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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, March 8, 1979

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I should like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my left, where we have 21 students from Blaine Lake High School in Saskatchewan. These students are under the direction of Mr. Schmidt, and they are visiting our Legislature today. On behalf of all honourable members, we welcome you here.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Development. In connection with the Review Committees which the Minister has established in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the community health clinics, can the Minister advise the House whether he has held meetings with the Review Committee; has he outlined to the Review Committee his own particular philosophic and program approach to community health clinics?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Well, Mr. Speaker, the term "Review Committee" is probably somewhat formal. The persons who have conducted the review have been officials of the department, many of whom would be known to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition himself, plus officials of the Health Services Commission. I have had considerable meetings on the subject with one or another of those persons, that's true. We've never engaged in a philosophical discussion, it's been economic.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the Minister whether he has outlined his particular program direction to the community health clinics to the Review Committee?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to read the honourable member's question when he talks about my particular program direction. In the first place, it's not my particular program direction, it's a government position.

In the second place, there has been no direction other than to evaluate the community health centre concept, measure it in terms of duplication and redundancy and cost effectiveness and value the pros and cons, and make economic and social determinations based on those measurements. These have been the parameters of that review and those discussions up to this point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Would the Minister confirm reports to the effect that he has indicated that there is precisely a reduction in budgets, will be a reduction in budgets insofar as the community health clinics are concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the budgets as they are presently prepared and presented in the

Estimates for the department for the fiscal year coming forward include a reduction in funding for the Community Health Centre concept in total. Those will be discussed in detail during the examination of my estimates, but certainly I can confirm to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition that there is a provision in there that calls for some reduction in funding, not determined and not identified as to specific community clinics themselves.

MR. PAWLEY: Can the minister advise whether or not the Community Health Clinics themselves were consulted, and whether or not there has been discussion with the Community Health Clinics insofar as their needs and programs are concerned for the forthcoming year prior to the establishment of the budget by his department or through the Manitoba Health Services Commission for the individual community health clinics.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, I think I can confirm that, Mr. Speaker, but I'll check it for the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I presume that that kind of thing took place while the evaluation was being carried out over the past year by department officials.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: A question to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General advise whether or not the Human Rights Commission were consulted or whether an opinion was requested from the Human Rights Commission prior to the decision by the Minister of Health and Social Development to increase the deductible, under the Pharmacare program from \$50 to \$75 for those 65 years of age and under.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I have no information that would indicate there was any consultation with the Human Rights Commission with respect to that matter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: A supplementary to the Minister of Health and Social Development, does the Minister of Health and Social Development intend to consult with the Human Rights Commission as to the legality of his action in discriminating between age groups, 65 and under, and 65 and up.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation, and ask him whether the government agrees with the procedure as announced or advertised in today's daily newspaper, of an unreserved public auction to be held of 3,000 items belonging to Saunders Aircraft Limited. The question is, whether the minister agrees with this procedure of having an unreserved public auction bid on approximately 3,000 items.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for the Manitoba Development Corporation.

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Mr. Speaker, in reply to that question, let me tell the member if he's not aware of how these things work. A court appointed receiver has been put in place to clean up this particular company, and he is in the process of doing it. It's a reputable firm that has been employed by the previous administration in some of their receivership, so I have no questions with regards to the integrity of what's happening or what's going on. I think the man is doing, and the company is doing a proper job in trying to clean up that particular company.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister then whether he does not believe that this is a rather unusual procedure to have an unreserved public auction when you consider that many of these items are items that can be in common use by various offices and industries in Manitoba because

there is reference to all kinds of office equipment, desks, filing cabinets, typewriters, there is reference to fork lift trucks, reference to shelving and so on. Many items of common use throughout this province and therefore does the Minister not believe that this is unusual to therefore have an unreserved public auction procedure.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that if the member is unhappy with it, he go talk to the receiver. The receiver is the one that is looking after it' Court appointed receiver and that's where the matter stands. I am sure that they will make sure that the province gets as much money out of the particular sale as possible but this is the way they are handling it and I am sure it will work out well.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East for the final Supplementary.

MR. EVANS: I gather, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister is not unhappy with this procedure and he is not concerned that there may be a virtual give away of some of the assets that belong to the public of Manitoba.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, apparently the member doesn't realize that the receiver answers to the court. I was unhappy when we sold Thunderbird Lodge and only got \$300 back out of a \$75,000 investment. It made me very unhappy but that was the reality of the fact. In this particular instance it's the receiver that is looking after it and we are going to try and recoup some of the \$40 million that washed down the drain.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUOK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Development. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Development if he is philosophically opposed to doctors voluntarily choosing to work for salary in a health centre.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Not universally, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PARASIUOK: A supplementary to the Minister. If that's the case, could he explain his statements that he is philosophically opposed to health centres.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have explained them inside and outside the House. I am prepared to explain them in fuller detail, and in as much detail as the honourable member wishes during my Estimates.

MR. PARASIUOK: Mr. Speaker, since this matter is of some urgency and Estimates aren't up, I'll ask for a final supplementary. Is the Minister satisfied that the preventive health programs sponsored by his department are sufficient.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in some cases, yes. I've said and I repeat that the Community Health Centre is being judged on the basis of individual service in individual circumstances. Where those programs and services are duplicated, already offered by the Department of Health and Community Services, I think there is some justification for examining the overlay.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. LLOYD AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the First Minister who I welcome back to his seat. Considering that this is the day that has been declared International Day of the Woman, can you tell us if the Provincial Government of Manitoba has prepared and is prepared to submit an action program dealing with a variety of issues dealing with Women's Rights as requested both by the United Nations and by the Federal Government and when can we expect that action program to be announced?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, I'll be happy to take that question as notice.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, then I can take from the First Minister's answer that we can't expect it to be announced today then otherwise he might know about it. I would therefore ask him if the Province of Manitoba intends to submit as part of a national presentation to the United Nations any action program detailing how the full area of women's rights in the province will be examined and what kind of submission should be made to the United Nations on those programs.

MR. LYON: I will be happy to include that in the consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health. In view of the fact that his colleague, the Minister of Labour, refuses to make a decision in respect to some 40,000 Manitobans who are on minimum wage, can he justify his cost increase in respect to drugs to some of those Manitobans who are ill and can't get an increase.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I can justify it the same way as the previous government justified it. The principle of Pharmacare was never to provide free drugs for everybody. It was to assist those who have heavy drug bills.

MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can see that he has empathy for the people who are on minimum wage. Could he indicate how many people will be involved in that one million reduction in the Health Pharmacare Program?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, in the first place, it isn't a reduction, Mr. Speaker. In the second place, I am not sure that I can, but I can get that information for the honourable member, if what he is asking me is, how many claims are processed, what the payout represents in terms of claims processed over a given year, I can get him that information.

MR. FOX: My question really is to ask the minister to inform this House how many people will have to pay \$25 more in drug costs because of his program?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, approximately one out of every ten Manitobans is 65 years of age or older, so the honourable member can figure it out.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health but from the last questions, I wonder if the minister could explain why this is not a reduction. It is not clear to me — he says it is not a reduction.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please — the Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is a reduction in the payout demanded of the taxpayers of Manitoba, obviously. The payout would have been a certain amount of money had the deductible remained at \$50 for all persons. The increase in the deductible means that the payout will be approximately \$1.1 million less than that. If that is what the honourable member means by a reduction, then yes, it is a reduction in payout.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, for further clarification, I wonder if a reduction of payout of the funds that the government raised from the taxpayers money of Manitoba, whether this reduction is also a reduction in the amount of money available to people who are ill and in need of drugs. Would he say that is also a reduction?

MR. SHERMAN: No, not at all, Mr. Speaker. The reduction that we were talking about is a reduction against a potential reduction. What the honourable member loses sight of, is the fact that the payout has doubled or would have doubled had we not increased the deductible in the time that the program has been in effect. It has gone from approximately \$4.3 million to what this year would have been, over \$9 million. It now will go to approximately \$8 million, so when you are talking about a reduction, we are talking about reducing what the increased payout would have been, not a net

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas with a final supplementary.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I assume that the reduction to one individual who needs drugs is still a reduction whether the Minister says it is a reduction or not. I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether he will be meeting with the members of the task force on human needs and restraint, which has some quite strong criticisms of the effect of the restraint program on the people of Manitoba, the people that can least afford it. Will he be meeting with this group, or does he like the First Minister consider these helping professions as just social engineers unworthy of consideration?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, in the first instance, I would disabuse my honourable friend of his impression of my leader, the premier's position on groups of this kind.

In the second instance, I have long since advised the Chairman of that committee that I was prepared to meet with him and his representatives as soon as they have a report ready to discuss with us.

In the third instance, if the Honourable Member reads the most recent report of that committee carefully, he'll detect that that committee is agreeing, whether they know it or not with this government. That it is inflation — I commend the report to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition; if he'll read even page one of it, that inflation is what is hurting people on pensions and fixed incomes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. THOMAS BARROW: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs. Have you received a letter from people in the Flin Flon area complaining about the manner in which gas prices are being fixed by all retailers the Flin Flon and requesting an inquiry into this matter under The Trade Practice Act?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN(Morris): Mr. Speaker, I haven't received a letter until my honourable friend forwarded it to me just a few moments ago, and I'll be happy to take the matter under consideration and have an investigation made.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the same Minister. While the Minister is investigating the matter raised by my friend, the Honourable Member for Flin Flon, would he also investigate and offer an explanation to the people of Manitoba of the seemingly unjustified and unwarranted price fluctuations of gasoline in other parts of the province, not excluding Winnipeg, where we've seen as much as 25 percent increases in the price of gas practically overnight.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, we have been conducting some investigations into the matter that my honourable friend has to my attention. I haven't had the final results of those investigations as yet. I'm unable to advise him just exactly what the results are.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, in line with the policy and practice of the previous administration of increasing the property tax credit plan on a regular basis, does the government intend to increase property tax rebates in response to rising municipal taxes?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. DONALD W. CRAIK(Riel): Well, Mr. Speaker, that's a matter that can be taken up and discussed during the budget for the specifics. The study that is now under way and the White Paper

that was indicated in the Throne Speech will deal with this matter as well. There has been an announcement by the Minister of Education of the increased grants to the school divisions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Can the Minister explain why up to now the provincial percentage of support for educational funding is declining rather than increasing in line with your government election promises.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. CRAIK: Again, Mr. Speaker, that is a matter to be discussed at the Estimates. The fixed amount at this point in time in percentage terms is roughly the same as it has been over the last two years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood with a final supplementary.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, a number of questions spring to mind, but I would simply ask this. Does the government intend to take action, or have a study produced on the Property Tax Credit Plan reporting to this House and some action during this term of the Legislature?

MR. CRAIK: It is quite possible, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has indicated that answers will await budget night. Can the Minister of Finance indicate to us at this point as to when budget night will be?

MR. CRAIK: Mr. Speaker, it will be soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I have a reply to a question that was asked by the Member for St. Vital, the other day. I noticed that yesterday that he has an Order for Return, asking for essentially the same material. I can provide him with the answer to that question now, if he chooses, otherwise — the honourable member indicates that he would like to have a response to the question. I might point out that in response to his request as to the number of insurance companies that had submitted bids, Aronovitch and Leipsic entered a bid of an annual instalment of \$43,000, and Marsh and McLennan, who were the low bidders, entered a bid of \$31,973 per annum; Reed, Shaw, Stenhouse, \$35,212; Tomenson, Saunders, Whitehead Limited, \$39,908. Those were the four bids that the Department of Insurance had received.

It might also perhaps be of some interest to my honourable friend to know that in 1977-78, which was the last year that the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation had the bid awarded to them without tender, the premium was \$58,883. This year, as I have indicated, it has been brought down to \$31,973, which I suppose, Sir, indicates the value of submitting these bids for open tender.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do thank the honourable minister for providing me with that information and I will ask if I could withdraw that Order for Return and not proceed with it. Can the minister tell me whether this was a form of public tender, or whether it was tender by invitation.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, it was tendered by invitation. There were nine firms that were invited to tender. Four of them actually submitted tenders. If my honourable friend wishes, I can give him the names of the nine that had tendered: Aronovitch and Leipsic; Johnson, Higgins, Willis, Faber; Marsh and McLennan, McCann Ward and Associates, Oldfield, Kirby and Gardner; Park Lane Insurance Agencies; Reed, Shaw, Stenhouse; Tomenson, Saunders, Whitehead Limited; V. Watt and Associates.

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

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Honourable Minister tell me whether the amount being charged for fire insurance for this calendar year is more or less than the same coverage last year, calendar '78.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: No, the total value of the insurance coverage as my honourable friend would suspect is increasing each year. The total amount including buildings and content this year is \$234 million, compared to about \$214 in 1978.

MR. WALDING: For clarification, Mr. Speaker, I was inquiring as to the amount of the premium not the amount of the coverage.

MR. JORGENSEN: Well, as I've indicated to my honourable friend, the premium is submitted in the bid, and the bid this year the premium for one year is \$31,973 and that's a decrease from last year. Last year it was \$44,913, so it has dropped from \$58,883 in 1977, \$44,913 in 1978, \$31,973 this year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital with a final supplementary.

MR. WALDING: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform the House whether the successful bidder was bidding in their own right or on behalf of an insurance company, and if so which insurance company?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, all of the bids that were submitted were submitted to agencies. I know what my honourable friend is trying to — the information he is attempting to seek, so at this stage I will give it to him.

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation were the underwriters for Marsh and McLennan Limited.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, can he advise the House as to whether the premium dollar paid insofar as the successful tender is concerned will remain in Manitoba, is it with a Manitoba company or with a company from outside the province?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I would expect that with The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation providing the underwriting, that my honourable friend's question has been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've a question for the Attorney-General. Seven days ago I asked the Attorney-General if he would refer the question to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission concerning the construction of the City Concourse not providing proper access for people with handicaps, and asked if that was a contravention of Section 3(1) of The Human Rights Act. I wonder if the Attorney-General can now report, after a week, whether the matter has been referred, has the Human Rights Commission investigated, and do they intend to take some action, under that section of the Act?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I do not yet have a report from the Human Rights Commission with respect to that matter.

But while I'm on my feet, the Member for Fort Rouge asked me a question on February 22' and asked me whether I would confirm that a Judge of the Family Court has indicated that one of the causes for the close to the 100 percent increase is due to the lack of psychiatric and other

specialized facilities for the treatment of juveniles in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, and he was referring to the transfer of juveniles from Juvenile to Adult Court.

Mr. Speaker, a Judge of The Family Court has indicated that there has been an increase from 40 to 80 juveniles transferred in the past year, however, none of these increases are attributable to deficiencies in the special treatment facilities, but rather is an expression of the firm attitude by the Court in dealing with serious juvenile crime. The increase is a reflection of an increasing concern over serious crime committed by juveniles, and better efforts toward identification of serious offenders. Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of these juveniles would be in the 17 year age bracket, and I might just cite the kind of criteria which the Court makes in approving transfers of juveniles to Adult Court, Mr. Speaker, because it is a matter of law and not of government policy. The Court considers the good of the child and the interest of the community, and the criteria basically are the seriousness of the crime, the circumstances of the offence, premeditation, violence, the previous record of the offender, the age of the offender because Juvenile Court only has jurisdiction until Age 18, and school, home and employment records.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Speaker, I would ask then the Attorney-General, based upon his statement to a question that I didn't ask but asked previously, whether he would respond to this question — either he respond, or the Minister of Health — is it true that the Province of Manitoba refused to provide for the payment fee for a child or a person under The Child Act, who is presently at the Manitoba Youth Centre to be transferred to the William Roper Hull Home in Calgary, which provides close psychiatric treatment for children with disturbances, that they refused to send him, and that person is still at the Manitoba Youth Centre without receiving proper treatment?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker. I'll take it as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge with a final supplementary.

MR. AXWORTHY: A final supplementary then, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister of Health, is it government policy not to pay for the fees of out-of-province placements of juveniles or people who are under The Child Welfare Act or under The Juvenile Delinquency Act, to receive treatment in facilities outside the province when such treatment is not available inside the Province of Manitoba?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, it's certainly not policy, Mr. Speaker, and I might say that we have reduced substantially our out-of-province placements of children in that particular situation in the past two or three years.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. Can the Minister assure the House that there is no intention to limit, restrict or otherwise curtail operations of the Leaf Rapids and Churchill Health Centres?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the whole question of health centres and their funding and the appropriation of the funding is under review; discussions are being carried on, meetings are being held with some of them on Friday; I have no further comment to make on the subject.

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would then ask the Minister if he can indicate if representatives of the health centres in Leaf Rapids or Churchill have been invited to that meeting that's being held on Friday?

MR. SHERMAN: I can't confirm that, Mr. Speaker, but off the top of my head I would say no. I think the meeting on Friday is between the Health Services Commission and a number of community health centres in the Winnipeg area.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister then confirm that if he has an intention of limiting, restricting or curtailing the operations of those two health centres that he would have the courtesy first to meet with representatives from those two health centres?

MR. SPEAKER: Order of the Day. The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: My question, Mr. Speaker, is for the Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, and I would advise him that I expect that he'll take this question or questions on notice, because the information will in all likelihood not be readily available to him this afternoon. I would also like to advise him that I contacted his staff in Juvenile Corrections. I'll ask the questions first, Mr. Speaker. —(Interjection) — The explanation may have been useful.

I would like to know the average daily population figures at the Agassiz Juvenile Centre for the months of January and February, 1979, and I would also like to know the total number of bed spaces currently available for occupancy in the Agassiz Centre, and I would note, Mr. Speaker, that I have addressed these questions to the staff in the Minister's Juvenile Corrections Division, and they have instructed me that they are not able to provide that information to me, and so I would ask as a collateral question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the Honourable Member that he file an Order for Return.

The Honourable Member for Wellington with a question.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, my first question, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not it is the wish of the Minister that I file an Order for Return in order to obtain this pertinent information.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was going to see the Honourable Member privately about this, and I can do that, or I can give the information in the House with respect to the average daily population at Agassiz for January and February for 1978 and for 1979. I'll leave it to you, Sir, as to whether — or the Honourable Member, if he wants to ask for that information to be given in the House, I'll give it in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, I would appreciate that the numbers be given in the House, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that they're not seemingly available any other way.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the Honourable Member's request, and it was acted upon and the information was supplied to me today and my information is that the average daily population in Agassiz for January of 1978 was 105.94. For January of 1979 it's 100.55. For February of 1978 it was 111.39. For February of 1979, it's 93.68. The number of beds available at Agassiz is 102.

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

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Municipal Affairs. I would ask the Minister if he could advise the House if he has given authority for the Municipality of Lawrence to move to a full municipal corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. MERCIER: Well, as I advised the Member before the House started today, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has approved an Order-in-Council dealing with the RM of Lawrence, transferring it to full municipal status.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Development. In light of the Minister's previous answer, when he indicated a basic agreement between the government and the task force on human needs, I wonder if he would indicate whether the basic agreement applies to the statement by the task force that government restraint programs are liable to harmfully affect the most disadvantaged segments of our population.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I think that there is a possibility that in the hands of some governments restraint programs could have a harmful effect. In the hands of a compassionate and humane government, there is not that danger.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister did just indicate that people are in real danger at this particular point in our history. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if this basic agreement between the Minister and the task force applies to the statement of the task force which states, "Senior citizens in northern communities are hurting as a result of government expenditure restraints".

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for The Pas knows that situation did not develop overnight, or last night, or even on October 11th, 1977 in the north. We are trying to clean up and make up for eight years of disregard and neglect in that area. **MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could tell the House if the neglect that he talks about applies to the economic development programs for remote communities that have been eliminated by his government.

MR. SPEAKER: Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: I direct my question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Consumer Affairs or the House Leader, Mr. Speaker. Due to the fact that we're deliberately gyped out of thirty minutes of questioning yesterday, would it be possible to bank those minutes for future question periods?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the honourable member Rule 41(2) where "No member shall reflect . upon any vote of the House except for the purpose of moving that the vote be rescinded."

The Honourable Member for Flin Flon care to rephrase his question? The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to address a question to the Minister of Education. Perhaps it should be to the Minister of Labour, I'm not certain; it's with regard to the student employment program, or possibly to the Premier. What assurance can the Minister or the government give this Legislature that the few thousand jobs that were created in last summer's student employment program were jobs that would not have been created anyway by the private sector?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): The Member for Brandon East is quite correct. This matter now rests with the Minister of Labour, but I take exception, Mr. Speaker, to the few jobs, his term of a few thousand, it was 5,000 jobs that were created; 1,000 jobs in total in the whole summer employment program for youth, more than had been created the previous summer at \$1 million less than had been spent the previous summer.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Well, during the Estimates, we'll see what those figures really look like. I would like to ask the Minister the question, however, that he didn't answer. What assurance can he give the representatives of the taxpayers who are assembled in this Legislature that the government did not merely subsidize the private sector, who would have perhaps hired personnel anyway? What procedures were used to assure that you were not subsidizing the creation of jobs or the hiring of people who perhaps would have been hired anyway? What assurance can you give us?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister of Labour is doing a study on this program,

looking not only at that aspect, but looking also at the spin-off effect which resulted from this program. A very, very positive aspect where students, or young people, were able to carry on in employment. Some young people who were unemployed before they went into the program, went into the part-time program and were subsequently employed full-time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: The Honourable Minister reminds me of some of the answers I used to give when we talked about our job creation programs. What . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I point out to the Honourable Member that this is the time for asking questions, not for making statements. The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: What, I would wonder then, if the Honourable Minister could undertake to supply this Legislature with a copy of the application form that was used in last year's summer student employment program, or whatever the specific title was, so that we can see whether or not there was a question to assure that the employer was not merely laying off people and then turning around making use of this program to get a subsidy at the taxpayers' expense.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, this particular application form was supplied to all Members last year during the session. If the Member has lost his, or perhaps one of his relatives used it to apply for a job, we certainly can find another copy and I will supply him with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Time for questioning having expired, proceed with the Orders of the Day.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, before calling the Orders of the Day, I should like to tell the House that the Minister of Highways, due to the weather, has been unable to get in; it's anticipated that he may be here this evening so the Committee in Room 254 will not be meeting this afternoon. —(Interjection)— Well, he's at his home in the country and it has been known to blow in from time to time, but he's expected to be here this evening.

I would also like to say that I would like to announce a change in the order of the Estimates in this Chamber due to the obvious interest that my honourable friends are showing in questions to the Minister of Health. As soon as the Estimates of the Department of Mines and Resources are completed we're going to bring on the Department of Health so that they can ask questions to their hearts content. —(Interjection)— So they can ask him, as the Premier says, so they can ask their questions at the proper time.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister in Charge of Government Telephones, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment and the Honourable Member for Emerson in the Chair for the Department of Highways and Transportation.

SUPPLY — MINES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN, Abe Kovnats (Radisson): I would direct the honourable members' attention to Page 64, in the Main Estimates, Department of Mines, Natural Resources and Environment. We are on Resolution No. 84, Item 4. Water Management (a) Administration: (1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: If we could have a breakdown of how many live bodies are in this Estimate that we have here, I see there is an increase. Is it just the incremental and inflationary increase or is there an increase of bodies?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. BRIAN RANSOM (Souris-Killarney): Mr. Chairman, there is no increase in the number of people, there is a decrease in the number of staff man years.

MR. JENKINS: Can we then have the actual live body count from last year's Estimates and this year's Estimates?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: It's twenty-seven.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: It's 27 for the both years. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)— pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I think that maybe the Administration section would be the best to get the Minister to indicate what functions have been transferred into the department or are these functions listed under this Section, functions that were always under Water Management? I am thinking particularly, Mr. Speaker, of the ARDA in the Northlands Agreement functions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: No change, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; (2)—pass; (a)—pass; (b)(1)—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I would assume that this is the appropriate section to ask the Minister for an update of the situation of the Pasquia Land Settlement Project near The Pas, where considerable drainage work has been done, pumps installed, etc. There was a plan to cover a number of years work in that particular project. I wonder if the Minister can tell us if that plan has been implemented, or how much of that plan has been implemented. Just an update on the current status of the drainage works of the Water Management Works at the Pasquia Land Settlement Project near The Pas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, that really is best discussed under the capital items, at which time I will be distributing a complete list of construction and reconstruction activities of the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That would be under Item 12?

MR. RANSOM: At the very end, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: II(c) — okay.

The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, under this Section I would think would be appropriate place, probably, I'll check with the Minister to ask if there still is a Water Resources person responsible for that project located at The Pas. I would also like the Minister to indicate what steps have been taken to increase the liaison to better the relationship between the farmers themselves and this division of his department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, there is a superintendent stationed at The Pas and my understanding is that there are regular meetings that take place between the superintendent and the local people

in the area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I see in this item that there is an increase of approximately \$207 thousand. Could the Minister, again, give us the live body count from last year and the live body count from this year and what is entailed in the increase. It seems to be an increase in staff. What is this staff doing?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: I will provide that for the honourable member, Mr. Chairman. I can tell him that there's a decrease in staff man years in this case from 191 to 178 due to deletion of some vacant positions and I'll get the other figures shortly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Then can the Minister explain the increase in the Salaries since there has been a reduction, as he said, in staff man years. Has there been other staff from other departments transferred into this branch?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: The reason for the increase then, Mr. Chairman, would be that the staff man years that came out last year were not budgeted for — there was no money allocated to that last year — the positions remained. We found that we were able to remove the positions, but there has been three people added due to the elimination or to the ending of an ARDA program, and it was necessary then to bring these people into this program.

MR. JENKINS: Could I then ask the minister what duties and performances are these three added personnel doing in this part of the Estimate.

MR. RANSOM: These gentlemen provide technical assistance to conservation districts. They might be in the area of agricultural soil conservation measures, water conservation on farms, and that sort of thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could indicate whether any consideration is being given by the government or by himself to transferring this function to the Department of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Not really, Mr. Chairman. What we are particularly interested in and are reviewing are the reasons for doing things, for undertaking drainage for instance. It's more important in my view, to know why something is required if the agricultural people, for instance, see the necessity for drainage, then that's the important thing as opposed to where the actual work force is located, so we're not contemplating that sort of move.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could indicate which would be the most appropriate section to discuss the Fairford Dam, and the effect of the operation of the Fairford Dam.

MR. RANSOM: Probably the next item, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under item (c) Planning: (1) — pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the minister, does this operation section of the Water Management section, does it deal with flood forecasting and flood fighting? Is this the area where you would discuss that portion of the . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM This deals with flood forecasting, I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, and I guess flood fighting depends on the extent of the problem at hand.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the fact that we've had a heavier than usual snowfall this year, and I know that we've had the report from the minister, I believe, tabled in the House earlier on flood forecasting, I wonder if the Minister could tell us when the next flood forecast will be available for distribution in the House, and for information to the citizens of Manitoba.

MR. RANSOM: Perhaps the afternoon of March 22nd or the morning of the 23rd.

MR. JENKINS: Also, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that it looks like we're going to be getting more snow than what was anticipated, the month of March being a month of usual heavy snowfalls in the Province of Manitoba, does the Minister feel that there is enough money within the budget for flood fighting as compared to other years?

MR. RANSOM: Well, I don't believe that we actually budget money for flood fighting, Mr. Chairman, it's a matter of the magnitude of the problem that we're faced with at the time, and money is always made available to meet whatever crisis develops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: . . . as it states right under Water Management includes the activities associated with the issuance of Water Rights, so and so, and so and so, and flood forecasting and flood fighting. In other words, there is no money within the budget, anywhere within the total budget of this department for flood fighting. In other words, if a flood of major portions increased in the Province of Manitoba, that the minister would have to bring in a supplementary supply, or what, in order to raise that kind of money in case a flood did occur in Manitoba.

MR. RANSOM: That's right. There is no specific allotment of money for flood fighting. If there is a flood, it would have to come in the supplementary supply or special warrant. It's somewhat like forest fire control, except that in forest fire control there is an amount budgeted but it usually exceeds that, and whatever is extra is raised by supplementary supply or special warrant.

MR. JENKINS: A final question then, Mr. Chairman, through you to the minister is, does the minister have on supply sufficient sand bags and if not, has he on standby order, orders placed with firms that do supply this type of materials that are required for flood fighting in the Province of Manitoba; so that we won't be caught short, I mean that's the basis of it. I mean usually I think municipalities and whatnot do their ordering through a central agency of the provincial government. If I am wrong, the minister can tell me, but I think that's been the usual practice in the past, and if the minister can assure us that there will be an adequate supply of sand bags and sand available if God forbid, that we do have, and I'm hoping that we don't. I'm hoping that the spring runoff will be of a normal nature, but we are now getting towards perhaps a third of the month gone already without any great amount of thawing. A distinct possibility is that we will when it does happen, we start to get a thaw, that it will be of a nature that we will probably be having flash floods. I know it seems to be part of the nature of the province, that being a drainage basin from not only south, east, and west into this area, and into the southern portions of Manitoba — and I just want to make sure that the minister has made provision in case this type of supplies are required — that we're not running and scurrying around trying to lay our hands on sand bags.

MR. RANSOM: Yes, we have, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if it would be the next section that's the most appropriate. I wanted to ask the minister — if it is more appropriate he can deal with it when we get to the

MR. RANSOM: The reconstruction items, Mr. Chairman, would be tendered and maintenance items would be done by local contractors according to a schedule of rates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could tell us the dollar amount that this is likely to amount to this year, and the dollar amount it came to last year, and if he could also tell us how that decision is made. Let's say there are a number of machines capable of doing that work in a particular community; the department wants someone to do the work; how do they decide who gets the job when a number of operators might be wanting that particular contract at the set rate set by the department?

MR. RANSOM: We will attempt to get that information that the honourable member asked for, Mr. Chairman. In terms of selection, it is my understanding that there is a list of people who have equipment available. They make their names known to the department people, the sort of equipment that they have, and then there is an attempt to see that there is some sort of equal distribution of work among those who have equipment available.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could just give me a little more detail on that contracting procedure. Is it on a per hour basis or is it on a per yard type of basis, or what is the normal measurement used to pay for this work?

MR. RANSOM: The tendered items are done on a yardage basis, Mr. Chairman, and the other contracting or hiring is done on an hourly basis.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if there has been any look taken at the efficiencies of the hourly equipment rental, and whether he is giving any consideration at this time to find a yard method, even for the smaller jobs, or whether that would be an impossible task. I wonder what kind of supervision goes on when people are paid on an hourly basis to do the work, and whether in fact if a person seems to be not getting that much work done per hour, whether that person is taken from the list, or how does the department figure these things out?

MR. RANSOM: I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that the work is all done under the direction of the superintendent, and that all machines have time clocks on them, and that there is some evaluation done, of course, prior to letting the work out as to whether we consider it would be advantageous to tender or not, or whether to hire according to the government schedule of rates; this is of course a practice that has been in place for some years.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister could indicate whether, in some areas, because of remoteness or because of lack of equipment in that area, whether they have had to change the schedule rates on any occasion, or whether they have always been able to get the job done at the scheduled rates.

MR. RANSOM: I am advised that in some more remote locations, Mr. Chairman, that it has been necessary to adjust from the standard rates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) — pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the minister can indicate at what level the decision is made that contractor A, or contractor B, will get work, and what the method is of monitoring just to make positively sure, Mr. Chairman, that in fact, a particular friend of the local person . . . just to double check that it is all being done fairly and above board, and everyone is being given an equal chance to do this type of hourly machine work for the department.

MR. RANSOM: I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that as I said, the work is supervised by the local superintendent under the direction of the district engineer who of course, reports to the director, and in all cases of course, any individual who feels that they have not been fairly treated that way, always have the option of bringing that to my attention as has happened in some cases, that people felt they weren't being fairly treated. We reviewed those situations when they came to our attention, and I believe in all cases it was a matter of just not understanding how the procedure was being applied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) — pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if this Operations section — I have had a number of

and I am not positive which ones I have asked — would be the appropriate section to discuss the problems of the Fisher River and the continual flooding of the Fisher River and negotiations between federal and provincial authorities, etc. Would this be the appropriate place to deal with that?

MR. RANSOM: Well, probably the Planning section, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister which would be the appropriate section to raise a question on river bank stabilization on the Red River.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that it is something that is within our area of responsibility, but I suppose the best place to raise it would be under Planning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) — pass; (2) — pass; (3) — pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: (2), Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2).

MR. JENKINS: You were otherwise engaged with your eyes — sorry. I would like to ask the minister, since there is an increase of approximately \$250,000 in this expenditure, I wonder if the minister could explain what increased costs are — outside of the inflationary costs that are involved in the increase in this expenditure.

MR. RANSOM: That is basically due to a settlement with the CNR with respect to the Pine Falls subdivision; having to do with the Floodway, there had been an agreement made at the time that the Floodway went in that the province would pay costs with respect to special maintenance that was required for the line, and there have been some difficulties with that method over the years and so a settlement was finally arrived at that relieved the province of any further responsibility and the payment is in the amount of \$255,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2) — pass; (3) — pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: I wonder if the minister could tell us why there is an increase of approximately \$300,000 in this expenditure, and how many conservation districts are we anticipating in this expenditure.

MR. RANSOM: Part of that increase is going to three existing districts and approximately half is designated for the formation of two new districts. In total, we would have five then.

MR. JENKINS: Can the minister tell us where the two new proposed water conservation districts would be?

MR. RANSOM: Called Cook's Creek and Fish Lake.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.—pass; (b)—pass; (c)(1)—pass. The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister prepare, or has he given out any sort of a program, the construction maintenance program for this upcoming year? Has he presented that to us?

MR. RANSOM: That's the material I said, Mr. Chairman, that I would be presenting under the item that deals with acquisition and construction.

MR. McBRYDE: Will that, Mr. Chairman, include the maintenance of the areas that they're going to increase maintenance on, that is upgrading of existing or maintaining existing facilities?

MR. RANSOM: I'm speaking in that case about the reconstruction work, Mr. Chairman; the maintenance work is done under the operations section, but that which is classified as reconstruction of a drain is under this item on acquisition and construction of physical assets and I have a list prepared and will be distributing it to the Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wonder, does the department have the maintenance program planned, like for the upcoming year, or is that decision made on a day to day basis, or . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Well, that's determined by the regional engineer as to how much maintenance will be done. The money of course — they know how much money they have now, and so I would be reasonably certain that the district engineers themselves know now what kind of work, maintenance work will be planned for this upcoming season. I don't have a list of that sort of thing; it's quite detailed.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us who the regional or district engineer is for The Pas, and where he is located — he or she is located.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: That is Mr. Moffat, Mr. Chairman, and all of the district engineers are located in Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this was the section that the Minister indicated would be the best place, I believe, to talk about the Fairford Dam and the situation there. And, Mr. Chairman, what we had was the construction of a dam on the Fairford River where Highway Number 6 crosses the Fairford River. The dam controls Lake Manitoba, Winnipegos and tributaries thereto, and it also affects, that is, above the dam, affects on those areas. On the downward side of the dam, the Fairford River is affected, Lake Pineimuta and Lake St. Martin and Fairford River as it flows further downstream. Mr. Chairman, the situation is that the dam was built a number of years ago when the previous Conservative government was in office. It appears, from what I've been able to ascertain as a lay person in this field, that the primary consideration given to construction at that time was the control for the benefit of those persons living around the lake on the upward side of the dam, and very little consideration was given to those persons who would be affected living below the dam. As a result, Mr. Chairman, there has been experienced in the past number of years serious flooding downstream when water was released at certain times of the year in certain amounts. Certain control limits were set at the level that Lake Manitoba should be at, and those were adhered to without, as far as I could tell, much consideration being given to the negative effects downstream. The negative effects downstream would affect farmers downstream, because hay land would be put under water by the release at certain times of large amounts of water, rather than a more maintained or levelled-out flow of water that could have been done assuming proper planning and proper regulation.

The other serious effect, Mr. Chairman, was it seemed that the water seemed to be released at nesting season, which would affect the birds, the duck and geese population that might be in that area, and other wildlife that were in that particular region.

Mr. Chairman, one of the first jobs I had as an elected representative for that particular region, and my constituency falls on the downward side of the Fairford Dam and not on the upward side of the Fairford Dam, was to meet with Departmental officials and to try and determine what could be done to change the method of regulation and to see if there was some way to compensate people that were negatively affected.

Mr. Chairman, I recall that particular meeting quite clearly, where the department said they were not responsible for flooding of land downwards of the dam and finally the Minister of the day asked them, "If they sued us, would they win?" At which point the department had to answer, "They would probably win if they sued us". At that point, Mr. Chairman, a decision was made to compensate people living downstream for certain lands that would be flooded more regularly or more often, and some parts of it constantly under water, to compensate them for the land. Mr. Chairman, this gets fairly complicated because we're talking about Indian reserves, we're talking about land on reserves, belonging to reserves. A long, complicated process of negotiation went on, Mr. Chairman, to attempt to reach an agreement, an understanding, for that land compensation. An extensive study has now been done, of the regulation and how the regulation could work, of the Fairford Dam. The situation got so intolerable, Mr. Chairman, that local residents, in 1977, blockaded the bridge

of which the dam is a part, and would not let traffic flow on Number 6 Highway for a period of time to attest to get some action, to attempt to ensure that their interests downstream from the dam were taken care of.

So, Mr. Chairman, my question then to the Minister, of course, is "What steps have been taken since that time? What recommendations from the study will he be implementing in regard to the Fairford Dam? And what role in that regulation pattern — and I did forget to bring the report with me, Mr. Chairman, so maybe the Minister can refresh my memory. What role in the regulation pattern in the determination of the regulation pattern have Ducks Unlimited played in how the Fairford Dam operated?" So I wonder if the Minister could bring me up to date on what action, if any, this government intends to take to resolve a problem that affects a number of people, basically a number of farmers downstream of the dam and a number of farmers who are a part of the Fairford Reserve, the Lake St. Martin Reserve and the Little Saskatchewan Reserve in that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I have had the opportunity to visit the area and to see these problems firsthand at a given time during the year and I do acknowledge that there is a lot of concern on the part of the people there, as has been the case for some time. There was a report prepared by the Water Commission which was released some months ago now, with respect to what might be done with the problem, and unfortunately the report doesn't really set out any clear-cut recommendations that would accomplish what the local people would like to see accomplished within the bounds of reasonable costs.

So at this stage, beyond having some preliminary discussions with Ducks Unlimited, as to what might be done by way of lessening the impact on wildlife in the Pineimuta marsh area, etc., there really hasn't been any action taken. Ducks Unlimited, by the way, has not had any part in the control of the dam to date. If the report recommended that we look at whether or not the dam might be operated in such a way as to further minimize the negative impact, we will look at that, but I am advised that the chances of doing something really significant there are pretty small.

So I think it is a matter of reviewing now, what other option beyond those that are really outlined in the report are available and I would agree that it is unfortunate that years ago, when the control dam was put in place, that the cost benefit studies at the time, didn't include Lake St. Martin and the downstream areas, because now, when we look at trying to resolve some of those difficulties, we are faced with doing a cost benefit study on what is really only part of an overall project. I can only assure the honourable member that I recognize the difficulties that exist there, and I have some sympathy for the people, but I am not sure at this stage what can be done to resolve it and I am sure that the honourable member recognizes from his years in government, that it was not a problem that could be readily dealt with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the solution or the possible rectification of the situation, the only one that seemed to be presented as a possibility was to build another outlet, and, Mr. Chairman, that certainly was a very costly prospect, even at the time I saw the figures; I imagine those figures have increased quite considerably since that time.

I suppose what the people of the area would like to see as a minimum, Mr. Chairman, is to feel that there was some equality in trying to work out the balance of interests, the interests of the people on the topside of the dam and the interests of the people on the bottom side of the dam. And the feeling of the local people has been, very strongly, that the dam is regulated entirely for the benefit of people upstream with total disregard for the interests of the people downstream, and I think if it could be shown, the minister might say, and his officials might say, that justice is being done; I'm not sure on that, Mr. Chairman, but justice is not being seen to be done in terms of a balance, in terms of the interests of people on both sides of that dam. And if there was some way that the minister could demonstrate that indeed the downstream interests were being looked after and that sometimes the upstream regulation would not be exactly where they want it, because it would be harmful to the people downstream, I think the people downstream at least would be aware that their interests are being considered.

The other aspect, Mr. Chairman, that was attempted to be worked before, but not that successfully, was a committee involving local people so that they would be well aware of what was happening in terms of the regulation. There were some instances, Mr. Chairman, where in fact the gates of the dam were opened and people locally were not aware that was going to happen and through such simple things, Mr. Chairman, is that a notice would go out to a chief who had been defeated in the election the year before, and he wouldn't pass that notice on to anyone that in

fact in a few days the dam would be opened again, etc. So there has been a problem of that liaison in making any kind of a committee or any kind of local liaison work, and, Mr. Chairman, I don't lay the fault of that entirely with the department, but I certainly lay some of it with the department, Mr. Chairman. So if there would be some way that that balance could be worked out, that balance could be shown to exist, I think that the people would at least be less militant and have less of a feeling that no one in government gave a darn about their particular interests.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the distribution of the notices I think now that we must send out, I am sure, in excess of thirty notices to people with respect to the operation of the dam, so I think that particular thing should be solved.

I have tried to demonstrate my concern with the problem by personally going out at least and listening to what the people said and having a look at it, but I will readily admit that at this stage I cannot offer them any particular solution to their problem, but I am not prepared either to say that we can't do something. I am sure there are some, at least minor things that can be done, and if there aren't some engineering solutions to it, then I guess we will have to examine the recommendation, one of the recommendations, of the Commission, which said that we should therefore have a look at mitigating some of the problems that people have. At least we will have to examine that option.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear the minister's comment on the balance of interests above and below the dam. Is he and his department locked into regime that water levels have to be maintained at certain levels, regardless of the effects downstream or can in fact there be a balance of the interests, so that sometimes the upstream people don't have all their interests met, but neither do the people downstream have all their interests met? I wonder if I can get his comments on the balance or whether in fact that balance is just not possible because they are locked into a regime, which only benefits the people upstream.

MR. RANSOM: I think that the honourable member probably realizes that those standards, the levels that are set and the methods that are used for the operation of dams are arrived at in that particular case as a result of hearings that the Water Commission held some time around 1973, I guess, Mr. Chairman, and I suppose that if the Commission at that time had not been directed to look at both upstream and downstream problems, then perhaps the terms of reference weren't wide enough and if they only looked at the Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis sides, then there is that danger, as I said previously, that when the dam was constructed the entire effects were perhaps not adequately looked at.

I can't say that the method of operation is one that cannot be changed; it could be changed by a policy of the government, but I guess there would have to be what you would call compelling reasons to change it, because it did come about as a result of public hearings that were held and recommendations that were made by an independent commission.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the minister — he didn't mention this — is well aware that the Commission held hearings but there was already a regime in effect, and the people downstream did present their opinion on that regime to the committee.

Mr. Chairman, this is getting to be sort of an old situation now; I forget the exact year of completion of the dam, but it was well before my time in the political scene, and my time of representing that area, and I believe it came into existence when a Conservative government was in office, but I wonder if this points out a real problem in this particular section of the department, that in fact when planning the dam in the first place, all these considerations were not accurately considered, that there were mistakes made — well the minister used the words that maybe adequate planning was not done initially. And I would have to concur with him that probably it was not done initially, and then I would ask him what steps is he taking to make sure that that does not take place again in future projects.

MR. RANSOM: Well, I wouldn't really term it as mistakes, Mr. Chairman. I think what it is, is that there is now in the eighteen years or whatever since the dam was completed that there is now a greater appreciation for the necessity of looking at the environmental impacts of projects such as that and now, of course, as the honourable member is aware there is an environmental assessment and review process that would be applied to the construction of a dam such as that and I would certainly have every expectation that that process would now identify any similar difficulties and that they would have to be considered in the overall plan development.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, in the area of Fairford and Lake St. Martin and Little Saskatchewan,

it is known as the "damn dam" and that is still the attitude towards that structure and how it operates.

The last comments of the minister, Mr. Chairman, lead me into the other parochial concern I have, which is the Fisher River and the serious problems of flooding on the Fisher River, and, Mr. Chairman, I think the minister might be aware of this situation as well, but in very brief summary, considerable drainage works were done in that area, again, mostly upstream from the Peguis Reserve, from the Community of Dallas Red Rose and the Fisher River Reserve, and the Community of Fisher Bay, that considerable drainage works were done upstream.

At that time there was a realization that the capacity of the Fisher River would have to be improved to handle the increased flow because of the vastly improved drainage which was basically done under the Interlake Special Agreement. At that initial time, the communications between the province and the federal government and the communities left something to be desired, and in fact, when the engineers came on the reserve to study and make recommendations to deepening the channel of the Fisher River, they were kicked off the reserve by local residents and, Mr. Chairman, when they did have the money in the Interlake Agreement to do the work, they couldn't do the work; by the time that an understanding was reached for them to go on the reserve and do the work, I think that the Agreement was getting closer to an end, but for some reason the work was not able to be done.

There has been considerable discussion between the federal government, between Indian Affairs, between the minister's department, to see what could be done at this date to rectify that situation and, Mr. Chairman, the flooding in that region has been very serious. The whole Community of Peguis, or a good part of the Peguis Community, families had to be moved out, moved out by helicopter at one time because the flood was that fast and not predictable. The oldtimers who live on the Peguis Reserve had never seen the situation and when officials came and said: "The water is going to come up to about here on your house," no one would believe them, because they had never had that kind of a situation occur in their community before.

So, Mr. Chairman, I think that to me that demonstrates as a lay person, that in fact it is the increased capacity of other contributaries, other drainage works, etc., etc., that has led to this serious situation and therefore it seems to me that it's incumbent upon governments to deepen the channels so that the people are not continually affected by flooding of the Fisher River but, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure what has happened over the last year and one-half. Negotiations were still going on the last I was aware of. I wonder if the Minister could bring me up to date in terms of negotiation, in terms of deepening the channel of the Fisher River.

MR. RANSOM: First of all' Mr. Chairman, the situation that occurred there at Fisher River in 1976, I believe was the high year. That was a condition that was not confined to that area. All across the province we had some extremely high water levels and I guess in some cases, the highest on record. The engineering information would indicate that that's something that might be expected to occur with rather low frequency but nevertheless could be expected to occur on the basis of the historical records.

Now the perception that many people have and I must say I tend to be one of them, is that there have been changes that have taken place over the years that have led to increases. The engineering information does not seem to support that particular contention but in any case, there is a problem there and there are problems elsewhere and in general I'm reviewing our policies with respect to flood control programs across the province. Specifically with respect to that situation we have offered technical assistance to the Federal Government and at this point we really haven't had any further response from the federal people.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, as I recall and I'm sorry that the figures don't stick clearly in my mind that the engineers indicated the flooding would be once in a hundred or once in fifty years by historical records. But I think that they had flooding three out of seven years which really wrecked the predictions, one out of fifty years. Of course, Mr. Chairman, if the predictions are right they will not have another flood for two hundred years and the Minister and I don't need to worry about it. But, Mr. Chairman, I'm not that optimistic about those predictions saying that there will not be a flood for another two hundred years because the flood frequency has been quite great. My opinion has been and my recommendation has been that in fact the province should cost share on some of the work, the work that was done up stream. The work of the governments, Mr. Chairman, is not in fact entirely to blame. There has been a lot more farmland cleared in that particular region and the more you clear the bush, the more runoff you're going to have. Or you are going to have a quicker runoff and a greater runoff, Mr. Chairman.

I wonder if the Minister is willing to consider in fact cost sharing in that project or whether the Minister is saying there is no way the Province of Manitoba will cost share in that particular

program.

MR. RANSOM: Again, Mr. Chairman, I have to point out what is perhaps a misunderstanding on what is meant by one in a hundred flood, perhaps also the honourable member fully understands and was simply giving the common perception. Because it occurs in any particular year doesn't mean it won't occur again for a hundred years. It simply is based on probabilities and the shot may be a little longer but it can well occur again.

We have offered technical assistance to the Federal Government with respect to this problem and when the Federal Government responds to that, then we will have to examine what their response is. If there was some responsibility on the part of the province for some action that had been undertaken and that we were contributing to the problem, then we would have some responsibility to look at being a participant in fixing the problem up. But at this stage that's really hypothetical and we have offered our technical assistance.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, in relation to the predictions of engineers I think that I would ask the Minister if there's been — as I recall that is a monitored — that there is water levels taken at that particular river and I wonder how that compares with past records.

My assumption is from talking with the local people there that the water is higher, even when in other streams and rivers in Manitoba, when it's a dry year, when water is lower, that one is still higher than it used to be. So I ask the Minister if those kinds of records have been kept and if they have whether my assumptions are correct or incorrect.

MR. RANSOM: We certainly would make any information available to the honourable member, anything that we would have. We're not certain at this stage just how far back the records go.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, in the area of responsibility the Minister acknowledged what the engineers usually refuse to acknowledge, and that is there is a possibility that extensive drainage work does increase the water flow in a waterway and there were extensive drainage works because there was a federal/provincial agreement to upgrade that area of the province and the work done was much greater than in other areas of the province. And so there was that extensive work done and part of the program was also assistance for land clearing and so there was a considerable amount of land clearing that took place as well.

So, Mr. Chairman, the province, to offer technical assistance is commendable but I am sure the Federal Government will not react if they're expected to put up 100 percent of the cost of any rectification that's necessary. I wonder if the Minister indicated he would be willing to consider contribution to a deepening of the Fisher River Channel or whether decision has already been made that there would be no provincial contribution.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I said if it could be demonstrated that in fact there was some responsibility on the part of the province and that's probably a dangerous principle to follow in any case because I don't think we have the right to demand from Saskatchewan or the United States — if we believe there is additional water coming into our province as a result of actions taken there, I don't think that we have any responsibility or they have any responsibility in law to compensate us but I'm just saying that on the basis of a common sense look at the situation but I would have to consider what all the options were. At this stage, I don't have anything on the table other than our offer to provide technical assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) — pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Speaker, I hope that we're not going to have to involve the International Joint Commission in this to determine whether or not these communities are negatively affected by upstream work. But basically what the Minister is telling me is that the situation is pretty much as it was when I left office, that the province has offered technical assistance and that there was no further discussion or negotiation and I understand then from the Minister that is where that situation is now left.

There was however in regard to the offer for technical assistance, some technical work done in terms of what the possibilities of rectification. I believe there was some proposed technical work done and some proposed drainage ditches that would drain off — I don't know how to describe this in words, Mr. Chairman — the area behind which water would get into and flood over back into the river again, to provide some drainage there so the water would drain in fact through drainage ditches rather than through people's yards. I wonder how much information was gathered and

I might get some further information for my own records, in terms of what the recommendations were of the water control people.

MR. RANSOM: I'm advised that the information the honourable member refers to may be work done by PFRA but we're quite prepared to review our files to see what information we have available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)— pass — the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really didn't have any criticism of the Minister or the department. I wanted to get his reaction to a particular condition that arose out of a particular case in my constituency having to do with the Red River and the bank stabilization. Before I go any further, I wonder if the Minister could confirm that the lock control at Lockport is a federal installation and not under provincial control.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: Yes.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister is probably aware that the City of Winnipeg does a certain amount of river bank stabilization through the City, spends a fair amount of money on it, probably much of which is provincially cost shared. In speaking to engineers on the city, they have indicated to me that some of this remedial work is due to a collapse of the river bank caused in turn by a lowering of the level of the Red River in the autumn because of changes at Lockport on the lock structure there.

Speaking to other people on a different subject about the river bank stability between the City and Lockport, particularly in connection with River Road and the movement of the soil that has been caused along there, they have told me the same thing, that during the summer when the water is high the clay on the bank soaks up the water and that a sudden lowering of the level of the river in the fall and the water draining out of the clay tends to make the bank slump into the river.

I would like to ask the Minister to comment on this, perhaps on two aspects. What level of co-operation there is between the province and the Federal Government over control of the locks at Lockport and the extent to which the City is involved with the province and the Feds over the same matter. Engineers at the City have told me that they have attempted to work closely with the Feds on this matter to try to alleviate the problem but they really got no where with them. Has the province dealt with the city on this matter? Have they dealt with the Federal Government and with the city? Is there a means of the provincial government in talking with these two other groups to find some method of ameliorating this, what is an annual problem, I understand.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, this is not an item that I have any particular familiarity with. But I am advised that we do not cost-share in bank stabilization programs that the city has, and I don't believe our people are particularly involved in that, but I'll have to undertake to review the situation and I'll certainly report to the honourable member and be prepared to discuss it with him.

An interesting theory which I just heard today is that the stability of the banks of the Red River is directly related to the amount of milk and beer that's consumed in the city, as the amount of ground water that's used is drawn down, instead of moisture percolating up from the water table, it tends more to infiltrate from the surface and that has a tendency to stabilize the banks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Opposition Leader.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could advise us as to whether he has held any discussions or whether alternatively there has been correspondence with appropriate federal government officials pertaining to need for them to provide assistance insofar as the stabilization of the banks of the Red River? I know that historically such communication did exist, and certainly from water resources in the past, dating back I believe to the late 40s, there have been approaches to the federal government; certainly the situation has worsened along the Red River recently, insofar as the banks are concerned. Can the Minister advise us as to whether discussions or correspondence has taken place?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: No there has not been, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider such. I know that the previous Minister of Highways had been involved in some discussions. There is a serious problem, as the Minister probably knows, pertaining to the road along the Red River north of Winnipeg leading through the municipality of St. Andrews, with the constant destabilization of the bank, the fact that parts of that road crumble into the river often making it near impassable for vehicular traffic to travel along, causing considerable concern insofar as the parents of children using the school buses , along that particular road.

Now I want to just say to the Minister that back in the late 40s probably before we became as sophisticated in our engineering as we have today, the then provincial government did provide some stabilization along the river bank there, at a particular point, in the southern part of the Municipality of St. Andrews on the Red River, and that stabilization persists to this day. And the cost was rather minimal in those days, and would be today, and I would hope that the department would take a look at that; as well as I would hope that the Minister would seriously consider bringing communication to the federal government. I believe it to be their responsibility, and yet there has been extreme reluctance on their part to provide any form of assistance insofar as the stabilization of the Red River is concerned.

MR. RANSOM: As I say, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the honourable member has brought that matter to my attention. I will certainly undertake to review the history of it, and see what the current situation is.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)—pass; (2)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Before we leave that item dealing with Planning, and just following on with what my Honourable Leader of the Opposition was bringing up with regard to River Road, perhaps I could deal with it under Parks, since I see now that the Minister is responsible for Parks.

The question that I wanted to ask, and the Minister may want to take it as a bit of notice for when we get to that portion, there has been some talk when we were government, and I believe the Minister has also said that this area can become a park area, and when we get to Parks, I wonder if the Minister can have some data on the River Road portion, which will be part of the park going up to the estuary flowing into the southern part of Lake Winnipeg. I will just give that to him as a bit of notice, so that he can bring us up to the present time frame we're looking at for this park development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)—pass; (c)—pass; (d)(1)(a) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: I wonder if the Minister could just explain what this was and what it isn't any more?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. RANSOM: These were the ARDA Agreements, Mr. Chairman. The salary item there is now transferred and appears under Planning. You'll see that there was a substantial increase in the Planning Salaries component which we just approved; it was necessary because of the termination of the funding by the federal government and the ongoing nature of the program, that they were transferred into the regular operations of the department, so that item is picked up there.

The \$1,204,600 was basically for drainage work carried out in various places in the province, and those projects have in essence been completed now, and the \$150,600 which shows there as Grants to Conservation Districts, now has had to be picked up in Item (b)(3).

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it does make the Estimates even more difficult to follow. Could the Minister just say again, this Agreement started when and went to when, and how many staff were involved under this Agreement and were their salaries cost-shared under this Agreement? What did they do?

MR. RANSOM: I think that the honourable member is probably aware that ARDA programs have been ongoing since the early 1960s, and new agreements have come in place — this was the third of the ARDA Agreements. There were in excess of 20 staff man years involved there, Mr. Chairman, and three of them we discussed under Operations, and 17 have gone into Planning, and they are

agrologists, geologists — these were people working with ground water — and some engineers, technical engineering officers, and 2 staff man years for casual people to assist with the summer programs.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister in a previous section said, "When that federal-provincial agreement ended, then the whole program ended and all the staff were terminated," I forget, it was earlier on in your Estimates, I forget which program it was, the federal-provincial study or federal-provincial program ended, and I wonder why the Minister, since the agreement is completed, — since this section of the agreement is completed — if he could indicate why he has made the decision to keep the basis of the program going even though the federal-provincial agreement has run out?

MR. RANSOM: The nature of the work was ongoing. Many of these people were working with the Conservation Districts, which of course is a piece of provincial legislation. The Districts are established and they are ongoing; and there are approximately six, I believe, were involved with ground water work, and of course the demand for ground water information is growing all the time, with irrigation increasing, and that sort of thing, so these were programs that we simply judged that despite the withdrawal of the federal government from them, they were programs which had to be carried on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour being 4:30, and in accordance with Rule 19(2), I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour, and will return at 8 o'clock this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We are now under Private Members' Hour, the first item of business is Public Bills. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

SECOND READING — PUBLIC BILL

BILL NO. 19 — THE GLENBORO HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 16B AND THE R.M. OF SOUTH CYPRESS

MR. EINARSON: presented Bill No. 19, An Act respecting the Glenboro Hospital District No. 16B and The Rural Municipality of South Cypress, for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Speaker, the Glenboro Hospital District No. 16B comprises the Rural Municipality of South Cypress, the Rural Municipality of Argyle, and the Village of Glenboro. At the outset of the hospital district, the municipalities realized that certain amounts would have to be raised for construction of the hospital.

In the case of the Rural Municipality of South Cypress, they decided to prepay the levy that would be their responsibility. The Village of Glenboro and the Rural Municipality of Argyle decided that they would pay as the debt was incurred.

In 1965, The Health Services Act, Section 56B, allowed hospital districts to enter into agreements with The Health Services Commission relating to the repayment of debts incurred previous to the hospitalization plan of 1958. It allowed facilities to utilize Health Service Commission depreciation and interest allowances to reduce the levies required from the municipalities in the district to meet the annual debt payments, or in the event that one or more municipalities prepaid their share of the debt, a credit was established on behalf of these municipalities.

The Rural Municipality of South Cypress, in this case, had prepaid their annual debt payment, and a credit was established on behalf of this municipality. However, Section 56B limited the use of these credits to future capital expenditures of the hospital district.

In 1975, the Health Services Commission of the Government of Manitoba of that day, decided to assume responsibility for the repayment of capital debt, which would have been retired by the municipalities. The debt of the Glenboro Hospital District had been retired in 1974. It is noted that the Rural Municipality of South Cypress had a prepaid credit balance already established at this time.

Section 56B of the Health Services Act, however, states that the fund is to be applied to reduce

future contributions that may be required from that included in the municipalities for future capital expenditures on hospitals, therefore, the Rural Municipality of South Cypress has not been able to use any of the accumulated funds in that account for any purpose. Since health facilities are no longer required to fund approved capital costs the municipality would like to have access to this credit account, to use the credit for payment against unapproved operating expenses. The only use available under the legislation would be unapproved capital expenditures of the hospital district, or for the acquisition of serviced land. Since neither the hospital district, nor the Municipality of South Cypress foresees this necessity for some number of years, they are desirous to allow the account to be used for unapproved operating expenses. The only other hospital district which has retained a prepaid credit account for municipalities is the Portage Health District No. 18. In this case the Rural Municipality of Portage la Prairie and Woodlands have agreed to leave the credits with the district, to be held in trust until required for the acquisition of serviced land for any future expansion of the hospital. With those explanatory remarks, Mr. Speaker, I recommend this bill to the House for their approval. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't wish to speak on this particular bill, but I would like the minister to comment, the member, I'm elevating him already to the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that he may very well be speaking on the bill.

MR. PAWLEY: No, I'm asking a question to comment, or to answer as to whether or not this particular bill would not be better handled by way of amendments to the appropriate provincial wide legislation rather than dealing with it in the manner that he is doing. It seems to me that the problem which he has related to is one that would be properly dealt with on the overall basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. May I suggest to the honourable member that he might very well be encroaching on his speaking time by making . . .

MR. PAWLEY: My question is very clear, it's not a comment, it's a question to the member, if he would like to respond as to why a private bill rather than being dealt with on a amendment to the appropriate legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition is trying to comment and get some response from me of a legal technicality. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition wishes to make his remarks in rebuttal to my explanatory notes to this private bill, I think he should do so, and then we could decide it from then on.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. FOX: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Elmwood that the debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Then we move on to Private Bills.

Adjourned debate on second reading of Bill No. 10 proposed by the Honourable Member for Radisson. (Stand)

RESOLUTION NO. 1 — RIGHT TO WORK

MR. SPEAKER: On the resolution of the Honourable Member for Inkster. The Member for Pembina has 10 minutes.

MR. DON ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In opening my remarks on Tuesday, I had presented my concerns for the Member for Inkster's solution to providing jobs in Canada and his example of using INCO. And my fear, Mr. Speaker, at that time was that by having this required production

in the interests of the short-run GNP of Canada, and the short-run benefit of the workers would end up with the financial ruination of a company, such as INCO, when the inevitable move by a government of the day to nationalization. And, that seemed to have been refuted to a certain degree by members opposite, and it was quite coincidental, Mr. Speaker, that later on that day in the consideration of the Honourable Mr. Ransom's Estimates, discussion ensued where the Member for Churchill presented his case for the mining industry in northern Manitoba, and particularly Thompson and particularly with INCO. A nationalization, Mr. Speaker, was his solution, his party's solution, and it obviously was his party's solution, Mr. Speaker, because the Interim Leader, the Member for Selkirk, readily agreed from his seat, that nationalization indeed, was their party's position on solving all the problems that the mining industry in Manitoba were having.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

MR. PAWLEY: The point of privilege, the honourable member has indicated that I indicated a position from my seat. I recall no such indication on my part, one way or the other. The member is attributing something to me which he knows full well did not occur.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, that is unfortunate that a member, such as the Member for Selkirk, when one of his colleagues is presenting a statement on nationalization is sitting in his seat, nodding his head up and down in an obvious affirmative way, I suppose that that hasn't necessarily been entered on the record, but maybe he was nodding his head in the affirmative to another concept rather than nationalization.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this resolution in the bottom line, "Therefore, be it resolved that this Legislature approves of the principle of the Right to Work and urges implementation of such public and private programs. . ." As I have explained, Mr. Speaker, it's that catch word of public programs, which has me concerned in supporting this resolution, because I greatly fear some of the participation that the public sector, as envisioned, I would think, by the Member for Inkster, is not in the long run best interests of the province or indeed, the country of Canada.

We've already seen examples of some their administration's efforts at make work and public employment, and I don't want to belabour some of them, but there are Saunders, and there are many other examples like that, where many, many dollars of the public purse were pushed into these industries to create some short-term jobs. But, Mr. Speaker, these short-term jobs were created in the long run to the long run disadvantage of the province financially. It cost too much money; taxpayers for generations to come are going to be forced to pay for the dollars lost, the many millions of dollars lost in those make work projects. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that that is my prime concern, when I see the implementation suggested of public programs.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think also, at this time, the resolution is somewhat out of place, shall I say, because the record will show that to date in some 18 months of this government that our job creation record is exceptional, it's exceptional, Mr. Speaker. What we have seen in the last year is a creation of 22,000 new jobs in Manitoba, 22,000 jobs in Manitoba created without a heavy reliance on public make work projects; 22,000 jobs incidentally, Mr. Speaker, represent approximately four years, Mr. Speaker, of total job creation by the ND Party in their latter years of administration. So what we have done, Mr. Speaker, in the implementation of the programs, the policies, the change of direction that we have brought in as a new government to Manitoba, we have already begun very, very well to create the necessary jobs for the people of Manitoba. And I think the figure of 22,000 speaks quite adequately for that; and bear in mind also, Mr. Speaker, that those 22,000 jobs were created in Manitoba at the same time that some 1,800 jobs were being phased out of the Civil Service. We created those jobs, those 22,000 jobs without having to bulge the Civil Service as has sometimes been suggested, and quite correctly so, was the manner of employment hiring that the previous administration relied upon so heavily. We have done it through the change, the implementation of policy which is encouraging in helping the private enterprise system to create long-run financially rewarding jobs for the citizens of Manitoba.

Now, in dealing with the public programs, I think it is also important to point out at this time, Mr. Speaker, that our record there is also very excellent in the last year. Members opposite will stand up and harp and cry at us because we're not doing enough for this sector, for that sector of Manitoba. In all the time, Mr. Speaker, they gloss over the fact that in the last fiscal year, some \$560 million were spent by this Conservative government on public works projects in the Province of Manitoba. That, Mr. Speaker, represents a very significant number of jobs created by this

for public works projects. It's a fact that's completely glossed over, Mr. Speaker, by members opposite because they don't want to admit to anyone in the press gallery, or anybody in the Province of Manitoba that such a record exists for our government. So, we already have a significant presence in the public market, and it's a presence, Mr. Speaker, which is not reliant upon pumping some \$40 million into the creation and building of an airplane that can't be certified, et cetera, et cetera.

Our approach to public works is to public works is to develop the infrastructure which will provide industry, business in Manitoba with an infrastructure, from which they can create the jobs, and I think that is by far the wisest place to spend public funds in the long-run creation of jobs. And, Mr. Speaker, one other item that is always, always quietly glossed over by members opposite in direct public programs for job creation undertaken by this government, was the program undertaken by the Minister of Education last year, the Student Summer Employment Program; 4,900 students received employment through that program; 4,900 students represents a full 1,000 more students employed in the NDP's very best year of student employment. The jobs were not white-washing fences, and cleaning up parks; they were meaningful jobs in the private sector, Mr. Speaker, and many of those students have gained job experience which they can now use as a credential, as a recommendation as to their ability to apply for a job in private industry after graduation from high school. It's a positive job experience that they had — not painting fences, Mr. Speaker, not catching butterflies, but working at meaningful and positive jobs.

Now, that is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that members opposite will never admit to, and I think it proves positively, Mr. Speaker, that this government is very, very actively engaged in implementation of such public and private policies and programs to create permanent, meaningful, rewarding and productive work for the people of Manitoba. So, in closing, Mr. Speaker, I find that I am in the position where I cannot support the proposed resolution by the Member for Inkster for some very, very obvious reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to offer a few comments pertaining to the resolution. The Honourable Member for Pembina has just indicated that the government does not intend to support this resolution. Well, he's indicated he is not supporting the resolution which certainly does catch us to some extent off-guard, because this was a resolution that I had thought would win unanimous support in this House. The right to have full employment, the right for each individual within our society to ensure the development of one's maximum potential, and that has to mean the provision of maximum and full employment within our society. Mr. Speaker, as Honourable Members are speaking, I can't help but think that they must in fact be living in some sort of ivory tower — an ivory tower that is totally and completely removed from the world of reality that surrounds the Manitoba social and economic fabric at the present time — a lack of reality to the effect that they fail to observe that there is, yes, somewhere in the neighbourhood of 25 percent unemployment in the construction industry. Much of that unemployment, Mr. Speaker, has come about as a result of the Provincial Government's failure to proceed with necessary and important construction projects. And since the Attorney-General is present, I would like to simply mention as an example of that, the Provincial Judges' Court, which a former Attorney-General, a Conservative Attorney-General, had indicated was long overdue back in the year 1966, the Honourable Stewart McLean, then Attorney-General and Member for Dauphin.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we have 11 percent unemployment in Manitoba in the age group 18 to 25. Young age group, just graduating from our universities, are finding themselves in a position of having to choose, choose to remain in Manitoba without jobs, or alternatively to depart from this province in order to obtain employment elsewhere.

Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, we find the massive unemployment in our northern communities. I only wish the Member for Pembina and some of the government members would travel to some of our northern communities. Visit some of the remote communities. See some of the people that are on our reserves and face up to the fact that we've unemployment on those reserves and remote communities in the neighbourhood of 70 to 75 percent, an unemployment rate, Mr. Speaker, that is worsening and not being improved, because of cutbacks, yes, not only cutbacks at the Provincial Government level, but also at the Federal Government level.

The Minister of Northern Affairs, himself a northerner, unfortunately has been one of the contributors to the present situation in the northern communities due to the fact that he has not provided leadership among his colleagues as to northern policy by this government. He has unfortunately sold out to certain other interests. He is not representing the north as northerners would anticipate that the Member for Thompson ought to represent the north. If he expresses views in support of the north in Cabinet, then surely, Mr. Speaker, the views that he is expressing in

Cabinet must be so weakly presented that they appear to fall on totally and completely deaf ears insofar as his Cabinet colleagues are concerned. Because certainly we have no example, no example of any initiative, any thrust, any forward movement on the part of his government insofar as dealing with the problems of northern Manitoba.

Just recently as an example, Mr. Speaker, when I was in Nelson House and met with the chief and band members of Nelson House, they advised me that Nelson House is within the Minister of Northern Affairs' own constituency. That two economic development officers, residents of Nelson House, working in the community, attempting to stimulate economic activity in the community, had seen their employment terminated as of January 12, 1979 without any consultation, without any evaluation taking place, with the folk of Nelson House.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is an example, an example which demonstrates the desertion by this government of any desire to deal with those in northern Manitoba. Then, Mr. Speaker, we see further instances of this in the Estimates that were tabled only the other night, when we see a sharp reduction in the moneys that are being made available in order to assist the handicapped in our society to develop skills, skills so they could participate in jobs.

This is a government, Mr. Speaker, that prefers to pay out Welfare and Unemployment Insurance, rather than to encourage the individual to utilize their physical and mental skills in order to ensure their maximum self-realization in useful employment. And this was a government that used to say, "Oh, the New Democrats across the way are a welfare party". Mr. Speaker, if there ever, ever was a welfare party in the province of Manitoba, that party is the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the economic, the conference board figures insofar as employment is concerned in Manitoba indicate that in 1977 year end, employment was 432,000. Year end, 1978, showed unemployment figures of 445,000, for a job creation figure of 13,000. In 1977, unemployment figures were 27,140; 1978 year end figures showed unemployment 31,416. So that in fact, Mr. Speaker, we witness an increase of 4,276, over 4,000 more people, more people looking for jobs in Manitoba in 1978 than there were in 1977. And this government boasts and beats its breast about job creation in Manitoba.

What in fact is missing insofar as the approach of this government, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that they are so tied in to a philosophy, and a doctrine which they have chiselled into stone that they must rely fully and completely and totally upon the private sector, and if the private sector doesn't produce, then let them eat cake, because doctrine is more fundamental and more important to the government of this day than jobs for individuals. Doctrine is more important than human beings. That is, Mr. Speaker, the philosophy and the approach and the technique of the present government in Manitoba. That doctrine, Mr. Speaker, flies in the face of the reality of today.

In 1946, 91.9 percent of all workers employed in Canada worked within the private sector; in 1951 that figure declined to 89.1; 1961 that figure was 83.7 percent, and by 1976 the figure was 78.1. So Mr. Speaker, whether this government and its ideologs like it or not, more and more of the employment within the Canadian structure, as well as within Manitoba, is being picked up by public initiative. Leaving aside political philosophies, party philosophies, more and more of the pickup insofar as job creation must flow from government initiative and action.

But we have a government in Manitoba that, rather than promote further initiative insofar as job creation from the public sector is concerned, are withdrawing, are pulling back, depending upon a private sector that is not prepared or is unwilling to move in in order to accept the abandonment by this government of any role in job creation in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, what we have in fact in Manitoba is a government which has no policy relating to job creation. And I would like to just suggest a few areas that I do believe should be done by the present government insofar as job creation. First, I mentioned that there were certain essential areas of construction. And I mentioned as an example of that the provincial judges' building. The sooner that freeze is lifted, the better. When that freeze is lifted, then we'll have the utilization of a building which will deal with some of the mounting problems insofar as the justice field is concerned in Manitoba and will create, and we will create jobs at the same time.

Then, Mr. Speaker, there is need for a strategy to be developed in order to assist those residents, particularly in northern communities, to gradually and eventually leave the Welfare rolls and to find useful employment. Now that is going to require skill training, it's going to require the development of various economic means in order to create activity within the communities in question. It doesn't mean, Mr. Speaker, the desertion of the communities. It means an evaluation of those communities with the residents of the communities themselves and the finding of ways and means by which we can assist in the training of residents in those areas to develop skills and then to participate in useful and productive employment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just mention one example, and I'm going to mention it because it's an example that was not, because I know any examples that I refer the Honourable Members to, that

relate to the years 1969 to 1977 are immediately suspect and ought to be discarded from any consideration, so I would like to mention an example to the Members that occurred during the Weir period of the development of a manpower training corps plant in Selkirk, which absorbed young people from Interlake, remote communities as well as the reserves, brought them in, taught them skills and manufacturing park equipment — park equipment which was turned over to the provincial parks in Manitoba — weren't worried that some private sector companies might be put out of business. It was more important to teach skills and to provide jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I liked that effort. I think it's been a successful one. I don't know, for the life of me, Mr. Speaker, why this government cannot think in terms of developing projects such as that in various communities, Northern communities, reserves, remote communities. You know, it seems to me from the information that I have in hand that most of our office furniture is brought into Manitoba from points outside. Since that is the case, Mr. Speaker, I see no reason that our disadvantaged ought not to be involved in projects which will manufacture our furniture, furniture in order to provide, — yes, furniture for government and its agencies — rather than to import such furniture from outside the Province of Manitoba.

Teach people skill. Get them involved in job creation. That is the responsibility, Mr. Speaker, I submit, of an activist and positive government. Communities that are of high unemployment in which the Welfare rolls are high should be encouraged with the assistance of government to develop projects such as this. Mr. Speaker, we see that this government has slowed down the activities of the Community Economic Development Fund which was geared towards that type of mission, in fact encouraging the private sector within remote and northern communities to stimulate creation of job activity.

So there are many areas, Mr. Speaker, that this government by its actions are really betraying, I believe, the hopes and aspirations of the young, of northerners, of those that are in the construction field, in rural areas, in other areas of heavy unemployment in Manitoba. Manitobans are looking for this government to reverse the trend which has been set in, a trend which, Mr. Speaker, has lifted the jobless rate in Manitoba to figures which in fact are the highest since 1940 or earlier. That's a terrible record for a government that was going to create jobs. Create jobs in Manitoba.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the Premier said the other day, "Well, you know, those fellows are always equating the Conservative times with bad times. Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, let me assure you, that there is certainly no way, no way, based upon their record would we equate Conservative times with good times in Manitoba."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the comments of the last speaker prompted me to rise on this resolution. After reading the resolution . . . there really is nothing that anybody can be opposed to really, because Clause No. 1 says that: '

"Whereas the right to perform productive work is essential to enable maximum self-realization of the individual." There is really nothing much you can argue about that, and

"Whereas the economic system under which we live fails to provide adequate opportunity for citizens in our society to perform productive work. " We can't argue against that. It's a very carefully designed resolution, really, and

"Whereas the non-utilization of the productive capacity of those not able to obtain employment is destructive to the composite wealth and well-being of society." We agree.

"Therefore be it resolved that this legislature approves of the principle of the right to work and urges the implementation of such public and private programs as will ensure that every person in our society seeking employment will have the opportunity of obtaining the same."

Now, okay, that sounds fine, but to me, the whole resolution has been designed for one purpose only and that is to fool the person on the street; the employee who thinks, boy, we have a group of people here who are really plugging for me, who are really going to try and do everything within their power to see that we are going to get total employment. But this resolution is not going to give us one more job in Manitoba, and that is what the problem is with this resolution, and until such a time as we start addressing ourselves to that particular problem, then we are going to have unemployment.

Now the member was talking about the unemployment in the north and so on, and I agree; it's a big problem. But what have we heard from every member that is representing that area over there. They have been criticizing the main employer that they have, namely INCO. You cannot, for instance, disturb the ecology and so on; you don't want that to happen in the north. I wonder where the south would be if we would not have done this, if we would not have put the plough into that land, where would we be today? We would have absolutely nothing. You are opposed to the pipeline

coming through northern Manitoba, because again, we will be disturbing the environment and so on, and the environment seems to be much more important than the development. But it is the development that is going to bring the jobs.

We continuously hear criticism on the DREE Program welfare bums by the Honourable Member for Elmwood; any type of incentive to attract industry into the province and so on, receives criticism. But this, Mr. Speaker, is really where it's at; it's competition, and it's incentives.

First of all, we have to compete with our Americans across the border. Now, they have incentives. I am involved in a manufacturing firm and we have had many delegations coming from the Americans to see us. They have Right to Work legislation over there, and all the midwestern States — all the midwestern States, about two-thirds of the States in the United States have Right to Work legislation, and it is all pretty well framed after this particular one over here. That is the Georgia Right to Work legislation. North Dakota has almost the identical to this, so has South Dakota, so has Minnesota, so has Wyoming, so have all the midwestern States. About two-thirds of the States in the United States have this type of legislation.

I can't see that I want to make a big issue out of this, but I just want to tell you some protection that industry has over there. For instance, it is unlawful to assemble at, or near a place of labour dispute, to prevent persons from engaging in their lawful vocation. In other words, no labour union, if there is a strike at that particular industry, can prevent people from walking in and out of that particular business. They can still carry on business as best they can in spite of the labour legislation. It is protection for the person who has put his capital into creating jobs in the first place. Now don't ever forget this; we are creating jobs. Mass picketing is prohibited. No person can be compelled to join a labour union. If you hire a person and so on, it has got to be of his own free will that he joins a labour union, but nobody can deny him the right to work, because he does not belong to a union. That is freedom. There is no doubt about that.

So, you have a lot of legislation, but it does do one thing: It guarantees the person that is in industry, or that is in business, that he does have some protection from labour so that they cannot can not completely bankrupt him. —(Interjection)— No, I haven't talked to the Minister of Labour about that, and I am not saying that I am supporting that, but I am saying that this is what we are facing as far as incentive is, that is one of the reasons why a lot of our jobs are going down south. You can travel to any town you want, or go to Walhalla, go to Langdon, go anywhere along your northern border over here, when you see a new building coming up and you walk into that building: "Where are you from?" "Minnedosa." "How come that you open up an industry in Walhalla?" "Oh," they say, "first of all because of labour; because of availability of labour over here and labour over here want to work, and productivity is higher than what it is over there. We have about one-tenth of the red tape to contend with over here. We are allowed to run our business and not have continuous interference. We can work and we don't have to spend 80 or 90 percent of our time filling out forms."

They have tremendous incentives over there. As a matter of fact, we have been asked to come over there, our particular industry; they are going to provide the building for us; they are going to provide all the capital for us; they guarantee us that we're going to be paying no taxes for five years either on property or on whatever money we should earn. Now, they are pretty safe over there, because they know that all of this is high risk capital, when you are talking in the manufacturing industry. All of it is very high risk capital and it takes at least five years for that to bring a return. But I don't see anybody on that particular side who is interested at all in getting involved in that type of high risk capital, because the risk is high.

The Member for St. Boniface has invested in a job creating — possibly not as highly job intensive as some of this other stuff that I am talking about but he has risked some of his own capital and it is to his credit that he has done so.

But we have heard the DREE Program; we have heard that criticized, and I must say on both sides of the House to a certain extent, because some people probably are not aware of what the DREE Program does, but in spite of the fact that it has been brought in by the Liberal Government, I think it is a tremendous program.

Now, when we started up our manufacturing firm, we took advantage of the DREE grant, because we needed that type of capital for us so that we could borrow more capital to invest. We were in operation for eight months; we had paid back every cent of that DREE grant in the first eight months on your federal sales tax alone, let alone all the other benefits that the government was deriving from the spinoff, your unemployment insurance, which they did not have to pay on your income tax that our employees were paying. That is the way that the DREE grant operates in many, many instances. I also must say that they have had a few bad experiences, but by and large it has been a very good program, and that really is the only incentive program that we have going in Canada. It's very small compared to what is happening in the United States. But we will have to, Mr. Speaker, address ourselves to incentives; we have to try to attract industry into Manitoba,

we have to try to create jobs, we'll have to have training programs in which we can train our young persons so they can get employment.

One of the biggest problems that we have had, is that you have to give your person — and I don't call \$2.95 a high wage at all; there is nobody at our plant working at \$2.95, because most of the people have been working there for at least I would say, six months probably is the one that has been working there for the shortest period of time, so they are much above that particular level. But we do have a problem when we are training a new employee — and I am talking now of somebody who is probably sixteen years of age — we're trying to get him a place to work and it takes him a while to wean away from the type of environment that he has been in, and it does take a while, and we have to put one of our expensive men to train him in that first period of time, and it is expensive. Now, by and large, if things work out very well, then he is probably going to be on that low range maybe for about six weeks. This is usually what it works out to, and then of course he is gradually caught up to it. It takes no time at all and he is probably on the four-dollar mark.

I would say that we have good relationship in our particular plant, with our employees, excellent relationship. We have an incentive program for them; if they produce so much then they share in whatever extra money we make of this. It's a sharing type of a deal, and we are continuously working on them. They have their own association, at which we sit down and negotiate with every Monday morning. We discuss problems in the plant. —(Interjection)— No, no union. It's a volunteer type of organization, and I think that this is where your answer is to the whole program. Nobody is forced to do anything.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to point out some of these things, that if those people on the other side are really anxious to get employment into Manitoba, then they sure as heck are going to have to change their way of thinking. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After hearing the Honourable Member for Rhineland stating Scratching River Post, I believe, which is published in Morris, and now he knows so much about the industry in southern Manitoba, and if I might quote from The Scratching River Post of February 19th, where the H.A.S.H. jeans plant was permanently closed.

"The H.A.S.H. Jeans International Plant at St. Jean Baptiste has been permanently closed according to the Winnipeg manager, Klaus Mueller . The plant closed on December 15, 1978. Mr. Mueller said that the St. Jean Baptiste was closed due to the unavailability of sufficient labour. The plant needed 60 to 70 employees but was unable to attract a staff of more than 25." And he stated that the wages were not one of the features why people didn't come to this plant. The wages ranged from \$2.95, which incidentally is the minimum wage, to \$5.50. The employees were paid by piece work — it's a piece work plant —and it has been in operation at St. Jean Baptiste for the past five years. —(Interjection)—

The following week, and you know this is interesting, the following week the Reeve , Reeve St. Hilaere from St. Jean Baptiste said, "There is no labour shortage in St. Jean Baptiste area. H.A.S.H. Jeans International Plant, according to Reeve Albert St. Hilaere of the Rural Municipality of Montcalm. Reeve St. Hilaere took exception to the statements attributed to Mr. Klaus Mueller, the Winnipeg Manager of H.A.S.H. Jeans International, in an article carried in the Post on February 19th. Mr. Mueller had told the Post that the St. Jean Baptiste plant had been closed due to the unavailability of sufficient labour. Reeve St. Hilaere told the Post that there was sufficient labour pool for H.A.S.H. Jeans Plant in the St. Jean Baptiste area. He saw the problem as being one of poor working conditions rather than a shortage of labour. Poor working conditions, according to Reeve St. Hilaere, were not related to the physical plant, but rather to the pressure brought to bear by the management, and by poor management-employee relations."

A MEMBER: Now we know.

MR. JENKINS: "Reeve St. Hilaere said he met with the management on several occasions, along with representatives of St. Jean Baptiste Development Corporation, the Pembina Valley Development Corporation, the Provincial Department of Industry and Commerce, and the purpose of these meetings was to find a solution to this problem. Reeve St. Hilaere said that the management of the H.A.S.H. Plant had been informed that if working conditions were improved, they would have no problem entertaining a full staff for the plant. Reeve St. Hilaere said that the meetings were never successful in rectifying this situation. He further questioned how many of the staff members at the St. Jean Baptiste Plant had received \$5.50 per hour. He suspected the vast majority of the

employees had been working at the minimum wage of \$2.95 an hour."

A MEMBER: That's interesting.

MR. JENKINS: That is the kind of industry that you people want. —(Interjection)— Now, the Honourable Member for Pembina put his position very clear and on the line, and if I can interpret from what he said when he opened in this debate a couple of days ago, that he is in favour of Right to Work legislation as is enacted in the United States, and he pounds his fist on the table. And if I might quote from Page 559 of Tuesday of our Hansard, he said, "Mr. Speaker, if it means that for instance during the Postal Union strike that we had last summer, that if a person had no employment but was maybe on social assistance or unemployment insurance and desired the results of jobs that so many people, apparently, in the Postal Workers' Union had decided were not good enough, if that person on unemployment insurance desired that job and was able to fill the working roles of those postal workers who had decided that conditions were not good enough, pay wasn't good enough, then I would support that type of Right to Work." He would support union busting, that is what he would support, and that's what that backbench over there has been saying from the day that they were elected. —(Interjection)— Union busting — that's what you're in favour of — that and nothing else. That's the true colours of the regressive Conservative Party; union busting.

And, to the credit of your Minister of Labour, I will say this for him, he had the guts to say that he would not institute Right to Work legislation at this time, but we know the Minister of Labour and we know him of old. We know that he has had various political affiliations; various union affiliations; and various management hats in the past; and it is difficult to determine the policy of any of his department. You know, you can almost compare him to the Vicar of Brae. The Vicar of Brae, and I guess my honourable friend, the Member for Wolseley, doesn't know who the Vicar of Brae is.

The Vicar of Brae, during the time of the Reformation in England was one, and it's a little English ditty; regardless of who was ever England's King at that time, he would still be the Vicar of Brae. He could change his coat inside, outside, turn it any way, he could be on the winning side; and the Minister of Labour is exactly like one of those. —(Interjection)— He is a real example of the Vicar of Brae.

You know, I never thought that I would be getting up here to vote for a Right to Work resolution, but I'll tell you, and I want to quote from a booklet put out by Thomas C. Fawkes — not spelt the same way as the Member for Kildonan, he's spelt the same way as Guy Fawkes — "But for most Canadians," and I'm quoting, "the term Right to Work is something new, and is something which at face value sounds very appealing. In fact, the so called Right to Work concept is not new, although it has not been known by that that the message that first came across to me is that he's in favour of Right to Work legislation as is advocated by the groups that belong in the United States, and there's not two-thirds of the United States that have Right to Work legislation, it's approximately around 19 out of 50.

A MEMBER: A minority.

MR. JENKINS: A minority, in fact. —(Interjection)—

MR. BROWN: I did not say that I was in favour of it, but I would say . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, may I point out to the honourable member that if he reads Section 317, I believe, it's very improper to interrupt a member just to clarify your point. You must wait until after he has completed, and then make your statement.

MR. JENKINS: Now, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the honourable member is trying to put words in my mouth. I said, "It appeared that the honourable member was in favour of Right to Work legislation." I said here as a comment, when he was making his speech to one of my seat mates, he dug himself a hole and now he's busily filling it up, because when it came across whether he was in favour of Right to Work legislation as it is enacted in the United States, "No," he said, he wasn't, and I'm glad to hear that. —(Interjection)— He's pussyfooting, that's right.

Now, this happens to be two consecutive issues of The name throughout its long history." You know, when you say Right to Work it's almost like voting for motherhood, but the Right to Work basically denies workers the right to have a closed shop, which they decide between themselves and their employers, or the union shop where they work. It must be remembered that the term itself has nothing to do with generating employment for those out of work. And that is union busting,

short, sweet and simple. It's nothing else.

My honourable friend, the Member for Rhineland, who likes to quote how much industry was brought in because of this legislation — and when we continue tomorrow or whatever day we get back to Private Members' Hour, and I have time to finish my comments — I will certainly point out to him where they stand in the Right to Work legislation, where they stand in the field of Education, where they stand in hours and industry and how much has been brought into the state by their so-called Right to Work legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: The hour being 5:30, I'm leaving the Chair and the House will resume in Committee at 8 o'clock.