management section of his Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, just on that I did have a briefing on the problems related to the lake. Those who have been working on the lake from the northern region, the fisheries biologists, the conservation officers, the people who are working on research in that particular area doing creel census for us last summer and in other years, from all of the reports that I've received on it, it seems evident to me that there is a danger of the lake being over-fished and there are other problems associated with that, one of them being the number of rough fish in the area. Now it hasn't been completely determined yet as to what action should be taken. A number of suggestions have been made.

I've been up to Flin Flon and met with the concerned citizens of the area on this problem, the cottage owners, the lodge owners, some of the local people from the community who utilize the lake on a regular basis. There was a difference of opinion at that meeting that I attended as to what action should be taken. We are going to be doing some more further analysis on it, more accurate analysis, to determine what action should be taken. But there definitely is a danger that the lake is getting to that point of being over-fished. It makes some common sense when you look at it as well because it is a fairly good sized lake but it has many avenues to reach the lake and there is quite a large population at Flin Flon that make good use of the lake; there's a very very heavy summer population of tourists that are in the area; the Flin Flon Trout Festival is known I think all over the world as the place to come to catch the biggest trout in the world and the whole emphasis on trophy trout has put extra pressure on that lake. So that when you put all these things together there is a definite danger of the lake being over-fished. My department's looking at it very carefully and we'll be taking whatever action is necessary.

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MR. BIAKE: Well, Mr. Chairman, that may be all well and good that there may be a lot of people fishing that lake but it doesn't over-fish a lake if they're not catching anything. I can tell you from personal experience the number of times that I've fished in the last few years that have been pretty dismal, so you go looking for another lake. I don't think the local people that know the lake well are catching the fish that they used to catch. It would appear it's not because there's a lack of fish. Skin divers have gone down and apparently there's all kinds of fish. Now maybe the Minister could tell us what creel counts have been taken, where they were taken and what they revealed in the past year, in that particular area as well as other areas.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is not difficult to obtain. I will undertake to get some information on that and send it to you. Some people are saying that the fish are not biting because there's too many rough fish in the lake and there's too much other available food for the fish so they're just lazy and fat and they don't want to take the hook.

MR. BILTON: Way down deep, that's where they're at . . .

MR. BOSTROM: You know, there may be some credibility to that . . .

MR. BIAKE: Some say that their teeth come out too.

MR. BOSTROM: The proposals that have been made for removing the rough fish from the lake have not been substantiated in biological fact to date. The fisheries people of my department are saying that there's no good biological rationale for having a rough fish removal program simply to enhance the sport fishing. It may not improve the situation because, after all, the fish need food as well as the sportsmen need to catch the fish.

MR. BIAKE: The fishermen on Lake Winnipeg say that's the problem. The Minister is listening to the biologists and not to the fishermen. I don't know - as I say, I am sure the Minister is aware of the problem and has a good working relationship with the lodge owners in the area and with the people from his department that are local to that particular spot. There's no question about it, the resort owners in there have a substantial investment over the years and have excellent facilities and it's very easy to assess their concern because business has been dropping off over the years. The people have been coming in for many years and they're coming in now and finding they can't take a limit out in a day, in a long day's fishing and they're looking elsewhere. I can understand the concern of the people in those areas with the problem that appears to have developed over the last five to ten years. Possibly it could be rectified but with the reports that you obviously have and with the people that are working on it hopefully some early solution to the problem may be found.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the people I represent in my area the Swan River businessmen have spent a good deal of money in the developing of motels and so on and as the Minister knows there is a considerable number of lakes, extensive lakes around our area, and I must say it's becoming more and more attractive as the years go by for tourists, particularly from the United States. They don't all go to Flin Flon, believe me. The province has spent a great deal of money in the Wellman Lake area developing that area and I do receive considerable complaints on the lack of fish. Now maybe the Minister can tell me that they are feeding those lakes with fish from time to time. If they're not I want to know why and particularly in Whitefish and Bell Lake and that string of lakes in that particular area. Is a close count being kept and if a close count is being kept, is the department satisfied with the fish that is being taken out? The stories I am hearing, that the Bowsman River for instance was a favourite stream for many many years for brook trout, as is the Roaring River, or was, a great favourite for brook trout and people are just wondering why the trout are not there. Can the department do anything about it to rectify the situation?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am sure the honourable member would accept the fact that I don't have detailed information on those particular rivers. I could undertake to obtain information on it and to communicate that to the honourable member. I believe he is the one most specifically interested in it and from that perhaps get a concrete suggestion from him as to what he thinks we should be doing.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to follow up a little further on the comments that were made by my colleague, the Member for Minnedosa, on the question of fishing particularly on Lake Athapuskow. Notwithstanding the comments of the Minister to the effect that intensive fishing of the lakes, particularly during the Trout Festival, as a reason for the depletion of the game fish in that lake, I'm more inclined to take the word of the people who live in that area and who work very closely with the tourists and the people who come there to fish. My information seems to indicate that they have good reason to believe that the growing rough fish population in that lake does provide for the other types of fish, that is the trout and those that are game fish, an increasing source of food that just prevents them, or you know, it just makes it impossible for them to even bother jumping at a lure when they can get the real thing. Contrary to theories that have been developed earlier, and I know that a number of years ago that was the theory, that you were going to reserve a certain number of lakes for commercial fishing; you were going to reserve a certain number of lakes for game fishing and that by doing so you were going to separate the two.

Well it just hasn't worked that way and I wonder if his biologists still continue to think along those lines, without having adjusted themselves to the facts of life, to the realities and to what really is happening. That in a good many of these lakes, and Athapuskow is one of them, where there is an abundance - and I hear that from every report I get and I fish that lake myself. I never caught a damn thing and I expect the reason for that is because they were lazy - because I'm a good fisherman. I wonder if the Minister would now instruct his department to have a very close look at the suggestions that are being made by particularly the lodge operators in that area who have a great deal to lose and I think who understand the area a great deal more than - I hesitate to criticize the biologists. They perform a very useful function and they have their job to do and I presume they know what they're doing but at the same time, my experience has been that theory and practice are two different things and it does seem to me that you could do worse than listen to some of the suggestions that are being made by the lodge operators in that area and the people, the Chambers of Commerce and those people that are concerned about the declining American population or the declining American tourist population in that area. No American is going to come up there to fish if he can't catch a fish and the lodge operators up there tell me that the fish are there, they're just not biting because there's no reason for them to bite.

Now what is the answer? Commercial fishing of those lakes? The removal of the rough population when they spawn, or what. This is a decision that I presume that the Minister has to make with the advice of his staff, his biologists and I would hope with the consultation of the people who live in that area. I hope that there is sufficient co-operation between his department and the people who live in that area and know the area, that they can arrive at some kind of a solution to this problem to ensure that the game fish population is such that it will continue to attract the kind of wealth that is brought into that area by the American tourist.

Our lodge operators have invested an awful lot of money in that area and I judge from remarks that were made in the House just the other day that a good many residents in the north are not that happy about American tourists coming in there. I think that's unfortunate because I do believe that there is room for not only the people who live in the north to make a decent living, but there is room for a good many tourists to come in there and contribute to the wealth of this province through the taxes they pay on the various things that they must buy in this province and from the money that they'll leave there. Not only to the lodge operators and those people but to the guides and to the other people that work in accommodating the tourists that come into that area. There's a great deal at stake and I'm not satisfied that the Minister's answer provides us with the kind of a solution to the problem that is acceptable. To suggest that stopping the Trout Festival is going to provide an answer to that problem is one to me is just not acceptable. It seems to me that the Minister has got to take far more seriously the problem that exists in the north and to come up with solutions that are acceptable not only to his department, not only to the tourists of this country but to the people of the

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(MR. JORGENSON cont'dy north themselves. I'm sure it can be done but it requires that kind of co-operation that I don't think has been carried out up to this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I didn't give a complete answer earlier on this. But following the meeting with the lodge owners, the residents, the fishermen, the townspeople and so on in Flin Flon, I have instructed my department that within the limits of the manpower resources that we have available to us, that we do make a sincere and definite effort to take a closer look at Lake Athapapuskow and the Cranberry Lakes which is also a problem to try to come up with a rational solution to this. I certainly accept the advice of the honourable member when he says that you cannot always just accept the advice of the professionals, that you have to temper this with other advice and that is the way in which I operate. I believe that the expert advice, tempered with some common sense consultation with the residents and people who know the area very well, can come up with the most sensible solution in this case as in other cases. But I don't believe it's responsible to simply take a head count. When you're dealing with resource decisions, the decision that's taken can be a very serious one and is always a very serious one. It's not simply enough to just do the thing that may be most popular in the area. The decision that's taken may be a very unpopular one but may be the best one for the resource. I believe that in cases like this one, as in other cases concerning the use of resources, that the decision must be a responsible decision, not simply a head count decision.

MR. JORGENSON: I'm inclined to agree with the Minister on that. I don't think we're that far apart on methods to approach this particular problem. But the fishing season is now upon us and I presume that the Minister already has some plans in view as to how he's going to ensure that the tourist population or the tourist numbers that are going to come into the north this summer are not going to be disappointed and that they're going to continue to want to come back. I'm convinced that there are enough fish in the north that they can accommodate all the American tourists that want to come up here and the province will benefit.

I do believe that the tourist industry, if properly guided and properly taken care of, can be the second largest industry in this province. I think that we should be moving in that direction to provide the kind of accommodation, the kind of encouragement - and I don't mean encouragement simply by the way of advertising because there's no point in advertising the tremendous fishing resources we've got up here if an American comes up and finds that he can't catch any fish. The best advertising is if an American goes back with the kind of a fish catch that he anticipates. If something can be done to alleviate this problem and to ensure that game fish are going to be there in abundance, then he has certainly done his share and I will congratulate him for his efforts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (e) Fisheries Management: Program Development and Management (a) Salaries and Wages --pass; (b) Other Expenditures--pass - the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BIAKE: Recoverable amount from Canada, that's a 50-50 cost-sharing deal on Salaries or on Other Expenditures?

MR. BOSTROM: If that's your only question on that section, Mr. Chairman, perhaps we could go on to the next item while the officials are looking up the details.

MR. BIAKE: I have some questions on the Fish Hatcheries Operations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (e)(2) Fish Hatcheries Operations: (a) - the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BIAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister would just give us an indication of where the major hatcheries are located and how many people are employed. How many fingerlings they raised or deposit in the various lakes each year or where is the main concentration of their seeding operations and what new areas are they seeding?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the department operates three fish hatcheries on a permanent basis. There's Whiteshell Trout Hatchery for production of trout species to stock sport fishing waters; the Grand Rapids Hatchery for production of whitefish and pickerel in support of commercially fished waters and trout species to stock northern

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) . . . sport fishing waters and the Dauphin River Hatchery for production of whitefish in support of commercially fished waters. The specifics here: in the total fish culture program there's 25.36 SMYs in the Salary figure there. I can give you some figures on the hatchery operations if you like.

MR. BIAKE: Yes.

MR. BOSTROM: In the Whiteshell Trout Hatchery there are a total of 209,000 yearlings and older distributed. These are all a species of lake trout. There are 260,000 advanced fry and fingerlings distributed; there were 394,000 fingerlings and older on inventory. The fry and . . . eggs held or on order was 888,400.

In the Grand Rapids Hatchery, again the trout, there were 39,580 yearlings and older distributed; 338,145 fingerlings distributed and fry and . . . eggs held or on order were 317,500. Forty-three million whitefish fry were produced and planted in Lake Winnipeg. There were two million planted in William Lake which is just off Lake Winnipeg close to Grand Rapids, whitefish eggs.

MR. BIAKE: That's a commercial fishing lake?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes. That's quite a good commercial fishing lake. It's a very successful little lake. I can give you copies of this material if you like.

MR. BIAKE: Yes, that would be helpful. It would save reading it all into the record.

Mr. Chairman, the Department has nothing to do with the fish farming operations conducted in some parts of the province, particularly in my area. That's strictly federal research project or is the province doing any research on trout farming?

MR. BOSTROM: Oh yes. We have 3.5 SMYs, staff man years, designated for trout farming.

MR. BIAKE: Working with the federal people in there, eh?

MR. BOSTROM: We have people that work with the trout farmers and assist them in the work that they're doing. I can give you some information on that. There were in 1975, 283 permittees, people who held permits on lakes. They stocked 341 water bodies and 25 licensees stocked 35 water bodies.

MR. BIAKE: In the sport fishing field, just to go back to that, what new areas do you plan to stock or re-stock this year with fingerlings or with new species?

MR. BOSTROM: Well there's really no increase to this program, Mr. Chairman. We would be continuing those areas that we have been stocking.

MR. BIAKE: There's no new lakes coming onstream. You're not killing off fish in one area and re-stocking or you've no lakes in the mill.

MR. BOSTROM: I have no specific information here on that. We're pretty well continuing the program that we've had over the last few years, on the same basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (e)(2) (a) Salaries and Wages--pass; (2) Fish Hatcheries Operations; (b)--pass; Resolution (e)(3) Research (a) Salaries and Wages--pass - the Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I wonder if the Minister could tell us just what kind of research he has in mind under this particular item. I notice that there has been a slight reduction in the amount and I don't want to criticize him for that, I think that's commendable, but I'm curious to know just what kind of research they're carrying on.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, there's an ongoing program of studying the fish populations on Lake Winnipeg and this is in connection with the Fisheries Management on that lake. That's probably one of the best managed lakes in Manitoba in that we have the best information on the lake and we're continuing a program of studying exactly what year classes of fish there are available. We do this through our catch samples through scale samples, from the production each year and there is a total analysis of the fishery production on the lake. I just indicated there's a re-stocking program as well as where 43 million whitefish fry were released into Lake Winnipeg.

MR. JORGENSON: There's a combination both of commercial and game fishing on that lake, is there not?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes. Well to a much lesser extent of game fishing on that lake compared to other lakes. It's not a really good lake for game fishing. The tributaries leading into the lake are fairly heavily fished, sport fished, but not the lake itself.

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MR. JORGENSEN: Well the Minister said that it was one of the best managed lakes in the province. I wonder just what he meant by that.

MR. BOSTROM: Well in that we have good statistics or fairly good statistics on the potential catch of the lake and we have fairly good records as to the traditional historical catch on the lake, so that we're able to set lake quotas in such a way that they make sense. Based on that lake quota we have instituted a system of area quotas, in particular areas of fishing activity. As well within those areas quotas we instituted a system of individual quotas where fishermen have - on their licence they have a certain amount of fish that they can catch. When they catch that amount of fish they're finished for the season. In that way we're more able to more equitably distribute the opportunity for fishermen to obtain an income from the fishery.

MR. JORGENSEN: What you mean is that you're able to limit the number of fishermen that go on the lake and the amounts that they catch.

MR. BOSTROM: That's right.

MR. JORGENSEN: So that although you may argue that the opportunity is there for certain fishermen, there is certainly not opportunity for everybody.

MR. BOSTROM: No, no. We have definitely limited the number of fishermen on the lake. The licensing system that we've devised is a system which I believe is fair and equitable in that it's based on the experience and knowledge of the fishermen, those who have the most experience and are most dependent on the fishery are those who obtain the licences. There has been a fair amount of controversy over that licensing system as the honourable member may be fully aware but by and large it's generally accepted by the fishermen and they believe it to be a good system.

MR. JORGENSEN: Just one final question, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could tell me just how do you count fish in a lake? One, two, three?

MR. BOSTROM: There's a number of ways in which the fish populations can be estimated. One way is to get samples of the catch from all areas of the lake, to get accurate statistical samples that make sense and by those you can tell what age class of fish, for example, is being caught at that particular time. The catch of the fishermen over the season and over the whole year is an indication of the populations. If they're having difficulty getting the catch, if there's a trend, statistical trend that can be determined in terms of whether the population is being over-fished or there are fish, the age classes of fish are going up, then it can be determined with reasonable accuracy, I think safe enough so that we're not making mistakes on that lake anyway, we're not over exploiting it.

MR. JORGENSEN: Is there any other lake besides Lake Winnipeg in which you carry on this kind of research?

MR. BOSTROM: Not to that degree of sophistication, no. We're trying to institute a similar kind of program on Lake Winnipegosis but to this point, no, there's no research to that extent on that lake. Most of the northern lakes, of course, the smaller lakes in the north, we have historical records but not accurate ongoing records such as on Lake Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (e) - the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BIAKE: Well, first of all, the Minister might give us an idea in the Research Expenditures, if they're doing any research on the Lake Winnipeg Goldeye in order that we can still retain the name Lake Winnipeg Goldeye or is the major portion of the goldeye supply still coming from the Northwest Territories or Alberta. Are we conducting any research on the goldeye and . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Well not specifically as a species. They would be researched as part of the overall catch sampling and catch data that we have on the lake but specifically as a species we're not researching them too.

MR. BIAKE: Right. The Minister might comment - I know we can really get into it further down under Rough Fish Utilization - but under Research we might get into the Freshwater Fish Marketing end of it. What research is being done on canning of some of our rough fish. I'm thinking of carp, mullet, fish of this type. Could the Minister give us some up-to-date information on that?

MR. BOSTROM: Do you want to be here all afternoon?

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MR. BLAKE: Well till 4:30 only. Then we're ready to quit.

MR. JORGENSON: You've got a definite limit, 4:30.

MR. BLAKE: Actually, we're killing the clock if you want us to be honest.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I could take up the rest of the time on this one but I'll try to be brief. There's been a number of activities carried on over the past year in the area of research. In fact I'm quite impressed with the kinds of products that have been developed. We've been really pushing both the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which is responsible for marketing all the catch in Manitoba, and other participating areas within the Corporation.

MR. BIAKE: You're starting to believe the radio ads.

MR. BOSTROM: We've also been pushing the Federal Government as to their responsibility for doing research on the marketing and product development of fish. They have developed some very good products. In fact I was just discussing today with staff here that we should one day soon try to get some of the fish products that are available in the lunch room downstairs. Perhaps if the members' lounge is ready early enough I would try to get some of those new products demonstrated to members.

There are some excellent products. One is a product which I believe is still being experimented on, and that is the rough fish mullet and other species mixed in with it. It makes quite a good product. But they've been even more successful in developing canned jackfish; they've developed a product where they have obtained a recipe from . . . they've broken down a Parisienne recipe on what they call jackfish balls or something and they are providing a very good product. And they have a number of breaded products. They're using a mixture of mullet and jackfish and other rough species. They're making a fish pattie out of burbot, that is maria, pretty well all of the rough species have been experimented with in one way or another.

They now have the products, and this is one of the proposals that I made to the Federal Minister when I met with him. That we should be now taking those products and finding a market for them, and I don't believe the money for that should be coming out of the fishermen's pockets, because they are making meager enough incomes as it is now. So I proposed to him at the meeting that we had that - well I had agreement from the Provincial Cabinet on this - that we would pay \$250,000 towards a marketing proposal to get those products on the market, with the idea being that if they do find a good market for them, and a good price for those products, that this would increase the final price to the fishermen. Because this is the only long-range solution in my opinion to the fishery problem. The final price of the product must be increased so that the fisherman can have a reasonable income. His costs are going up constantly, but the prices are not going up. And one of the areas of real concern is the area of the rough fish. I believe we now have the products and the next step is to get a good marketing proposal going. If they can sell striped toothpaste and pet rocks, they should be able to sell our mullet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: I was quite interested in the Minister's comments. The question I'd like to ask him then is why are pickerel fillets worth \$3.25 in Eaton's? I think they are getting about 60 in the round form.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, that would be a question you could better address to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. It's one I've asked them on occasion. The one answer that I've been given is that they will not sell pickerel fillets, which is a premium fish and a fish that gets a good price in the world market, they will not sell it cheaper in Manitoba than they can sell it for anywhere else in the world. And if they get \$3.50 a lb. in the world market that's what they sell it for in Winnipeg. Now there may be some dispute over the costs that are incurred between the lake where the fisherman receives his price and that which is paid by the consumer, and that is something that we're addressing ourselves to as the government. We are demanding of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation that they tighten up their operations and be more efficient in processing and handling and marketing of fish.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Honourable Minister would advise then - last summer when I was in the Kenora region

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(MR. MINAKER cont'd) there were fishermen there getting a dollar a pound for fish in the round and I believe they were getting the same price in the markets, when I went into Safeway and Shop Easy in the Kenora region they were getting \$3.00 per pound or \$2.50 per pound for the pickerel fillets - why there was such a discrepancy within 145 miles difference between our fishermen here in Manitoba that get 60 cents per pound for pickerel in the round whereas the fishermen in the Lake of the Woods area that are not operating under the Freshwater Fish Market Board are getting close to \$1.00 a pound?

MR. BOSTROM: Again, Mr. Chairman, that is probably a question that would be best answered by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. They are responsible for setting the prices and I must say that I'm certainly not satisfied with the operation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. I support the concept of the corporation, I believe it was a good idea in the first place to have a one desk selling effort for all of the inland water fish. The concept is a good one, but I think there are problems in the operation that must be ironed out. And this is certainly one of them. The internal operations of the corporation is one that we want the Federal Government to address itself to, because in the final analysis it is their Crown Corporation, it is reporting and answerable to the Federal Minister of Fisheries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution number - pardon me, the Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. I appreciate his concern but what is the Minister doing about this discrepancy of something like, I would think 75 percent difference in prices that our fishermen are receiving as compared to what fishermen in the Kenora region are receiving for their catch?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, in the last year we've had several meetings with Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation management people in Winnipeg here where their main plant is in Transcona. I've met on three occasions with the Federal Minister of Fisheries, and each time brought this concern to his attention. At the latest meeting that we had - it was at my insistence the meeting was held, a meeting held in Winnipeg with all of the Ministers and/or their representatives from all of the areas which are served by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation - at which meeting we demanded that these kinds of things be looked at and that if possible their administration and marketing mechanisms be tightened up so as to give a better final price to the fishermen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member from Morris.

MR. JORGENSEN: It seems to me if the fishermen are getting 60 cents a pound and the customer is paying \$3.25 a pound over the counter, somebody in the middle is making a hell of a pile of money. Who is it? --(Interjection)-- I don't think the Co-operatives are going to do it. I would suggest to the Minister that notwithstanding the fact that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, which he very conveniently reminds us is a Federal Corporation, if they're responsible, as I believe they are, that the Provincial Government does have a responsibility to not only the consumers of this province, but to the producers of fish in this province as well, to find out why that spread has to take place. That's the worst spread of any food product in this country. Nothing, even the products that require the most intensive processing, bread for example, has that kind of a spread, between the producer and the consumer. There is definitely something wrong in that area and I hope that the Minister will undertake a study of some kind or cause an investigation to be made to find out why the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation cannot put fish on the counters for a heck of a lot cheaper; or pay the fishermen more for the fish that they're getting.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the key as I see it is to pay the fishermen more. The problem is one certainly that is recognized by this government and it's one in which we've been trying to get the Federal Government to take some cognizance of. We only have one member, one member on a board of directors of eleven on that corporation. And I might remind my honourable friend that that corporation was established by the previous Conservative administration, the agreement was signed which only allowed the Province of Manitoba one member on that board. And we've been trying to do our best with that meager representation. I believe it's the first time that so many meetings

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(MR. BOSTROM cont'd) have been held in one year with the Federal Minister and he's been made aware of the problems in this corporation, I've brought it to his attention and it's up to him to make the kind of investigation that my honourable friend is talking about. We've demanded such an investigation, we've demanded that they come up with a breakdown of the costs and to tighten up their machinery in that corporation so as to bring a better final price to the fishermen.

One of the reasons the costs are so high in that plant, which we recognize, is the high capital cost of the Transcona plant which all of the fishermen are paying for. And we're telling the Federal Government, look, the fishermen are buying you a plant, because this is going to be a Federal Crown Corporation, or is a Federal Crown Corporation, the fishermen are paying off the high capital cost of that plant out of their own pockets. At the last meeting I demanded that the Federal Minister, that he undertake to write off the capital cost of that plant, to make it equity capital, so that the fishermen would not be paying the heavy interest charges and debt charges attached to that plant. That would to a considerable extent, I believe, alleviate some of the high cost that is associated with processing and marketing of the Manitoba fish.

MR. JORGENSON: Well, the Minister has just given us the best possible argument we could have had, the greatest vindication that we could have had for our attitude on Crocus, because what is happening now on this Freshwater Fish Marketing Board is exactly what would have happened in Crocus. And, you know, I don't want to take any responsibility whether it was the previous government that established it or not, I don't want to take any responsibility whatsoever for the establishment of any marketing board.

MR. BOSTROM: That's understandable.

MR. JORGENSON: Because the marketing boards have demonstrated that they're not the answer in certain instances. They may be in turkeys, but I don't suggest that they are in any commodity that comes on to the market on a regular basis, as fish do, and as eggs do, and as other commodities such as pork and beef and things like that. That the Fish Marketing Board has demonstrated the fallacy that simply by a central marketing and processing agency you can provide a commodity from the producer to the consumer at the lowest possible price. The reverse is true; almost invariably the highest possible price and nobody benefits, either the consumer or the producer. The only people that benefit are those who work in the plant and who draw the salaries at the expense of both the consumer and the producer.

I suggest to the Minister it's not good enough to suggest to the Federal Government that they carry on and conduct an investigation as to the reasons why this takes place; I suggest to the Minister, that the Provincial Government itself, on behalf of the producers and the consumers of fish in this province have a responsibility to investigate that operation by itself. And I think they have the authority to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution (e)(3)(a) Salaries and Wages--pass We are dealing on (3) Research (b) Other Expenditures. \$91,800. The Honourable Member from Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, while we were on the last topic, the Minister mentioned that he was unable to get some satisfaction with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board. Would he consider allowing the fishermen to opt out?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We're dealing with (3)(b) Federal Expenditures under Research (e)(3)(b).

MR. BLAKE: This Research . . . if it was in order under the other item, would be in order under this one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not see the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board under this particular heading. The question was introduced and allowed a certain discussion, but I don't see where it comes in under this particular appropriation.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. We've just passed Section (3)(a)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. BLAKE: We're on (3)(b). It's all under Research. We've been discussing the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board. I don't see the difference between the section under Salaries and the section under Other Expenditures.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that, I should have brought the attention of the members that I do not see anywhere here where the Freshwater Fish Marketing comes under this particular expenditure.

MR. BLAKE: We'll have two wrongs to make a right then, we'll just . . .

MR. JORGENSON: . . . definitely been some research done in that Freshwater Fish Market . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: I find it rather amusing that someone from the previous Conservative Government, I don't know if the honourable member was a member in those days or not when the agreement was signed, but nevertheless some responsibility certainly rests on their shoulders for the formation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Negotiations were carried out. I notice the signature of the Honourable Member for Lakeside on the agreement that formed the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, I do not see where this comes up. We've already discussed the question, I don't see where it comes up under the estimates under research. --(Interjection)-- Under research? Well . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Well, in answer to your question, Mr. Chairman, in answer to the question asked as to whether or not we would allow the fishermen to opt out? I believe at this time we have a marketing corporation which in principal we support, we continue to support the concept of the marketing corporation. We're demanding that the corporation pull up its socks and do a good job for fishermen and we will not accept anything less than an efficient marketing corporation. They are certainly not operating in such a fashion that we're satisfied with the operation. There are certain unexplainable inequities, such as mentioned by the Honourable Member for St. James, that the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation must explain to the fishermen why they can't give the fishermen a better price dockside; and why it costs so much between dockside and the final price to the consumer in the marketplace. There's a lot of costs in between there that we are not satisfied are completely explainable. One of those, of course, is the high cost of the plant in Transcona. And that is one we've addressed to in particular where we have told the Federal Minister that he should be writing off that cost. The fisherman should not have to take it out of his pocket.

The other thing, of course, as I was explaining earlier that we have been addressing ourselves to, is to try to get the corporation to pursue a marketing plan which will bring a better final price to the fisherman, particularly on those rough species. The products we now know are there, we've pushed them into developing products that are available to sell, but now the job is to find a market for those products. And if they can find a half decent market then we can market greater volume through the plant because there are a lot of rough species right now that are not being harvested simply because the price dockside does not make a fisherman want to even harvest them. Particularly in the northern lakes where the high cost of transportation when measured against the price to the fishermen dockside is almost wiping out any hope of return. There are a number of ways in which we've been operating and working with the corporation and working with the Federal Government to try to solve the problems of that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. We may finally agree in the end that this is an albatross around our neck and maybe we should dump it, I don't know. But at this point we are assessing the situation, we're trying to get the best deal for fishermen with what we are faced with right now. We have an agreement with the Federal Minister, we have an agreement with the Federal Government, it was signed before this government came into power, which tied us into the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and we're trying to make the best of it. Granted, it's not the best deal right now for fishermen, I think they have a lot of explaining to do and that they have a lot of improving to do before they can say that they are doing a good job for fishermen.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, well it really can't buy the Minister blaming it on another government, he's had six years to make it work or dump it. But a couple of simple questions, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. Has he received many requests from fishermen to opt out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing setup?

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MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I've only received one in the term of my office as Minister of this department.

MR. BLAKE: From an individual fisherman or from an association?

MR. BOSTROM: This was from the Lake Winnipeg - I believe it was the Gimli fishermen that sent me that notice.

MR. BLAKE: Would you know how many fishermen that would represent?

MR. BOSTROM: I can't say offhand how many that would represent, I can't remember the numbers.

MR. BLAKE: A request to opt out would be prompted, I gather, by a newspaper article, by the indicated subsidy of the northern fish. Is this what prompted it? They're demanding equal prices with Ontario.

MR. BOSTROM: No, the Gimli fishermen would not have been affected one way or another by the idea of the subsidy for northern fishermen, they're only 55 miles from Winnipeg and they only face a transportation charge of a fraction of a cent for their fish. Many of them in that area market their fish locally, they are able to sell right off the dock to people locally so that they can obtain a higher price than most other fishermen in the province through that process.

MR. BLAKE: . . . \$1.75 a pound for pickerel fillets at Gimli and they're \$3.15 in Eatons, it just seems a little bit ludicrous. --(Interjection)-- \$3.25.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Chairman's ability to recognize that we are doing some research work into the marketing of fish in our province. I wonder if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that in other industries, not in the food industry as such, but in other industries where you are manufacturing or producing a product for a consumer, that one of the rules of thumb that is used is if you can produce the product for a third of the cost that the consumer will buy it for then it's a feasible item. So that if it costs you a dollar to produce the item in your factory or to bring it to the stage where it can be presented for consumption and then it's marketed at three times that cost if it's a feasible item. Well here we're looking at a situation where the fishermen are collecting a fish and producing it for 60 cents a pound and it's being marketed for five times that cost or even more than that, and particularly when it's a food product item that's consumed by people, that has he or his department not brought this to the attention of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe this is the time to adjourn.

Committee rise. And we are not dealing with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Commission, that's not Research.