

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

Time: 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions.

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READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

MR. CLERK: The Petition of The Agricultural and Community District of Newdale, Praying for the Passing of An Act to amend an Act respecting The Agricultural and Community District of Newdale.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees. . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports. . . Notices of Motion. . . Introduction of Bills. . .

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call Oral Questions, I would like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery, where we have 23 students from Grade 5 from the Crane School under the direction of Ms. Tethman. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Health.

We also have 36 students of Grade 7 standing, from the Warren Elementary School, under the direction of Mr. George Shadlock. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Government Services.

On behalf of all honourable members we welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister responsible for Public Works, responsible for Information Services.

Can the Minister confirm that Room 68B, the press conference room, is available to ministers and opposition members of the Legislature at all times?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS (Lakeside): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that to be the fact. There may be occasions where scheduling is a problem but certainly as a matter of policy, that is a fact.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise whether or not it is the policy of his Ministry and of Government Information Services, to terminate sound after a news conference held by a Minister of the Crown, at such time as a critic may wish to respond immediately thereafter?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Leader of the Opposition is dealing with a specific situation or occasion. I would have to take that question as notice and report to him at a later date.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to deal with a specific instance which will assist the honourable member in taking the question as notice.

Pertaining to the press conference held by the Minister responsible for the Environment Sunday afternoon. On completion of that press conference, the critic for the Environment immediately went to respond, using 68B, to find that the sound

had been cut off and the technicians there indicated that they would not re-establish the sound because only the Minister had made arrangements for the use of 68B.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I think, like any other request of service of one kind or another from government, it's a matter of courtesy and just common sense that prior arrangements are made for the use of that facility. Again, I don't know the specification of this particular situation but if there was no request for that service made prior to the news conference in question, then it may well be that the personnel in Room 68B had not scheduled their time to facilitate additional members using the facilities at that time.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, then to the Honourable Minister, will the Honourable Minister ensure that there is adequate flexibility so then when there are snap press conferences called, that the critic for the individual department involved has suitable opportunity to utilize those facilities, to respond in the event of a snap press conference held, conducted by a Minister of the Crown.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, as indicated earlier, I am more than happy to give the Leader of the Opposition the undertaking that I will look into the matter and can assure him and other members of this House that all members will be treated fairly in this regard in Room 68B.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Honourable the Minister of Urban Affairs. Can the Minister of Urban Affairs assure the people of North Winnipeg, who have been long awaiting another traffic artery to that part of the city, that the monies which the Provincial Government would make available, and promised to make available for the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass, will still be available to the City of Winnipeg should they wish to proceed with that facility?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, we have, as a provincial government, allocated some \$7.6 million of UTAP monies to the City of Winnipeg for construction of the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass. As the Member for Inkster will be aware, the federal government, prior to the May election in 1979, unilaterally undertook a review of that particular project. I understand that review is now completed, although I have not yet received a copy, although we have been requesting one for some time.

It has long been our position, although rail relocation is a desirable alternative, that before that rail relocation can be undertaken by the city and by the province, there has to be a firm commitment from the Federal Government as to their position with respect to cost sharing. That has never been received from the federal government and we have been pressing them on that matter.

Mr. Speaker, as far as we are concerned, the Sherbrook-McGregor Overpass should proceed unless the Federal Government have an alternative program which they make a specific commitment to.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, since the possible pie in the sky of rail relocation has been used to deny the citizens of North Winnipeg that additional facility for the last 12 years, would the Minister see whether there is any way of dealing with the problem so that there will be a facility and if rail relocation comes, that will be an additional benefit rather than something which is used to deny the citizens of North Winnipeg that artery?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Member for Inkster that the day after the Cabinet appointments were announced, I wrote to the new Federal Minister, Mr. Pepin, to bring to his attention immediately the serious concern that

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

we have in this province with respect to this facility and I hope that we will get an early response and decision from the federal government.

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

MR. GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the same question. If there is, in the Minister's view, going to be again interminable delays with regard to this facility, would the Minister consider discussing with the Minister of Transportation another great separation as between the portion of Winnipeg south of the tracks to that portion of Winnipeg north of the tracks at King Edward or Keewatin or other suitable location?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, the question is based on the assumption that there will be interminable delays. Mr. Speaker, my letter went to the new Minister the day after his appointment, just a few days ago. I have not yet received a response. I hope that the federal government will act with some certainty, and quickly, with respect to this matter and considering that the new Minister has only been in office for a few weeks, Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. But as the Member for Inkster has indicated, this problem has been before the city for a considerable amount of time. There are questions related to the Urban Transportation Agreement itself and the funding under that agreement and whether funds will lapse, and the added inflationary costs that delay brings to this project, and we, together with the City of Winnipeg, will be pressing the Federal Government for an early and quick response to this matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the comments made by government members last evening have raised some more questions and I would like to address a question to the Honourable Minister concerned with the Environment relative to the MacGregor derailment. When did the Minister speak first to the Federal Minister of Transport or to the Federal Minister charged with the Environment in connection with this derailment?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. WARNER H. JORGENSON (Morris): Mr. Speaker, discussions with the federal people have been carried on at the official level. The representatives of Environment Canada and representatives from my department have been in constant consultation.

MRS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, would the Honourable Minister confirm then that after he was talking to the federal Manitoba Minister, the Minister assured him that any federal assistance that was necessary was available, and specifically that there is an Emergency Measures unit on duty 24 hours a day for the Department of Transport that was available and is available to the Government of Manitoba on request, and that still no request has been made for that unit?

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I do not see the necessity of activating such an organization, since I don't perceive of any emergency at the present time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister indicate if he has directed any personnel from his department to the derailment site outside of MacGregor, and if he has done so can he indicate what role they have been playing throughout this cleanup of the vinyl chloride spill?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): There have been several of my staff who have visited the particular scene, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a supplementary?

MR. COWAN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second part of that question is, what role have they been playing and could the Minister be more specific as to indicate what positions they have occupied while they were there and how long they have been there.

Also, can the Minister indicate if any non-federal employees have been employed in the vinyl chloride spill cleanup and if so, can he indicate if they have been advised by his department of any potential or possible safety and/or health hazards they may face, and have they been advised of the proper procedures to follow in order to avoid undue exposure to vinyl chloride and/or any other hazards at the vinyl chloride spill site?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: The Member for Churchill asked a series of questions. I think they're more in order if he was to write them down, Mr. Speaker.

Again I repeat, there have been several members of my department out there. Some required for specific duties, others in an observing capacity.

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

MR. COWAN: Yes. I'd ask the Minister then if he has had any discussions, or his departmental representatives have had any discussions with either representatives or members of the Maintenance of Way Union in order to inform them of the serious and potential health hazards they may face at the MacGregor derailment site, and if so can he indicate when they were and what exactly was discussed?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, the presumption is that there is a serious health hazard at the particular derailment site as it relates to those that are working on a specific site, and that hasn't been determined that that in fact is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister then confirm that the CNR has believed this to be of serious enough consequence to call in 10 workers for medical examinations today and 18 maintenance of way workers for medical examinations tomorrow and that they are directing specific examinations in regard to vinyl chloride exposure be conducted on those employees? Can he confirm that at least CNR thinks it's that serious?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Speaker, I stated a day or two ago, and the record will determine when that was, that I had been in touch with C.N. and they had told me at that particular time they were going to set up a medical review of those people who were involved. In conjunction with the union they have done this.

There are, in fact, 10 people coming in and I was talking to the national representative of that particular union approximately an hour and a half ago.

They are having these people come in to (a) register them, such as I said in the House a couple of days ago, should be done; (b) to have thorough medicals, which I had suggested is a very commendable suggestion on behalf of the union.

This is taking place today on 10 men and tomorrow I understand, 18 are coming in. This is to relieve those people of any fear that they may have as to the relationship of the contaminant that they might have been within "X" distance from.

This I have all made clear in this House before, that this was going to take place. To the Member for Churchill, it is taking place, just as I said it would.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a fifth question.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the Minister indicates that these physicals are taking place to relieve the employees from any fear of

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

exposure, can he confirm that these physicals are taking place because these employees have been exposed to levels of vinyl chloride and the physicals are being conducted in order to ensure that they have not been overly exposed and that they are not now suffering any significant health hazards and that they may in the future not suffer any significant health hazard? Is that the reason for the examinations or is it, as the Minister indicated, the reason only to relieve them of their fears?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I suggest to the honourable member the question is argumentative.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Environment. Can the Minister confirm that he has received a request from one J.W. Werier for assistance in ensuring the transportation of some polychloride phyble (sic), some 45 gallon tanks, from Manitoba to other points in Canada where such chemical could be destroyed?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my honourable friend for giving me notion of his intention to ask this question. The answer is as follows: On October 11th, the Environmental Control Branch was informed of the existence of PCBs in a J. Werier and Company warehouse. The company had purchased five 45-gallon drums of Pyrnoil from one of the railways as salvage. We have been unable to determine when the purchase was made, however, we are endeavouring to search this information out from the company records or from the railway.

Immediately upon notice, the Environmental Control Branch advised the company as to the proper method of storage and disposal of the material. They were supplied with the names of three companies that undertake the transportation and disposal of PCBs. Upon the advice of our personnel, the material was removed into isolated storage.

Since the original notice was received, branch people have been in contact on several occasions with the company, urging them to make arrangements with one of the companies we identified for them for safe removal of the PCBs. It appears that the company is somewhat reluctant to undertake the removal because of the cost involved. We understand that one disposal company has quoted a price of \$645.00 per drum. --(Interjection)--

I wonder if my honourable friend wants to hear the answer to the question or he wants to continue mumbling from his seat?

Today we learned that a piece of electrical equipment was moved into the same storage area this morning and in the move, liquid material leaked from the equipment. The company that last serviced the equipment was contacted, it was found that the material was oil, not PCBs.

The Fire Department has inspected the storage area, is aware of the material and the fire risk.

Mr. Sam Werier, president of the company, wrote to me asking for financial assistance in the removal of the drums. It is noted that no financial assistance was extended to Canada Packers by the province, nor to Hydro for removal of their materials. We will investigate this matter further, however, and if there are some mitigating circumstances, some consideration may be given to Mr. Werier's request.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, my further supplementary to the Minister. Can he advise the House as to when his ministry first became aware of the existence of the PCBs?

MR. JORGENSON: I think, Mr. Speaker, I indicated that in the initial part of my statement on October 11th, last year.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, leaving aside the question as to costs of insuring the immediate transportation of the PCBs out of Manitoba, can the Minister assure us that steps will be taken to ensure that the PCBs, in fact, are transported out of this province at the earliest possible occasion?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, that goes without saying. We are not interested in keeping PCBs here any longer than it is absolutely necessary. However, I want to suggest to my honourable friend that it was Mr. Werier that bought the PCBs and we feel that, unless as I said there are mitigating circumstances, that it is his responsibility to move them out.

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

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address the Honourable Minister of Consumer Affairs. On March 10th, he undertook to look into the FLIP flexible loan insurance plan and of how The Mortgage Brokers' Act protects people to ensure that they have full knowledge of the implications and ramifications of the plan. March 10th is when he undertook to look into it and advise us.

MR. JORGENSEN: My officials are going through the Act to determine whether or not the precautions and the safety is contained in the Act and as soon as I have that report, I will communicate to my honourable friend.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, just as a supplementary, may I ask that the Minister ensure that - has the Minister been advised that there is a stepped-up program, apparently, been announced even more recently which may or may not be of a similar nature, but still by the same organization that seems to be sponsoring the FLIP plan. I don't have the details on that. Could he also investigate that aspect to ensure that the department is kept up to date and is ready to act as quickly as possible.

MR. JORGENSEN: I think it would be helpful if my honourable friend could identify that particular program. However, I will try to endeavour to find out if my departmental officials do have information on it and do as he has requested.

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister. This is a new matter I'm raising with the Minister. In connection with the discussion we had recently, which was cut off by the termination of the question period a few days ago dealing with the finance company which had what is termed illegal loan contracts or contracts which are improperly set out and resulted in breaches having been found, can the Minister indicate what progress has been made in ensuring that interest adjustments to the borrowers affected by the breaches of this unnamed company have been carried out to date?

MR. JORGENSEN: My memory is not faulty, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the incident that was indicated by the Director of the Consumers' Branch was one that took place some time ago. I will find out whether or not full settlement has been made in that particular instance, as I believe it has.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister in that regard, and possibly it has been attended to already. Could he indicate whether, in view of the fact that there appears to have been only two or three audits a year out of a very large number of firms dealing with these contracts, and in view of the knowledge of the default and the impact on the consumer, has the department stepped up the number of audits that are being conducted amongst these firms?

MR. JORGENSEN: The practice, Mr. Speaker, has been to act upon complaints from people who are involved, and if there are a number of complaints directed towards the same company, then we carry on an audit. If they are isolated, then

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

they are just simply drawn to the attention of the company and almost invariably has been corrected so there has been no need for the audit. But as I indicated earlier if it goes beyond that, then evidence is submitted to the Attorney-General's Department and they make the decision as to whether prosecution is proceeded with.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I had a supplementary question entitlement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Johns with a fifth question.

MR. CHERNIACK: No, Mr. Speaker, with a second supplementary question and that, Mr. Speaker, is to get to the Minister for Consumer Affairs, to ask whether he is prepared to increase his program of public education to invite more investigation to ensure that their rights are being protected under The Consumer Protection Act.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, that's part of an ongoing program by the department and it was during that particular process that the matter became public by the newspapers when it was raised. In light of the controversy that arose, I hope that the director of the Consumers Branch is not going to be reluctant to carry on in the manner that he was prior to that time, because I feel that he carries on a useful function in drawing to the attention of the public, the manner in which they are being protected and I hope nothing interferes with his ability and his desire to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Labor. Given the Minister's statements of concern to the House this past week, can he explain why, as Minister of Labour, he did not ensure that the workers on the site of the vinyl chloride spill were wearing the proper protective clothing and proper protective breathing devices?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Member for Rupertsland has heard the answer before; the answer specifically being that I do not have jurisdiction on the particular work site. But I did say to this House repeatedly that we did have concern and we were in touch with every conceivable authority that could be associated with that particular incident, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Speaker, disappointing answers from this Minister are like the disappointing answers from the Minister of . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. The question is out of order. Would the honourable member care to rephrase his question?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Environment. I would ask the Minister if he has had his staff or any one from his department investigate any potential danger to the soil and ground water in the area of the vinyl chloride spill, and any subsequent danger to the residents of the area through any contamination of the soil or ground water?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, constant monitoring has been taking place at the site and I don't intend to repeat the results of that monitoring, they are well known. Our departmental officials are out there working in close co-operation with the federal authorities and the CNR in ensuring that the environment of the province is protected.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

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

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, in this same regard, can the Minister then assure this House that his department will be doing everything they can to ensure that the saturated soil and/or snow in the area of the vinyl chloride spill will be cleaned up before the spring melt? And I might remind the Minister that that spring melt is already occurring before his department's even taken action in this regard.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend's knowledge of the situation is now coming to the fore. If he is suggesting that in the process of transferring the chemical from the damaged cars to new cars on the track, that we should be digging around in the snow to see if we could find vinyl chloride, then he is mistaken, because our best advice is that the spill site should be left exactly as it is until the cars have been removed.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Information Services and it arises out of a statement made by that branch. My question is, is Dow Chemical continuing to refuse to co-operate with the government and thus continuing to make the government look like goddam idiots, which his department is quoted as saying.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please, order please. The question is out of order. The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I was quoting from an article which appeared in the press today, a statement attributed to a staff person for whom this Minister is responsible.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity of responding to that question and indeed perhaps the Minister of Environment can add to it, but simply to indicate through you, Mr. Speaker, and through the medium, to the people within the Community of MacGregor, that there will be an opportunity for information to be gained by all residents of that area at a community meeting at noon tomorrow. I believe the Honourable Minister will be present along with independent and company experts to explain fully and in detail the exact situation that the community of MacGregor now faces.

Mr. Speaker, I think it was prudent on the part of the officials of my department, Information Services, and/or others, not to give hasty and perhaps not accurate or misleading statements to anybody when that information as yet was not available.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the same Minister. Would the Minister confirm a statement made by provincial information officer, John Heath, when he said last night, "I am not getting any co-operation from Dow"?

MR. ENNS: Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that. I can confirm that a great deal of attention has been paid to getting the very best information available to be handed out and to be readily available by the residents at MacGregor and that has of course taken some time. In one instance, it meant the bringing to MacGregor a renowned expert from the University of Montreal.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education and ask him whether he would admit that he was in error last Tuesday, when he indicated that provincial funding would not help taxpayers in a division this year, if there was an increase in provincial funding, because it would come after the board had set its 1980 budget and "would have no particular effect on this year's mill rate". Would he admit that that statement is not, in fact, true at this point in time?

MR. SPEAKER: Order. Order please. May I read to the Honourable Member for Elmwood Citation 362 from Beausheue:

"Reading telegrams, letters or extracts from newspapers as an opening to an Oral Question is an abuse of the Rules of the House. It is not good parliamentary practice to communicate written allegations to the House and then to ask the Ministers either to confirm or deny them."

The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I then ask the Minister whether he now recognizes that given that there is a meeting set for the Cabinet and the Winnipeg School Division on Friday, the 21st, that the city's deadline for making adjustments to its budget are on March 24, and if anything is submitted at that time it can still be incorporated in the March 26 budget. Would he concur with that set of dates?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. KEITH A. COSENS (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the information the Member for Elmwood has just given us is correct. That the 24th is the deadline date in this regard.

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

MR. DOERN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe this is my first supplementary, since you ruled the first question out of order.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister whether he is now considering, or he has reconsidered ways and means of providing additional funding to the Winnipeg School Division, over and above the suggested \$1.5 million special grant, in an attempt to reduce an expected 17 percent tax rise in the city this year?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Speaker, I think I have answered this question previously but certainly we're quite prepared to meet with the board on the 21st to hear their concerns and then to give those concerns due consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I believe I have a question . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. There is no point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Elmwood. Recognition during question period is purely the prerogative of the Chair.

The Honourable Member for Transcona. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In regard to the leasing of grain cars, I would ask the Minister if he could advise if the province is leasing cars from the railway companies or from a leasing company, or both.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, the cars that have been leased to this point come from another company, not from the railroads.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ADAM: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could advise if the grain cars that the province is leasing, are cars that have been rehabilitated by the taxpayers of Canada.

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ADAM: My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister if he would table the leasing agreements in order that members could have access and peruse these agreements.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that the province is in current negotiations on some additional cars at this particular point, I don't know whether it would be possible to table the lease agreement.

I think in the best interests of the province, we would have to give consideration to that and assess it very carefully.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Attorney-General. In view of the fact that his department has been aware of this following case for at least five months, is the Minister in a position to report on the whereabouts and safety of four children, aged 3 to 10, who were kidnapped from a constituent of mine last October by her legally separated husband and have not been heard of since?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, as a result of the attention given that matter by my department, a warrant was issued for the husband in that particular case.

I will undertake, Mr. Speaker, to ascertain the success or lack of success with respect to that warrant and advise the member.

MR. PARASIUK: I'd ask the Minister as a supplementary, when he is looking into this matter, if he would check into the fact that the kidnapper apparently slipped through a supposed police trap of January 15, 1980, when the kidnapper picked up a repaired vehicle, and this was despite Attorney-General and police assurances to the mother of these children, that this person would be picked up and that this person has since been told that no action is being undertaken to look into the whereabouts, the safety of her four children, and this person's becoming increasingly distraught in the apparent absence of any concerted effort on the part of the system of justice in Canada, to deal with this problem of kidnapping.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Attorney-General a question as well.

In view of the allegations made by residents of the community of Vogar as to moneys that were solicited by the Institute of Cultural Affairs for projects that were supposed to be destined for the community but had not materialized, would you consider to have either your department or the RCMP Commercial Crime Section investigate those allegations?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any complaint to my department in respect of that matter and I'll therefore take the question as notice.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker. While he's taking it as notice, would he investigate as well what the actual donations were to this organization by private companies and members of the public. It's this organization's proposed budget and the disbursement of funds that were made supposedly to this charitable organization?

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The member is asking for some fairly detailed information. I wonder if it couldn't better be served by an Order for Return.
The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice, too.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister in charge of the Environment. I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not he can assure the House that there is no danger of vinyl chloride permeating the soil and reaching the ground water supply system in the MacGregor area, or whether there is any danger of it leaching out into the rivers and streams of the area.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. That question was already asked today.
The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I have no objections to reassuring my honourable friend that upon the best advice that I've been able to get, there is no such danger.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister responsible for the Environment. Can the Minister confirm that statements made by him to the effect that there were no immediate health or environmental hazards may very well have encouraged some of the workers to work in the area without the appropriate protective garments and other materials?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, I believe that question was also asked previously today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. JORGENSEN: The statement that I made - and I just looked it up - I said that there was no danger to the environment beyond 100 feet from the spill. My concern was for the environment outside the immediate area. The responsibility for matters at the site of the spill falls under federal environment authorities and the Canadian National Railways.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary to the Minister responsible for the Environment, can the Minister confirm that statements have been made by Dow Chemical spokesmen to the effect that the vinyl chloride may, in fact, dissipate into the atmosphere by the time the derailment is cleared?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I would be something more than a mortal human being if I was to be able to prognosticate how long it will take for the weather to dissipate that snow or, indeed, how long it would take to transfer the chemical from the damaged cars to the new cars. I have no knowledge of how long that would take, and I have no knowledge of when the snow will melt.

MR. PAWLEY: A further supplementary to the Minister. Is the Minister attempting to ascertain, then, ways and means that action can be undertaken now to ensure that the vinyl chloride is not evaporated into the atmosphere, prior to the fact that the derailed cars are removed?

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I will again repeat that the best advice that I've been able to receive from several sources is that the safest way to ensure that no accident occurs is to leave the snow alone until the cars are loaded and moved out of the area.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Question Period is past the allotted time.

Before we proceed with Orders of the Day, I took a matter under advisement and I have copies for various members here.

Prior to the adjournment of the House last evening and after the completion of the discussion of a matter of urgent public importance, the Speaker called Orders of the Day in accordance with Rule 27(4) of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The Honourable Member for St. Vital rose on a point of order to point out that the Business of the House was set aside for a matter of urgent public importance before the question period and, consequently, the House should not proceed with Orders of the Day until the Question Period has been utilized by the House.

After listening to the various points of order raised by several members of the Legislature, the Speaker took the matter under advisement to allow time for consultation with Legislative Counsel on the point of order raised by the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

At the same time, the Speaker asked for the consent of the House to proceed with Orders of the Day with the provision that such action could not be considered to establish a precedent, ending an official ruling from the Chair. Such consent was not forthcoming; consequently, the House adjourned.

After consultation with Legislative Counsel, I should like to refer members to Rule 19 of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly. Rule 19 is divided into two parts:

Rule 19(1) deals with the ordinary daily routine of business in the House which is fixed and cannot be changed from day to day except with the unanimous consent of the House, or by consent of the House in adoption of a reported change from the Rules Committee of the Assembly, or by the use of Rule 27(1). This fixed portion of the business of the House appears on the daily agenda for business under the heading of "Routine Business" on the Order Paper.

Rule 19(2) deals with the flexible portion of the business of the House, which changes from day to day and covers all matter relating to government business and private members' business. This appears on the daily agenda for business under the heading of "Orders of the Day" on the Order Paper.

Under Rule 27(1) of Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding, a member may move to set aside the ordinary business of the House. However, he cannot move to set aside the Orders of the Day. He must make his motion before Orders of the Day have been called. What portion of that ordinary business he chooses to set aside is a matter of his own choosing, subject of course to his recognition by the Speaker. Once a matter of urgent public importance has been discussed, Rule 27(4) dictates the course of action to be followed by the House.

The Speaker of the House is not the author of the Rules of the House, nor should he be. The House itself, through either unanimous consent or through the Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding, dictate the manner in which the business of the House is to be conducted. Any changes to the rules are usually recommended to the House by the Rules Committee of the House.

I hope that points out to honourable members the advice that I received from Legislative Counsel.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. DONALD MALINOWSKI: Yes, Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day, I wish to ask permission of the House to make a non-political statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the honourable member permission? (Agreed)
The Honourable Member for Point Douglas.

MR. MALINOWSKI: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, early Friday morning on March 14th a Polish Airline, LOT, flying from New York, crashed while approaching Warsaw Airport, killing 77 passengers and 10 crew members aboard. I am informed that among those killed in the crash were

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

several members of the diplomatic corps and 22 members of an American amateur boxing team.

I wish to take this opportunity to express condolences to the executives of the Polish Airlines but, above all, I wish to express my condolences to all those families affected by this tragedy, and I hope that this House will join me in doing so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable member has brought into this Chamber a rather personal matter. Is it the wish of the House to proceed with his request or . . . I'm at the mercy of the Chamber.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of the Opposition, we wish to endorse the honourable member's request.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that agreed? (Agreed)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Government Services, 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 Labour and Manpower; and the Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Highways and Transportation.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Morris McGregor (Virden): I call the committee to order. We are on 1.(c)(1). The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, just on a point of order. I believe that I was asking some questions of the Minister when the clock ran out at that last meeting. I wonder if I might continue with those questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wasn't chairing that last meeting, if the Member for Ste. Rose will forgive me?

MR. ADAM: We'll let him finish his line of questioning, I'll talk after he's finished I've got to be polite today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was asking the Minister some questions under Computer Services and although Hansard is not available for that time, I do recall that the Minister told me that the total expenditures of his department on Computer Services, other than the Motor Vehicle Branch, was some \$709,400, of which the 397 is the amount that comes under (c). Can he confirm that my recollection is correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, \$709,400 is the computer budget for the Highways Branch, of which 397,700 is identified in (c) (1) and (2).

MR. WALDING: I believe I asked the Minister the last time this was before us if he could give me an indication of what the comparable amounts were for last year?

MR. ORCHARD: Last year's budget on Computer Services, Highways Branch, \$589,600.00.

MR. WALDING: I assume, then, that that is the comparable amount to the 709,000 for this year, indicating then an increase of about \$100,000 in Computer Services?

MR. ORCHARD: That's correct.

MR. WALDING: I believe the Minister did indicate that there is one extra staff man year for this department in this section for this year. I would like to ask the Minister if he could give us an explanation of the need for one extra person and the need to spend an additional \$100,000.00? Can he explain to us what problems were developing in the department that needs this extra expenditure?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the department is undertaking setting up a new inventory control program for the warehouse stores system since we are integrated now with the Transportation Division of Northern Affairs, plus our own. That new inventory program is under design and the one extra SMY, plus approximately \$100,000 of additional budget is to set up the new computer inventory system to accommodate the system that we hope to have in place.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, can I ask the Minister if all of the computer time involved in these expenditures will be with the Manitoba Data Services or are there other sources of computer time?

MR. ORCHARD: It will be all with MDS, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just one more question. In his original answer to me, the Minister mentioned that computer expenditures were connected with Motor Vehicle Branch and MPIC. He later corrected that as far as the Motor Vehicle Branch was concerned and said that they had their own expenditures for computer facilities. Can he explain the reference there to MPIC and the Department of Highways?

MR. ORCHARD: Well, the reference to MPIC that I made on Friday was indicating that Motor Vehicle Branch, by the registration of vehicles, etc., performs a service for MPIC. And those joint functions that have existed ever since the inception of Autopac are carried under a entirely within the Motor Vehicle Branch appropriation and are not part and parcel of the figures that we have just discussed.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to break the rules of the committee by discussing something that we haven't reached yet, but if the Minister can confirm then that computer-related services related to MPIC are not a part of either (c), which we are on now, or any other part of the Highways Estimates other than Motor Vehicle Branch.

MR. ORCHARD: Yes.

MR. WALDING: No further questions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ADAM: Yes, I'm not sure whether the Member for St. Vital asked the question as to whether the expenditures for computers was done to a government agency; is it to the Manitoba Telephone System?

MR. ORCHARD: No.

MR. ADAM: Well, who is this money paid to?

MR. ORCHARD: Manitoba Data Services.

MR. ADAM: Is that owned by the public or is it a private firm?

MR. ORCHARD: That's Manitoba Data Services.

MR. ADAM: That's ours?

MR. ORCHARD: Yes.

MR. ADAM: And has all this money been expended that was appropriated last year; has it all been spent or is there a carryover? What happens to any moneys that are not spent? Has it all been spent last year?

MR. ORCHARD: Well, any moneys that aren't expended are lapsed automatically.

MR. ADAM: Was all the money spent last year that was appropriated for Data Services or did any amount lapse last year?

MR. ORCHARD: There was a certain amount that lapsed last year, yes.

MR. ADAM: So this would end up in general revenue?

MR. ORCHARD: That's my understanding, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADAM: Well, what amounts were not expended?

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, we won't know the exact figure until March 31 at year end, but there will be a certain amount. At this stage of the game, it appears will not be spent in our last year's appropriation.

MR. ADAM: Well, I am just wondering how can we find out then . . . Will we have to wait till next year to find out how much money has not been spent throughout these Estimates that has gone into general revenues? This is the problem that I have right now because we would like to know what portions of the appropriations for last year have not been spent on whatever projects there are and for whatever they were appropriated for, if we could be provided with a list of every department and how much has not been spent so we would know how much has lapsed.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, at this stage of the game, when we are almost at the year-end, we have estimates as to what our expenditure for a given appropriation is going to be. However, the final numbers, even at March 31, are not exact numbers. They have to be confirmed, of course, in the normal process of the audit. And the exact expenditures are available at the time of the Annual Report, and that's been a normal ongoing situation probably even since we have undertaking budgeting within the department.

MR. ADAM: Well, since the budgetary practices, the ways of keeping the budget have been changed and we have a quarterly report which changes from time to time, from quarter to quarter, there should be some approximate estimate of what amounts are going to be lapsed. Otherwise, how can the government come out with a quarterly report if they don't have these figures from each department? This is my problem, we'd like to know...

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, to date, in the quarterly estimate of expenditures within the department, we are projecting that without any unforeseens, such as the latter part of March involving three feet of snow, we are projecting that we are going to be about on target for the department as a whole and will expend the budgeted dollars that were given to us. When it comes to specifics by individual departments, of course those figures are guesstimates until even March 31st and aren't verified until the final statement of the year-end audit comes from the auditor.

MR. ADAM: Is the Minister saying then that it will not be possible to get any figures at all on what we're dealing with here. We're dealing with these Estimates now; we're not dealing with them, you know, after the 31st. The Minister is asking us to approve monies for the program for 1980-81 and it would be, I believe, only just that we receive some kind of an answer to those questions because they are important to us. This is our responsibility; our job is to look at the Minister's Estimates and try and analyze exactly what's happened and I hope the Minister can provide us with some kind of...

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, as the Member for Ste. Rose has indicated, this is when we study the Estimates of the fiscal year 1980-81 and I can assure the Member for Ste. Rose has indicated, this is when we study the Estimates of the fiscal year 1980-81, and I can assure the Member for Ste. Rose that it will be the department's utmost undertaking to assure that that \$149,160,200 is expended in the year 1980-81.

We project by the last quarter that we have prepared the internal financial statements that we will indeed expend the total budget or very very close to it. I think the Member for Ste. Rose can appreciate that you're not going to be right on to the last dollar and cent, but we are going to be, by all projections and barring, as I have mentioned earlier, some rather unforeseen weather circumstances that may throw our maintenance budget for the month of March helter-skelter, we will be by and large on target for last year's spending Estimates. And I think that should adequately allay any fears that we voted ourselves too much money last year. I think, quite the contrary, the department has been undertaking to assure that, for instance, on the capital construction budget that we are very close to target.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I'll probably be raising these questions again unless some of my colleagues want to raise it now that have different questions to ask in this regard. I will be raising it again as we go through the Estimates.

But the former Minister of Highways, I believe, said a couple of years ago, or last year even when we were questioning him on this budgeting, the new system of keeping books, that in order to do \$75 million worth of projects, they had to program for about \$125 million.

I'm just speaking off the top of my head, but I mean figures are figures and I'm just using those figures. But I think that's about the way the Minister was explaining it to us, that in order to . . .

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I might interject at this point, that refers only to the construction budget where there is that multiple of the voted amount. Within departmental Estimates there is no such multiple involved. That is only in the construction budget, which is very complex in that you cannot always expend exactly every dollar you approve in a given year. That only applies to Appropriation 15(6), Mr. Chairman, so that particular reference by the former Minister does not apply to the appropriations that we're dealing with right now.

MR. ADAM: On a point of information, would it also apply to 83 on maintenance, the same formula?

MR. ORCHARD: No, Mr. Chairman. The maintenance budget lapses and shows it as exact dollars.

MR. ADAM: So is the other one.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, there is no 1.6 multiple on the maintenance budget. We have to expend as close to the voted maintenance budget as is possible. We do not have the benefit of a multiple as we do in the construction budget, the capital construction budget.

MR. ADAM: Well, we have, I believe, on record the former Minister's comments that any unexpended allocations of moneys for construction would lapse at the end of the year as well? That is the same thing.

MR. ORCHARD: Certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just along this line. Can the Minister indicate whether in terms of their last year's overall budget, and I presume as he has indicated that the maintenance budget they have to go, in terms of expenditures, follow as closely as possible what is voted and there is no carryover? Are there any funds in last year's construction budget which have not been used, of what was voted last year?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, no. We expect to be very very close to our voted capital budget on construction for last year; very very close.

MR. URUSKI: Has the accounting system that the Department of Highways uses changed substantially from what it was in terms of accounting for the construction budget and the budget changed in the last several years; the way they do their books?

MR. ORCHARD: Do you mean in terms of lapsing of . . . well, of course, there wasn't a lapsing of capital, but you mean in terms of meeting a target, a voted target for capital?

MR. ADAM: Yes.

MR. ORCHARD: By and large, no. The only difference now, as I understand it, would be that if we don't achieve our capital budget as voted, say we had \$70 million voted last year and we only come up with \$65 million at March 31, then we would lose \$5 million of our capital budget for that particular year and it's not carried over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)(1)--pass; 1.(c)(2)--pass; (c)--pass. Resolution 81, 2.(a). The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: I wonder if the Minister could give us an overview of what is happening in Management and Engineering, if he has anything new to report to us on any new things that have happened during the year. And in particular I would like to know if the Minister could advise us of a study on transportation that was, I believe, requested of the University of Manitoba on transportation in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, I don't know what study in particular the Member for Ste. Rose is referring to but in terms of the operation of Management Services and Engineering, there are no changes in their basic operating mandate from last year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADAM: Well, it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, in Traffic, for one of the components of this department that we're going to go into, there have been changes made in regard to reciprocity between the provinces.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I wonder if I could just draw the attention of the committee to Traffic does come later in the same item under 2.(e) at the bottom of the same page, and stay within 2.(a)(1).

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ADAM: I realize that but I thought we could get an overview of comments from the Minister on the heading, on the Operations and Contracts which covers a lot.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, this is where our contract engineer is paid from, the one who eventually lets all contracts for our capital construction. Our director of Operations is in this appropriation, construction engineer, and our maintenance engineer and their various support staff and including the typing pool that's available to these people.

MR. ADAM: Could the Minister advise, under the first paragraph there, whether or not there is any work being done on maintenance or anything that comes under here, are any of those contracts done without tender? Is all this work tendered or is some of it done. . .?

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, whatever work is done out of House is tendered but we do have in-House work; that is, district office crews and construction crews do on behalf of the government using government equipment and government personnel. And those of course aren't contract, I don't think, because it's in-House work.

MR. ADAM: But then, I understand that anything apart from that, any outside work is all tendered. There is no work whatsoever done by private contract.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, certainly there is a lot of work done by private contractor, but it's always by public tender that any other contracts are awarded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister where in his budget, whether it's in this area or is it in Planning Design. Would the staff that assists in the overall planning mechanism of the province's land use planning input and as well, where does the staff that deals with input on giving out cost estimates and policy advice to the government with respect to impacts that, what shall we say, abandonments of railways will have on the roads and that kind of information? Where would we discuss that kind of an item under? Is that under Planning and Design or is that under Operations and Contracts?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, to the Member for St. George, those functions are located under Resolution 82, Planning and Design. That's where we have those personnel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I would firstly like to ask one question. Does the printing of a map come under this appropriation?

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Very well then. I have two suggestions to make with respect to the map. No. 1, I note that there is an index of towns and cities and villages and one of Indian reserves. Of the cities and towns, they are listed in alphabetical order which are quite simple to locate. The Indian reserves for some reason, are listed in numerical order. Now the Minister might say that that's been the practice of long-time standing. Well, be that as it may, I would suggest that the Indian Reserves also be shown in alphabetical order, in the same manner as the cities and towns, because I think the Reserves are better known by name than by number, even by the residents of them. If I want to find Brochet on the map, I've got to look down the entire column because it happens to be number 197, third from the end, whereas if it were in alphabetical order, it would appear in its proper place. That is suggestion number one.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

Suggestion number two: The highway map now is done metric, that's fine, and I would suggest to the Minister - and I would suspect this also comes under Management Services - that in preparing his highway construction program, that it be done in metric too and then it would be easier for me, Mr. Chairman, you know, looking at the construction program and looking at the map and getting a more accurate overview of the distribution of road construction in the province, you know, to find out - rather than have to convert every mile into kilometres as one would have to do if one would want to see whether there is a distribution of construction projects in all ridings or whether, as the map seems to indicate, you know, three ridings have received very little: namely St. George, Lac du Bonnet and Ste. Rose.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I think that the Member for Burrows has an excellent suggestion, in terms of presenting the Indian Reserves in alphabetical order rather than numerical order, and I will give him this assurance that I will liaison with the Federal Department of Indian Affairs to see if there is any particular reason why we should not be able to make that undertaking in next year's map. I have no idea of what sort of terms and conditions and parameters they might have on the listing of Indian Reserves in any jurisdiction; however, if there is no problem I can see no problem in alphabetically listing the Indian Reserves.

In terms of the gross oversight in having mileage on the construction program, I have to admit that it's probably my former tendency showing through where I still identify road construction by the mile, by the quarter section and the section, and my apologies for the terrible amount of confusion it has caused the Member for Burrows.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I have a further suggestion to make. I don't know if the map does show, but when I am checking over the map to try and find where a particular road is on the map, a number for a road, I find it pretty difficult because there is quite a network of roads in southern Manitoba, and I'm wondering if we could not have a list of the highways, designating in the same way as we do the towns. So where do we find Highway 204, or wherever it is, and it could be shown as one, wherever it is.

There are numbers on the side of the map and there are the A, B, C, at the bottom, so that we can locate where a road is. Sometimes you have to look for 10 or 15 minutes to find where a particular road number is, and I'm just wondering if that wouldn't be of some assistance. So I put that suggestion forward to the Minister for his consideration and maybe he can look at this for another year.

But before I leave that question, I would like to ask - there's an increase, I believe, of two SMYs in this department and an increase of \$300,000, approximately \$300,000.00. Could the Minister explain where these two SMYs are going and the requirements or the need for an extra two SMYs?

MR. ORCHARD: There is no increase in SMYs in this department, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADAM: I apologize; I believe it's on the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the Minister to indicate whether or not there has been any change in procedure in terms of letting the contracts on highways projects, whether there's been any change in the method of makeup of the contracts as in the past.

MR. ORCHARD: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the contracts that are being let, in terms of quantities of materials used, are they using the conventional method or are they using the metric method now, in terms of the contracts?

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ORCHARD: The highway, the road portion of the contracts are still let.

MR. URUSKI: The building?

MR. ORCHARD: Pardon?

MR. URUSKI: The building, the base building?

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, the road contracts, the quantities of base, etc., etc., are still let on the old system, cubic yards or tons. The Bridge Division is in the process of switching, and we have contracts which are capable of being let either way, either with the metric or with the old system. The Deputy points out that the concrete industry, the cement industry, is in tonnes, so that's the exception to anything I've said in terms of

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know under what section we would discuss the situation where the department has to intercede where there is a contract in place and the aggregates are not adequate or don't meet the specs and there are other solutions that have to be introduced to resolve such a problem. Perhaps I could be specific; that might help the Deputy Minister, Mr. Chairman.

My understanding is that on Highway 317, east of Number 12 Highway, that the stockpile of aggregates that was established by the contractor did not meet the specs and that as a result, the department was in the position of having to spend additional sums of money on that particular project. I'm wondering whether that is a correct assumption or not, Mr. Chairman and, if it is, in what area was the Highways Department responsible for extra expenditure? That perhaps might be too dated for the Deputy to respond today, but perhaps he could take it as notice.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Lac du Bonnet, the analysis of quality of aggregate to make sure that it meets with our department's specs falls under the jurisdiction of (b) Laboratory and Materials, and it would be them who would determine whether material stockpiled was up to our specification.

MR. USKIW: All right, I'll raise it then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a) - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: I have a further question to ask the Minister while we're on contracts - I believe we can bring it up on this particular item and that is in regards to the rates for gravel hauling, I don't believe they have been changed for a number of years and I am receiving some complaints from truckers that the rates have not increased for a number of years and maybe, it's time to. In view of the fact that costs of equipment is increasing and cost of fuel is going up and insurance is going up, could the Minister tell us if there is anything happening there?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, this branch of the department reviews the rates paid every year and we are reviewing them presently and may well, in view of some of the factors that the Member for Ste. Rose has brought to their attention, be increasing the rates this year.

MR. ADAM: Yes, could the Minister indicate just when the last rate increase took place?

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was two years ago.

MR. ADAM: So the Minister, then, is assuring us that very likely, very shortly perhaps, that the people who are in the business of trucking for the Highways Department or contractors who have tendered for jobs - they would be sub-contractors, guys working for the contractors; those are the ones that are tied to

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

the rates, eh, working for a contractor; these guys are subcontractors - the Minister can assure us, then, that there will be some consideration given to these people.

MR. ORCHARD: Oh, yes, Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, these rates are under review at the present time.

MR. ADAM: Could the Minister give us an indication when this review will be completed and when the people can expect . . . Will it be in time, Mr. Chairman, for the summer run for the summer?

MR. ORCHARD: Yes.

MR. ADAM: Thank you, very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rossmere.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see in this item that we're dealing with some research; I'm just wondering whether the Minister could tell us what type of research is involved and the kind of money being spent on that research.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's difficult to give the Member for Rossmere a specific dollar value that's being spent on research because, for instance, we have on a regular basis personnel from, as an example, Laboratory and Materials, Bridges, Traffic. Those three, in particular, we on a periodic basis send members of staff within those divisions to various conferences and information seminars so that they can gain further information into some of the new techniques that are developing throughout all jurisdictions in highway construction and bridge design. And we have personnel who are working on, from time to time, a specific research project into the better use of aggregates, for instance. But, in terms of having one man spending one full year researching a specific subject, that's not easily identifiable. It's in the mix of duties that we have given the various people within the staff of these divisions.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you. So the person who is providing management services with respect to Bridge Design, Engineering, Traffic, or Maintenance is doing, in addition to those functions, he's doing some research to keep up to date with the latest technology. That's the purpose for the use of the word "research".

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, he may well be and then, as well, he may have, for instance, someone, a person employed below him in the department, take on for a two-week period a given research project; like say a new method has been proposed by another jurisdiction and he will give it to one of his staff members to see whether that has an application within our department and with our construction or maintenance program.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I would like to just revert back to a question I asked the Minister before in regards to tendering, whether all work was tendered out. Would this include the winter road program, as well? I'm referring specifically to the winter road program, for instance, Me-Ke-Si Company and Oxford House Indian Band and so on, Gilbert North Air Strip.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Me-Ke-Si contract on winter roads is not contracted out. That has been a contract that was negotiated some three years ago, and we do not have an option to provide that to date to anyone else. That one is a negotiated contract.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. ADAM: So then it is not correct, the statement that we received before, that some of the roadwork is done by private treaty; there are some exceptions to that rule. Would the work done by Oxford House Indian Band from Oxford House to Cross Lake, would that be a similar arrangement?

MR. ORCHARD: In the case of those series of contracts, other than Me-Ke-Si, we invite tenders from the communities involved and we do choose the lowest tender amongst the communities.

MR. ADAM: Yes, then, if I understand the Minister correctly, say, the Oxford House, the Indian Band contract \$69,000 for 42 miles, that would be the lowest tender received, is that correct or whatever? And Gilbert North, for 23 miles; I'm not using kilometers either, Mr. Chairman, I'm using miles because that's how it showed in your report. That's how it showed in your news bulletin, so I just copied it down. Would that be a private treaty or is that also a . . . ?

MR. ORCHARD: Well, the Gilbert North . . . We've got a somewhat unique situation with winter roads in that we make every attempt to employ the native communities and sometimes I think it's fair to say we use a little bit of poetic licence on our contract tendering, in that we will negotiate with the bands to assure that their tender is the one that is chosen by the department so that the communities themselves get the employment.

It's not like the situation where we have a road construction contract where basically it's thrown out to the wolves in the free market bidding. There is a certain latitude given so that we can assure the native communities get the work.

MR. ADAM: Yes. Well, this opens up the question as to how many bids were there on the Oxford House. . . ?

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, we're getting into some specifics which I think the information can be provided when we get to our Winter Road appropriation. I don't have the specifics on each tender, if that's what the member wants, and I can certainly get that for him, come 8.(b), where we deal with Winter Roads.

MR. ADAM: Yes. I'm more concerned about the policy now than what specific tenders or contracts or bids, whatever there were. What I'm more interested in is if you receive two bids and one is higher than the other and you go back to the other fellow and say, "Well, now, look, you're too high, you should come down", I'm just sort of wondering whether that kind of a thing exists or not.

MR. ORCHARD: No. What will often happen, if two communities for instance, from point "A" to point "B" with a community on each end, bids on the contract we will often split the contract down the middle and give some to each community, not all to one. That's causes some problems but in the long run we feel it's better to provide a piece of the pie to both communities rather than have one community take it.

MR. ADAM: Yes. Well, Gilbert North, is that an Indian Band or is that just a private individual?

MR. ORCHARD: I don't know. I don't know, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADAM: Well, I'll wait till your administration or your assistants. . . And while I'm waiting, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could. . . Also there is the Berens River Band contract for 41,600 miles, south of Berens River.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, if we want to move to Appropriation 8.(c), we can get into the details of each and every winter road in the province. But I suggest he's asking policy questions but then he gets into the specifics of each road which are more appropriately, Mr. Chairman, dealt with when I have my appropriate staff who handle the road program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are on 2.(a)(1). The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to know from the Minister whether or not, what amount of research dollars are being applied to areas of Safety Research. I believe I've raised this before. Is there a program within the department that is solely preoccupied, you might say, with the question of design, whether it's bridges or abutments or the signs, or whatever it is, that would make the highway system safer. And I don't say safer, Mr. Chairman, from the point of view of everything being normal, I say safer from the point of view of some abnormality taking place in the course of the car that one is driving, in the course of weather conditions that occur from time to time, and so on.

You know, it all has to do with, for example, if you're building roads it has to do with slope, whether or not there is sufficient slope to pretty well assure that you wouldn't have a roll-over situation under certain conditions.

I recall, not too long ago, Mr. Chairman, a trial by error situation where there were a number of tragic events that took place before the Highways Department changed their policy, it had to do with the solid concrete abutments in the middle of a highway where people have crashed right into them and have killed themselves, and so on.

Surely there must be some research capacity that deals with the question of design and all of these things that would minimize traffic accidents and death.

The other area that comes into mind is not necessarily a Safety Research Program in that connection, and that is whether it isn't time for the Highways Department to look at the question of illumination at major intersections in order to reduce the number of accidents.

I know that the Highways Department will say that it isn't the policy of the government to light up the intersections, other than overpasses and four leaf clovers, and so on. But it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that that's a logical area of extension from the safety angle for the Highways Department to consider. There are many accidents that occur because of the lack of proper visibility at key intersections, people overshooting the intersection or turning in the wrong place, and so on. Surely we can spend a few million dollars out of the Highways Department budget in the area of better illumination in these key areas, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lac du Bonnet brings up quite a number of points and I think, by and large, the department, as I indicated to the Member for Rossmere, that by and large the department does address itself to the issues that the Member for Lac du Bonnet raises. Although I cannot identify within the department; (a) an employee who is specifically year round spending his time on Safety Research, but as a for instance, in terms of testing new products which will enhance the safety of our highways. Last summer, I believe, or was it two summers ago that we incorporated an ice-melting compound in an overpass at the Headingley cloverleaf in an attempt to test new safety features that can make overpasses, which become particularly slippery in cold weather or before other stretches of the highway.

Every time we undertake the upgrading of a PTH or a Provincial Road, Mr. Chairman, we undertake a survey and design and part of the criterion of undertaking that survey and design is where possible, where feasible and where economical, to remove any potential danger spots in the grade. For instance, a sharp embankment, a poorly aligned bridge, a blind corner, an angled intersection, etc., etc. Our alignments are always part and parcel of any upgrading that we undertake on Provincial Roads or PTHs.

In terms of the overall general picture of safety we have staff whose membership is very active on such things as the Canadian Conference for Motor Transport Administrators and in a number of other cross-Canada and International Safety organizations, which meet on a regular basis to discuss the very newest of such things as pavement designs, the crash barriers in front of overpass concrete supports, some of the things that the Member for Lac du Bonnet has mentioned.

I think, by and large, as I mentioned on Friday, I think the department is, in terms of relative success, you can never have 100 percent successful Highways Department in terms of safety because you cannot one hundred percent eliminate human error from the traffic fatality statistics or injury statistics. But by and large, I think, in comparison with other jurisdictions, I think the province can consider themselves quite proud of the job the department has done over the past

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

number of years of incorporating as much of the current safety technology, let's call it, into our road system of the province.

And I think by and large, Mr. Chairman, although, and I fully appreciate the Member for Lac du Bonnet's concern in terms of safety, that's a concern that each and every one of us has. I think by and large, in a very positive way, the department undertakes very very good and successful efforts in making our highways safe.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the Minister is receptive to the idea. He is, however, unable to identify any particular thrust or any particular section of his department that has the responsibility of dovetailing with the engineering people and the construction people to make certain that these kinds of criteria are followed. And I am certain the Highways Department is doing everything that it knows that it can do in that regard.

But I am certain, Mr. Chairman, that there are jurisdictions in North America where considerable amounts of moneys are spent in researching this very area and that perhaps a lot of this information is available without having to spend a great deal of money. It's a matter of looking perhaps south of the border to see what they are doing and maybe the department is doing it. I would be pleased to know that they are. But it seems to me that a small branch or component in the department that is totally preoccupied with that question would serve that issue better than sort of having everyone generally aware that there is a need in the area and that they should be cognizant of it. I think a specific thrust of a section of that department would be the solution to making sure that we do everything possible, that in the construction and the maintenance of our highway system that we reduce the number of deaths, the number of accidents through the predetermined actions of the department, in the construction period and so on.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, if I interpret the Member for Lac du Bonnet's suggestions correctly, he is suggesting that we set up a separate safety research branch per se, and that is a suggestion that will be looked at and no doubt has been looked at in the past by the department. But I think in bringing out his request, I hope the Member for Lac du Bonnet hasn't failed to recognize that in fact the province has a very good safety record and I think our staff, by and large, keep very much abreast of, as I mentioned before, international as well as cross-country safety developments. I see on a regular basis across my desk, as a matter of information, a number of safety bulletins and journals that come up from the United States, various United States jurisdictions, in highway safety.

Mr. Chairman, I would suppose we could make a comparison here to Manitoba Telephone System and for instance, Bell Telephone, where Manitoba Telephone System operates minimal research into research and development whereas Bell Telephone does, by and large, the major innovative research into telephone and communications technology. Likewise, I think our department, not unlike most other highways departments of its size, relies on the research and development done by other better financed and more mature development and research people into safety. And our department avails themselves very very well of new developments, I could safely say in all jurisdictions in North America, of recent highway safety innovation.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I could think of a whole host of things that would add positively to that question and I'd throw this out as a suggestion to the department and I know that in doing that that they are not the ultimate department that is responsible here.

But it seems to me that from time to time we read about high speed chases on the part of the police trying to apprehend a person that was speeding or whatever. And that I don't know whether it isn't worthwhile considering, Mr. Chairman, that the Department of Highways and Transportation and the Attorney-General's Department take a look at that one from the point of view of determining whether it is worth the \$50 fine that you are going to get out of a person that you catch speeding, as opposed to the hazards that you have exposed a whole number of people to during the chase. Not only the party in question but others, either travelling in the same direction or in the opposite direction.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

And you know, I just know of a situation not too long ago where the police car was totally demolished in a chase. I don't think that a \$50 ticket is worth it, Mr. Chairman. And maybe there has to be some new thoughts given to the mechanics of apprehending people on the highway in such a way that it doesn't endanger other people.

It's all right to say that the guy has broken the laws of the land, the speed limits, or has gone through a red light and we've got to arrest or do something but I don't think it's at the price of endangering someone else. That's why I think a good safety operation within this department could highlight, not only in the area of construction, engineering, design, etc., but in the area of management of the highway system. And I would hope that the Department of Highways would want to play a role in that as a department concerned with the overall safety of our motorists, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Government Services.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to take this opportunity to put on the record, on the subject matter that the Member for Lac du Bonnet raises re safety on our highways, the continuing difficulty and problem that the department faces and one that very often earns less than the compliments of the general public, but very important to this question and that is access onto highways.

All of us from time to time have burdened a Minister of Highways, as we will continue to burden this Minister of Highways, pleading for special cases or causes to have accesses built onto highway and these very often not in the best interests of the motoring public and very often contributing to, over the years, a hazardous situation.

Perhaps the most notable one, of course, and I am pleased to see in these Estimates that the department is doing it, is that stretch of road on Canada West from the Perimeter to Headingley. That situation developed because of the problems of restricting access over the years. It didn't happen in a year; it didn't happen in five years; it happened in over 20 to 30 years, as the traffic volume grew.

All too often, the department, in redesigning and building a first-rate safe facility is then put under the pressures over the years. A commercial development, a motel, is built somewhere which really should not be accessing onto a high-speed modern highway facility at that point, but it's this kind of pressure that the Department has to withstand. But they do so, and as I say, often earn themselves less than complimentary remarks, being accused of holding up development or not being sufficiently understanding of the individual farmer's needs, or the property owners' needs. But this undoubtedly contributes, perhaps in the most major way, to the problem that the department faces in maintaining a high level of safety factor built into the roads. Mr. Chairman, I only want to put that on the record. I would hope that the Minister and his department continue to monitor this situation, and indeed, in this instance, the alternative is sometimes at some public expense, private developers' or owners' expense when accesses are denied and service road facilities, for instance to a safe meeting crossing, have to be considered in this situation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour of 4:30 having arrived, I am leaving the Chair for the Private Members' Hour, and will return at 8:00 o'clock. Committee rise.

SUPPLY - LABOUR AND MANPOWER

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members to Page 70 of the Main Estimates, Department of Labour and Manpower, Resolution No. 91, Clause 3, Manpower Division, Item (2) Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement, (a) Salaries--pass - the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to take the time of the House, but the other day the Attorney-General rose on a matter of urgent public importance

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

and argued that we could debate the MacGregor situation on this item, and I would just want you to rule whether we can or cannot.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The MacGregor situation?

MR. USKIW: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, to the honourable member, it just doesn't seem reasonable at this point. No matter how I look at it, - you know, even the letter "M" doesn't seem to be consistent in . . . so I would rule that it would be out of order.

MR. USKIW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--pass; (b)--pass; (c)--pass - the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could inform us as to how this program went last year; whether he accepted the advice from members of this side during last year's Estimates in terms of improvements to this program; whether he could give us some detail as to the number of youths who were employed; and if in fact there were any federal programs in existence last year in this category and if so, how they divided the responsibility between federal and provincial youth employment programs.

MR. MacMASTER: We think this year that we will be able, we don't think, we will be in fact expanding the program this year from 280 jobs to 310 and the program money is increased over last year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister didn't hear my question. I asked if the Minister could give us some report in terms of the success of the program over the last summer.

MR. MacMASTER: I could forward a review of the program at a later date. As I've outlined before, we are reviewing all the programs and I can forward them across for those that are of interest and pretty logically and geographically, the member is certainly interested in this one and I'll assure him that upon completion of the review of the entire program, I will forward it personally to him.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairperson, I wonder if the Minister, though, could still give us some preliminary uncompleted review at this time in terms of how the program went over the last year. And while I'm on my feet, Mr. Chairperson, I would ask the Minister, since we are dealing with Northlands funding under this section, if he has consulted with his colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs, as he committed himself to do before, to see if the annual review of the Northlands is available to the House at this time?

MR. MacMASTER: I've been assured that the Minister of Northern Affairs will be discussing Northlands as he comes into it and he'll be talking about, hopefully, and I don't want to put words in his mouth, but he certainly in general, if not specific terms, will be outlining to the members opposite what he hopes to negotiate in upcoming years in that type of program.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if the Minister's memory is failing him but when we previously met I asked him if in fact he would check with the Minister of Northern Affairs whether the annual review has been completed on the Northlands Agreement because many items within this Minister's department relate to that agreement and whether the Minister has had a chance to check with the Minister of Northern Affairs. Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister of Northern Affairs could tell us himself about this item since it's his Manitoba Northlands Agreement that we're dealing with, whether the review of programs under the Northlands Agreement have been completed and whether it will be available to members of the House as we're dealing with these items.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. MacMASTER: I can only say, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister responsible for the Northlands Agreement, as I was last year, is responsible for the overall amounts. Individual departments, and I've outlined this to the member before, are responsible for different pieces of it. Northlands money comes up under a variety of departments; mine is one. I have assured the member that certainly there is absolutely no hesitation in our forwarding to him a review of that particular portion and, in fact, I think as I said before, other Northland chunks on the way through our Estimates. I'm prepared to share the information on that. I think it's worthy of all people knowing just how well the money is being spent and how successful the programs are. I have no hesitation in sharing the review of the portions I'm responsible for.

The Minister of Northern Affairs, either during question period or during his Estimates, I'm sure, will enlarge on what they are doing about the total Northern Affairs Agreement.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairperson, last year when the Minister was responsible he tabled in this House two books, and I forget the exact title - one was the Annual Review of the Northlands Agreement for that year and I think the other was an Annual Review Community by Community, or the community-by-community effects of the Northlands Agreement. One is in a green cover and one is in a blue cover.

What I asked the Minister to check the other day and he said he would and apparently he hasn't, whether or not those reports have been completed for the past year. I wonder if he knows if those reports - maybe they're not being done any more, I don't know - are those reports going to be done for the past year and if so, are they completed?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, for the Minister of Northern Affairs to file a complete report on all the programming, that would be I would say - with the danger of using the word "impossible" - virtually impossible at this particular moment, because we haven't quite finalized our reports on our portion.

Now, maybe we're the last department within the entire government to do that, I don't know. Maybe we would be the first ones to forward them to the Minister. But that's all I can tell the member at this time.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm assuming then that the Minister didn't check with his colleague. Last year the Annual Reports were tabled in March; and my question was very simple, are those reports completed yet by the Department of Northern Affairs? In fact, it's a joint report issued by DREE and the co-ordinators of the Department of Northern Affairs, whether that report is available to us yet, whether it is completed yet and I don't think it's that complicated a question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Yes, the reports that the Member for The Pas is requesting, I will be tabling those at the time of my Estimates. They should be ready by then.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure now because the Minister added his comments at the end, if they're ready by then implies that they are not ready yet.

And, Mr. Chairman, if those reports are ready when we're still considering Northlands item under Other Departments besides his own, I wonder if he would table those reviews because they'll help us more effectively and more efficiently to do our job in terms of all the departments that have programs under the Northlands Agreement.

MR. GOURLAY: Yes, I can check on that and if they are available I'll table them sooner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)--pass; (d)--pass; (2)--pass. (3) Selkirk Training Plant (a) Salaries. The Honourable Minister.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. MacMASTER: Just one second, Mr. Chairman. Last year, Mr. Chairman, there were 11 SMYs in this particular operation. During the course of the year one transferred out and 10 transferred in, so now we are talking about 20 SMYs. These were term positions that were transferred in from the Parks Branch of the Department of Natural Resources.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the Minister tell us what the program is in the plant. It seems to me that we ought to know more than just the staff complement of the plant. I would like to know what the operation is all about, not only the staffing of it but what are they doing, how many trainees, how many trained staff that are on the payroll, what their respective functions are, and what is the area of the market for the production?

MR. MacMASTER: The objectives are to facilitate development of special needs individuals to enable them to enter the workforce, or to pursue further training. They produce a wide variety of wood and metal items for Manitoba parks, and we've been assured - that's the second question, I think the member asked - is there a market for it, and the answer is yes. The plant operates in conjunction with Red River Community College, Canadian Manpower provides an initial two month Industrial Life Skills Program, followed by four to five months of on-the-job training, and all items are purchased by the Manitoba Parks.

The number of trainees per course are 24, and the number of courses per year are four. The number of the trainees at the beginning of the last fiscal year was 45; the number of trainees that were accepted to the program during the course of the year were 76, that's an additional 76; the number of trainees who withdrew for their own reasons was 41; the number of trainees who were dismissed was one; the number of trainees who went on to other employment was 24; the number of trainees who went on to additional training was two; the number of trainees that are presently in the program, Mr. Chairman, is 53.

I'm not sure if I covered all the questions the member wanted, I think it's close.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Minister just what the government's objectives are with respect to the continued operation of this plant or otherwise. What is the policy position of the government as to the longevity of this operation? Is it the intent of the government to continue the training facility at Selkirk? Is it the intent of the government to wind it down and eventually sell the asset? What are the objectives of the government with respect to the plant, Mr. Chairman?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, there's no thought in my mind, certainly today, or I can't foresee one of winding the particular operation down, so I think the member should feel relieved if that was the reasoning for his questioning, if he had some fear that we were prepared to wind it down for any reason, shape or form. There are no thoughts in my mind of doing that. We think it's serving a valuable need, it's introducing people to the work habit, if you wish, it's introducing them to an environment that some of those particular people were not familiar with before. We think it's introductory to the point where it's permitting them to get on their feet and get out and follow up and get other jobs. The thing that has not been in place, and we're going to be implementing that, it's in the stage of verbage at the moment, we've been talking about it, but we want an ongoing review of where the clientele are going, very similar to what good AFM centres do throughout the province. They can tell you a year or two later where the clients were that went through their establishment, and that's the kind of system that I'm talking to my staff about. They concur that this is really something we want to know three years from now, four years from now, how successful we've really been.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I was hoping that the Minister would be able to give us some statistical analysis on what happens and what has happened to people that have been trained by that facility, in terms of getting placements in the private sector job area. Is there a follow-up that would indicate to us, or

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

analysis of a follow-up that would indicate to us that a fair percentage of the trainees graduating from that plant are indeed finding their way into the main-stream of our labour market, or the workforce. Are they securing job opportunities outside of a sheltered area, such as this one? Because this is, indeed, the thrust of this plan, Mr. Chairman, and if it is not meeting those objectives, then we have to review whether or not we should make some changes in the operation in order that those objectives be realized.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I was just candid enough and honest enough with the Member for Lac du Bonnet to tell him exactly the things that he's asking are not in place. And, again, I was candid enough with him to tell him that that's something that we have discussed ourselves. It's a process that I want to establish so that I can give him something a year from now, hopefully, God willing and the voters, five years from now if I'm still here. That right at the moment, it's only 24 that we're positive of that have other employment and two that are going on for future training. That isn't satisfactory to me. I expect, from the member's questioning, it's not satisfactory to him and I can only say to him that this time next year we'll have a better handle on where people are going and what has been happening. There is no history that we can determine, because this question was asked by myself, well, what is the history of the people that are passing through this establishment; have we any idea where they are and how well off they are, or what problems they're having, if any, or how successful they are in life? Those questions couldn't be answered; I can't answer them today.

MR. USKIW: Well I recognize, Mr. Chairman, that if the Minister hasn't had the capacity to do that kind of review that he obviously can't answer the question. A way back in 1977, Mr. Chairman, we had some discussions; I had discussions as Minister responsible for the plant with the staff there, with the view of setting up an analysis capacity so that we indeed would satisfy ourselves as to whether or the not the objectives of the program are being met. That was the one thrust that we had hoped that we would put in place very shortly.

It is two years later, Mr. Chairman, and obviously we still don't have that capacity and I would hope that the Minister can assure us that is something that isn't going to be held back because of some sort of spending restraints by his government. I would hope that he's in a position to tell this House that as soon as he can find the bodies to do this for him, that he would get with it and try to determine whether or not we are spending our dollars wisely in this area.

The other aspect of it, Mr. Chairman, is whether there is any expectation on the part of the Minister and the government to provide in-house permanent employment. We had also discussed the idea and the feasibility of expanding the operations of the plant so that in those areas where we are importing products into Manitoba that perhaps we might have a secondary component to the plant which would be the production end, the assembly line end, that would not be a training program but would be an opportunity for the trainees to graduate, too, and stay in the plant as permanent employees if they so desired, if they didn't want to go into the market for other job opportunities. And only to the extent, Mr. Chairman, that we would not be displacing other employees in Manitoba producing the same goods were we prepared to look at that.

It seems to me that it's very obvious, Mr. Chairman, that there are a tremendous number of products imported into this province, furniture products, from Ontario and particularly from Quebec, and it seems to me that it would make a lot of sense to be able to add a production component to this plant that would not only supply the Parks Branch but that would make products available to the general market, those products that are now imported into this province. It seems to me that's the logical thing to do with respect to this kind of a facility.

I would hope the Minister would take a look at that and at least not take a philosophical position that he doesn't want to get involved in any kind of entrepreneurial operation beyond a training program because I think, Mr. Chairman, we discussed the other day the very lack of opportunity for a great number of our people who are in the category of the chronically unemployed. And I think here's an opportunity for the government to do something in a permanent way for that

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

element of our society without disturbing unduly other sectors of the economy, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope the Minister would take notice of those points and hopefully respond in a positive vein, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MacMASTER: Well the first positive thing is a repetition of what I said, that we have to put in place a system to review, first, the people, secondly the program and certainly, as the Member for Lac du Bonnet has said, the dollar value of what's happening there. That process has to be put in place. Maybe the Member for Lac du Bonnet talked about it or thought he talked about it or thought he had something started but, to the best of my knowledge, it's not in place, and I'm sure he shares with me the desire to have that system in place. That's my prime concern. The other is to assure ourselves that the training component of that operation is run to the fullest and to the best of its ability. And as far as future expansion goes, I would just take that under consideration at the particular moment.

MR. USKIW: Yes, could the Minister advise us whether or not the plant is subsidized in any way, and by how much, or whether the Parks Branch is, through its purchases, making the plant viable without any other subsidy, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MacMASTER: If the member would like, I could go into some depth as to reviewing tendering procedure for parks equipment and see in fact whether the government is paying more than what might be the tendered price; that could then be construed quite logically to be a subsidy. If he wants that particular point pursued, I could assure him that I could do that and get back to him at a later date. The only other specific subsidy in place to day, not disregarding just the few words I've said for a moment, is \$90,000 coming from the federal government towards this particular operation.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that we recognize that it's a training facility and that therefore there is bound to be some form of input. My only question was whether there is any input outside of the direct purchase agreement with the Parks Branch and the moneys recovered from the government of Canada, and if there aren't any external inputs that's the answer that I'm looking for, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)--pass; (b)--pass; (c)--pass; 3.--pass.

4. Canada-Manitoba NORTHLANDS Agreement, (a) Salaries - the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: The New Careers - we are setting up somewhat of a new procedure with the New Careers program and I'd like to outline it, as I spelled out that I would previously.

There are going to be two application cut-off dates which will be established each year. These dates will be March 1st for contract consideration for the new fiscal year and September 1st for in-term contracts within the fiscal year. Having a second date each year will allow greater flexibility to employers and allow for consideration of additional contracts should slippage occur during the first six months. A percentage split has been established between private, publicly funded and government department employers. Funds for these three sources of employing bodies will initially be divided into one-third each. Such ratio will be periodically reviewed, and could change as demands change. Some flexibility is also built in to allow for situations where sufficient applications may not be received from one sector.

An Application Review Board is being established, consisting of the New Careers Manager and other Manpower directors. This board will review applications subsequent to cut-off dates and make recommendations to the Executive Director of the Manpower Division for approval of contracts.

Such expansion of contract selection criteria will be incorporated. In addition to current criteria, two points have been added. The eventual employing organization must commit their supervisory personnel to a brief orientation to New Careers. Secondly, selection of contracts will also be based on the needs of the labour market for skilled personnel.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

I'd like to elaborate on both those points. We think it's very important that an employing authority in government, private or Crown corporation or whatever, that the people that are going to be supervising these New Careers people should have an orientation program established with our department, and the second, we want to look down the road as to the labour market for skilled personnel. We want to look down the road as to the ongoing viability of the person being in a particular trade or profession. We don't want to find ourselves in the position that we are training "X" number of people in "X" classifications and find out way down the road that two or three years down the road we're going to be so over-staffed that those people cannot be employed.

The length of the training program will have greater flexibility. This length will be dependent upon a determination of the nature of the job and the needs of the trainee in becoming competent on the job. This should reduce the length of training in numerous areas, allowing programmed hours to be spread further. Academic training will also be directed to the needs of the job. The maximum length of the training will still be two years.

Staff-wise, in 1979 we had 61; this year we have 60, one less than there was last year, Mr. Chairman. That's in the south end, I'm sorry, I maybe confused things there. That is New Careers South. There is a New Careers North which I'll deal with right after this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, just on that point of the Minister's last statement, I believe we're on 4.(a), which is Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement, New Careers, 4.(a) which I would expect is New Careers North. So has the Minister given us the information on 5.(a) rather than 4.(a) in this case?

MR. MacMASTER: The member is correct; I've got the wrong numbers in the wrong part of the province. The north is 68 and there are 68 today.

MR. BOSTROM: Just to make some general comments on this section, Mr. Chairman, the New Careers program, just to give you a bit of background, is one which was developed by the New Democratic government when they were in government and it is, in my view, a program which ideally suits the client group to which the program is directed. And as you can see from the objectives of the New Careers program, and I'll just briefly go through them, it is to train unemployed and/or underdeveloped adults to a level of competency which enables them to obtain positions within the public and private sector; to increase the job skills in employments of adults that are confronted with special barriers to employment and education; and to increase the number of trained personnel in fields where little or no academic training resources exist within the province; and also to increase the number of trained individuals from a particular geographic area and provide them with competencies which allow them to deliver necessary services to the area.

So, Mr. Chairman, this program was designed to fit the special needs of particular groups within our society, as well as the special needs of particular geographic areas.

One of those geographic areas, of course, and the one we're discussing under 4.(a) is the north, and in the north, this program is designed to be able to answer a number of problems. One is that there are necessary services that must be delivered in the northern area. At the present time most of these services are being delivered by people from outside the area. That is in a remote community where there is need for teachers, where there is need for health personnel, where there is a need for environmental protection, where there is a need for some maintenance, industrial engineer-type people, most of these positions have been filled in the past and largely are still filled by people that are brought in from southern locations. They're transplanted into the community. In many cases they're just there to earn a quick dollar and leave the community. They don't intend to make that community a home for themselves or their families.

And meanwhile, Mr. Chairman, the people who live in those communities are facing high levels of unemployment. This program was designed to deal with that problem and to take the people who live in the area and, as the program outlines, train unemployed and/or underdeveloped adults to a level of competency which

enables them to obtain positions. And here are the positions. You can clearly identify the positions right in the communities. They are positions that are now filled by outside people who do not desire to live in that community, and there are people who desire to live in the community, who are living in the community, who are not trained to fill those positions. So this program can, theoretically, take the disadvantaged person, give them the training on the job for a very specific job which is identified to them. So it makes the training very meaningful. And I think that I can recommend this kind of training to the Minister in almost all areas where there is a need to take someone and give them an upgrading type of training.

Many types of education, Mr. Chairman, whether it be university or even community college, are not always meaningful to the student, to the person who is taking the training, because they do not see at the end of that training a concrete job, a concrete result or benefit from taking the training.

In this case, the people who are chosen to go into the New Careers program are handpicked, and they are specifically picked to fit into a particular job. It's almost like interviewing someone for the job two years in advance of them taking the job, and over the two year period, or a period at least up to two years - some training programs may be less - they are given training to fit into that particular job.

Some of the major corporations and even some government departments have attempted training programs of a similar nature, although not directing their programs at disadvantaged groups. Many corporations and/or government departments, government agencies, will take a student out of high school who already has a very basic foundation or education and give them a very specific training program, whether it's in computers or accounting, or the basics of a particular technical aspect of a business, and they will train them for that job.

But Mr. Chairman, no one before the New Careers program was developed ever gave the underdeveloped, uneducated - uneducated in the sense of formal education - ever gave that kind of person an opportunity to take training for a job. Many of these jobs are not requiring a high level of formal education, and these were the types of jobs that were identified. I notice that the Minister in his annual report outlined some of the types of jobs that the New Careers people have been trained for and are continuing to be trained for, such as air mechanics, laboratory technicians, dental assistants, audio-visual technicians, chemical abuse counsellors, correctional officers, juvenile counsellors, residential child care workers, day care workers, recreation workers and so on.

Mr. Chairman, many of these things require a human ability, which does not necessarily come from having a high formal education. Many people have been educated through their life in many other ways than taking a formal education in the school system. And these people have just never had the opportunity to really be taken seriously to fill in a position of a para-professional level of occupation. And it's the objective of this program to take that person and fit them into that kind of job.

I commend the government for continuing this program. I was afraid when this government took over that, given the philosophy of this government, that they would cut this program entirely. I think that they have seen the value of the program; I think they have been converted to see the value of the program. I think that's an example of some of the selling that we did while we were in government. It's one of the legacies of our government that we put in place programs like this, which were practically impossible to remove afterwards because they were so clearly beneficial to the group that they were designed to serve.

Mr. Chairman, this is one that stands out in my mind, and I think that it stands out in Canada as an example of a kind of program which is absolutely ideally suited to assisting in the training of individuals for permanent, useful employment.

The thing I'm disappointed about, Mr. Chairman, is that this government has not seen fit to increase the level of assistance through the New Careers program. I believe that it's still not at the level at which it should be because, as I look around northern Manitoba particularly, I still see many of the jobs in the north filled by people who do not come from the north, who do not come from the communities that the jobs are designed to serve. I see people working in the nursing

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

stations. I see that the federal Department of Medical Services is having great difficulty finding people to work in the nursing stations in northern Manitoba.

I see, at the same time, many people in those communities desiring to have employment who do not have employment, who have the intelligence and abilities to be able to take on those positions, but they must be given the opportunity. And Mr. Chairman, this program and other programs like this could give them that opportunity. And as long as the government is not funding it to the adequate level that it should be funded, then these individuals will continue to not have the opportunity, so that there is still much that has to be done.

I would suggest to this Minister that the level of funding for this program is inadequate and I would say to him that if we were the government of Manitoba, as I hope we soon will be, this program is one of the programs that I certainly, and I can't speak for all my colleagues but I certainly would be pushing for this kind of program to receive much greater funding and much greater attention because of the major problems that it addresses and the major problems that it can solve. It does not serve the community's best interests in the long run to continue to bring professionals and paraprofessionals in from outside to serve communities when there's high degrees of unemployment in the community itself. This is one area where the government could be concentrating on translating unemployment into permanent employment. The Minister is talking about creating permanent jobs and, Mr. Chairman, this is a program that can create permanent jobs. It is not creating short-term, make work projects; this is creating permanent jobs, useful productive jobs that are necessary to the well being of the communities and/or the departments and/or private industry that are served by the positions that are created through this program.

I am disappointed to see that on the list of occupational groups that the New Careers program is providing training that the conservation officer section has been eliminated. That is one program, when I was Minister of Resources, that I pushed for and I had the success, I believe, of getting it implemented in my department. I pushed it at the expense, I think, of some people in the department who were arguing against it because they somehow had the feeling that taking a person from northern Manitoba and giving them a two-year training program on the job for a conservation officer was not as good as taking a high school student who had gone to Alberta for a two-year course in the college there; that is the person would not be as qualified. That was not my impression. It was not my belief, and I still believe that to be the case, that taking a person from communities in the north that has had many years of practical experience in the resource area and having had bush experience, lake experience and, in some cases, fire-fighting experience, leading gangs and crews of firefighters in northern fire-fighting situations with the forests in northern Manitoba. Taking people like that who have that kind of practical experience and giving them the necessary on the job training could turn them into first class conservation officers, absolutely first class people.

Mr. Chairman, I'm disappointed to see that they're no longer on the list and on that specific I would ask the Minister if that program has been completely cancelled or if there is some way of reintroducing it.

MR. MacMASTER: We have not had any requests for consideration of that particular program. I can carry the thoughts of the Member for Rupertsland to the particular Minister involved and discuss it with him.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll bring it up with the Minister when we get into his Estimates for that department but, because this Minister is the one responsible for the New Careers program, I feel I must bring it up here and I think that it is partly his responsibility; certainly I would say more than partly, directly his responsibility to seek out and find areas in the public and private sector where the New Careers program could be used advantageously.

I would just conclude by saying that, given the obvious success of this program and the obvious unsatisfied need in many areas to take the disadvantaged under-developed unemployed adults to train them to a level of competency where they can find useful employment, given the need to do that and the need to have particular positions filled in many communities where they are not now filled by

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

people from the local communities, I would recommend to this Minister that this particular section in his department receive consideration for much greater funding in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--pass; (b)--pass - the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Just on (b), I wonder if the Minister could indicate what the other expenditures there include.

MR. MacMASTER: There are wages for instructors, child care expenses, printing, stationery, automobiles, travelling, clothing allowance, educational assistance and medical and dental expenses.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)--pass; (c)--pass; 4.--pass.

5. New Careers, (a) Salaries - the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: I already went through that one, Mr. Chairman, before I went through the second one.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could be more specific here with respect to the southern area, what types of positions the New Careers program is involved in training the adults that are under this program being trained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I acknowledge the Honourable Minister, there was some discussion a little earlier about an item, (e)(3) Private Sector Youth Employment Program, to be discussed under Section 5. New Careers. Is that agreed?

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: The types of positions in the south are juvenile counsellor, activities instructor, economic research analyst, correctional officer, chemical abuse counsellors, laboratory technician, drafting technician, children's aid, accounting clerk, and clinic counsellor.

MR. BOSTROM: I wonder if the Minister could indicate in both these sections, under NORTHLANDS and Southern and New Careers Southern, how many New Careers' students are receiving training or are being proposed to receive training in the year ending March 31, 1981?

MR. MacMASTER: There are 57 presently in the south and 35 presently in the north and it's very difficult for me to project the exact number that would take place during the course of the year. The member understands that there's negotiations that take place with prospective employers during the course of the year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BOSTROM: Well I just note, Mr. Chairman, that is not that much more than the people who were being trained in the previous year which is reported in the '79 Annual Report of the Honourable Minister's department, so that again I must point out that this is completely inadequate to meet the identified needs of the people who require training and to meet the needs in terms of the positions that need to be filled, and there are positions in the south, as well as in the north, as the Minister is indicating. There are many areas where people who come from a particular ethnic group or a particular geographic area can be relieved of their unemployment problems and trained for a necessary job, a permanent long-term job. And I would just point out to the Minister that he should be doing more in this area, in terms of getting more programming and better levels of funding to meet the need in this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--pass; (b)--pass; the other item (3) from section (e)--pass; (5)--pass. (e) Employment and Youth Services.

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, you had indicated and I think the Minister had indicated that there was an item (e)(3) that was going to be moved up into this section and I would expect that the Minister would explain, and I was waiting for you to call him to explain that when you moved past it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then we are on item (e)(3) under section 5.
The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: That's right, and we explained the program in the introduction. I can make some comments about it. It's to help reduce seasonal youth unemployment levels; to stimulate the creation of new jobs for youth within the private sector; to increase practical work experiences for youth; to increase the income of youth to enable them to return to school or to increase the number of permanent jobs for youth within the private sector.

There are three SMY's attached to this particular program, Mr. Chairman. And I spelled out earlier when we were talking about this particular program - it came in the Research Department - that we would table a review of that very shortly. I haven't got it at the moment.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, it's quite a large item, \$3 million. I wonder if the Minister could indicate what the impact is predicted to be on the youth of Manitoba, in terms of this program. He must have some information as to what the program proposes to do in terms of creating employment, the number of jobs that he intends to create through this short-term program.

MR. MacMASTER: It's expected that it will be substantially over 4,000 jobs. Now these are just projected figures. It's projected that we will find it's something between approximately 10 weeks of employment and it's projected that we'll find the average wage is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$3.40, and it's projected, again, that the average amount of money earned will be in excess of \$1,000.00.

There was approximately 1.5 million hours of employment or 45,000 work weeks. Again, these are projections. And it's projected, again, that we will find that employers paid up to approximately \$5 million worth of wages. No, the latest update is that we project that the average wage per hour will be approximately somewhere between \$3.45 and \$3.50 an hour. And another interesting figure that, again it's a projection, we hope to have it finalized, but approximately 25 percent of the jobs have now turned into full-time year around jobs. And again it's a projection that approximately 12 percent of those employed will be carrying on in full employment.

Now those are projection figures. As I say, we'll have a detailed summary of the report and we will give it to the members opposite when we have it ready.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate if he has ready or will soon have and will make available to us the materials and the detailed description of how this program will operate?

MR. MacMASTER: If the member is talking about the application form, we are drafting a new application form. I have a draft one which certainly isn't in any way, shape or form suitable to be tabled but in general that's the type of draft form that we will be using this year. I intend to forward that to the members opposite, along with a complete review of last year's form or last year's summary of the particular program.

MR. BOSTROM: Could he indicate, Mr. Chairman, who will be overseeing the direction of this program, what section of his department, and who in his department will be directly responsible for its administration?

MR. MacMASTER: The Director of Training and Development. That's why we moved it up on the Estimates book so that members opposite would know who, in fact, what particular area we felt it best to be in. I suppose we could have left

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

it where it was but it wouldn't have been a complete truth, so we have just run an arrow up and that's why we have asked the members opposite to consider it here so they will know next year, or during the course of the year, just what director is responsible for the program.

MR. BOSTROM: One other question, Mr. Chairman, to complete my questions on this section of his department. I note from the annual report that in addition to the programs outlined the training and development branch provided grant assistance to the Manitoba Metis Federation; and two separate grants were given to the Manitoba Metis Federation, one for core funding and the other to support their education program. Can the Minister indicate if those two grants are in this section, and if so, where and for what amounts?

MR. MacMASTER: The core funding is in the Department of Northern Affairs and the educational funding is in the Department of Education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I just want to confirm with the Minister the length of time that this program has been in existence. How much experience have they had with this program so far?

MR. MacMASTER: I don't know what the second question is, because I know the member knows the answer to the first one. We're going into our third year.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned when I came in that he had hoped to have the summary or the report of the review of this section ready. Earlier on in the Estimates my colleague the Member for Churchill asked him about the previous report that was promised by the Minister for the first year's experience, and that was promised, Mr. Chairman, amid quite a bit of controversy over the problems that were experienced during the first year and the possibility that some industry had misused the program. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us what happened to that first report that he promised the Member for Churchill over a year ago, or a year ago now, if that report has never been completed, or what has happened to that particular report.

MR. MacMASTER: I can only repeat what I said before, that last year's will certainly be ready, we hope before the end of this particular month. We are endeavouring to get this year's in place, but I have also assured the members opposite that we will go back through the books and dig out the one from 1978. I don't remember making that specific promise. I assume that the member opposite says that I did, I take that as, not only an assumption but a fact, and in due time I'll have that '78 one, but I want to get the '79 one in place as I've promised and forwarded under a brand new format which we have promised the members opposite, and we want to get the other one off the ground and get it going.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, that's pretty well what the Minister said to the Member for Churchill last week, that they would see where this report was, the lost report from '78. And '78 was a bad year for the program, and the Member for Churchill pointed out all kinds of problems they had with that program, and now the Minister still doesn't know what happened to that report after committing that he would table that report, that he would give us that report last year's Estimates, after saying at the start of this year's Estimates he would dig out that report; I wonder what's wrong with this report and why the Minister doesn't want to give us that particular report?

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the sake of expediency, I will list that (e)(3) as (c) of Clause (5). (c)--pass; (5)--pass; (d)--pass; Item (e) Employment and Youth Services. (1) Administration, (a) Salaries - the Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: The Employment and Youth Services Branch is primarily responsible for increasing employment opportunities for youth by developing and implementing employment-oriented programs and placement activities. As well, the

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

branch increases the effectiveness and efficiency of its programs through the development of inter-linkages with relevant organizations and agencies. The Employment and Youth Services branch provides an administrative base for a wide range of programs and services.

The Employment Services Office is a centralized student employment registration and referral service for university, community college and high school students. The Manpower division, southern region field unit, is responsible for the delivery of all programs and services offered by the Manpower division of the department to the population of southern Manitoba. STEP in government in northern summer education are summer employment programs that provide a meaningful career-related work experience for students. Hire-a-Student Job Centre program provides a summer job placement and referral service for youth in rural and northern communities in the province. Volunteers in public service program establishes volunteer components in selected provincial departments and agencies which supplement and improve the quality of their services.

The Manitoba Northlands Travel Program awards travel grants to school groups from northern and remote communities to provide them with an educational view of other Manitoba locations. There were 25 SMYs last year and there are 25 this year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if, under the Administration section of this section of his department, we've just had the one section transferred out which is reported in the annual report, etc., and appeared in these Estimates books under this section, the Manitoba Private Sector Youth Employment Program. I wonder if maybe there is a connection between the missing report that the Minister has failed to give to us as promised and the fact that this program is no longer in this section. Were the administrative mismanagement problems of the Private Sector Youth Employment Program the reason that this section was transferred to another administrator, or another section?

MR. MacMASTER: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McBRYDE: I wonder if he could just indicate then the administrative reason for that transfer.

MR. MacMASTER: The new director of training has had many many many years of a variety of programming and we felt this particular program would be more appropriate under his heading.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--pass; (b)--pass - the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: The Employment Youth Services section I note is a different section than the Training and Development branch in the annual report. There's a different branch, it, I assume has a different director. Can the Minister indicate who the present director is of that section?

MR. MacMASTER: Tannis Mindell is the director, the young lady sitting in front of me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)--pass; (b)--pass; (1)--pass; (2) Youth and Student Employment--pass; (4) Canada-Manitoba Northlands Agreement (a)--pass; (b) - the Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: The Minister gave us a brief explanation of the program, which is what the program was intended to do. I wonder if he could give us a summary of what actually happened last year and what is intended to take place this year.

MR. MacMASTER: Total schools that are eligible in the agreement is 82. Forty-seven last year were eligible and 43 took advantage of the program for 91.4 percent. Estimated total enrolment of participating schools was 14,600.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour is now 4:30. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour and will return to the Committee Chair at 8:00 o'clock this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We are now under Private Members' Hour. As we have no private or public bills we will proceed with Resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 10 - MANITOBA SUITORS TRUST ACCOUNT

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. ROBERT G. WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Dauphin:

WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba has acquired certain monies in the Consolidated Fund, the said monies having been paid into court under various legal suits;

AND WHEREAS these monies now total approximately \$1,523,641.00, the largest portion belonging to individual taxpayers of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the system presently to get these monies from the Province of Manitoba Sutors Trust Account is very cumbersome, too costly and require the suggested approval of the solicitor of record;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Manitoba consider the advisability of a money recovery system similar to chartered banks, notifying plaintiffs that directly after a three year period and upon proof of identification and a small administration fee they be allowed to recover these monies from the court or the consolidated fund.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Speaker, I bring forward and raise this Resolution today because I have been attempting for almost seven years now to get some sort of justice that the general public deserves. While the highest percentage of lawyers are fine men and women, they waited year-in and year-out to have other lawyers bring this matter forward. The lawyers have not brought this matter forward to public light because I am sure, and many of them referred to me, that it would be a concern and would sort of reflect upon the ability of their club members, ie: The Law Society or legal profession.

And since I have been badly mauled by the ill-informed media, I feel it is my duty, in what could be my last term unless the people want me back, to tell it like it is. \$1.5 million is a lot of money and I hope my resolution will put this money in the pockets of its rightful owners. The problem is that the Attorney-General is a lawyer, the Leader of the Opposition is a lawyer and the A-G staff are all lawyers and the policy, as it is now, stands that only the solicitor on record can get this money out.

It is with a great deal of pride that I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, willing to ask questions about the untouchables, ask questions about the establishment, the elite, and the law makers of this province, and I intend to blossom where I have been planted by the voters, right here. --(Interjection)-- That's right. Flower power, as the Member for Elmwood says.

And I think that no group should continue to get away with a system which is totally wrong, a system that is self-serving and a windfall to the consolidated fund that is gained by morally wrong means.

I have a number of solutions and upon reading the resolution some of them are self-explanatory but I am suggesting upon proof, an ordinary citizen, a small corporation or an employee of a firm, should be able to obtain their moneys and those of their businesses by a grass-roots method. Never mind the \$50 words, the Notice of Motion to the courts, you have to hire a lawyer and, as of yesterday, a \$15 filing fee.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

I was finally able to obtain this list from the Minister of Finance and many of these claims are under the \$15 filing fee, they're certainly under a \$100. There's certainly a number of them that are \$50 and under, and to suggest to the people involved that they have to file a Notice of Motion is, in my opinion, extremely unfair. And I'm kind of concerned because this list is very hard to come by and this list is only printed one for each court and, I say to you, how convenient.

I talked to, I believe the lady's name was Mrs. Wells, and I complained to her that I could never find this list and I had been asking for this list for a number of years and each time I went to read it in the courthouse it mysteriously disappeared. She tried for a number of days to get this list and couldn't come up with it.

I was even informed that our government, the new Attorney-General in a computerized world as of March of '79, had developed a new system so that curious people, researchers, investigative reporters who could look at the former trust ledger books and find out what lawyers were getting what money, has now been dispensed with. You now have to have the suit number in order for them to go into the computerized cards and hand you the card to be able to read the information you want to obtain.

In the old days, in the Sixties and early Seventies, you could go down to the courthouse as a concerned citizen and be able to read the trust ledger books and in that would point out the disbursements that had been paid and it would also refer to the moneys that the lawyer had received.

I would suggest that if my resolution has any merit that maybe we could still leave the computer system in place because I know it probably has cost the taxpayers money but I think that any amount under \$300 . . . And on this list there's some poor devils that have got as high as \$12,000 in here and can you imagine the interest that they're losing. I've got one here, Kraft Construction versus a chap, \$12,066.95.

I belong to the Winnipeg Ski Club and I noticed over \$3,600 was sitting in the court belonging to the Ski Club and they're always crying the blues about how they never have any money. They turned a matter of a faulty lift over to their lawyer years ago. The money has been sitting in court. The fellow who built the lift decided to pay. How are members of the Ski Club and individual directors supposed to know that money is sitting in court, unless the lawyer is performing, and I'll deal with that a little bit later.

I think upon proof of identification and signature on a government standard form - I don't think we should have to hire a law firm to type up some fancy words - we could wipe out the Notice of Motion and the general public, generally, are sort of wary of the court. So when you go down there, like I did yesterday, and the fellow says, "You have to file a Notice of Motion." I said, "What's that? How do you fill it out? What does it involve? Could I have a sample copy?" It seems the general public is really up against it when they go in and ask for this type of general information. And I think we could avoid the expense of tying up the civil servants, who have enough to do, and we could charge a small filing fee of say \$5 and maybe having on a sliding scale as the amount that the person is getting out of court is able to obtain.

I think the Progressive Conservative Party should, as a start in the Eighties, print a list for the last ten years in the newspaper to show the mammoth portions of the legal neglect, the lack of caring, the lack of performance, and offer these citizens and corporations a new simple method from 1980 forward, and have a system of notifying the plaintiffs, say after the three-year period I talked about.

The money is there; it's waiting. Tell the people to come and get it. The banks do the same thing. The chartered banks notify people that haven't used the branch for a period of time that they have money there. I know the credit union makes an effort from time to time. I think we have to do better than just hanging two lists in the Law Courts Building so that only the civil servants and the lawyers can take notes before it gets lost and disappears. We've got to make more than two copies.

It boggles my mind, why isn't the Law Society concerned about this lack of performance. Is it not in their code of ethics that once a lawyer takes a retainer that finality is supposed to be the order of the day, finalize the

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

thing. I mean here all this money is sitting in court, over \$1.5 million and our learned members of that club just don't seem to care enough about their clients to want to get the money out.

I must also say an alarming fact of this is that a lot of this money belongs to the Province of Manitoba. Sure we are going to end up with it after seven years but just think of the money we're losing. The Rent Review Board has money sitting there. The MPIC, the Autopac has all kinds of law suits with the money sitting there. It's just incredible. Manitoba Telephone Systems, and amazingly enough many of these people that are listed in here as having money sitting there are lawyers. The money is owing directly to the lawyers for fees but he's too rich to come and want to get it. It's amazing the --(Interjection)-- Well I didn't notice the Member for Inkster. I say this list is available from the Member for Wolseley, if you want to peruse it. I'll be glad to loan it to you so you can make a photostatic copy.

I know usually when we get a list of new citizens we write to those that are in my constituency but, unfortunately, Wolseley does not have that many small businesses and credit unions in the area. I did notify several of them, but I would suggest that the Law Society should be concerned about this, and, Mr. Speaker, this motion may cost the taxpayers money, the loss of this windfall, but I guarantee if many of us are concerned - and certainly I am - that I think we can return sometime in the next two years, at least I could, to find the \$500,000 somewhere. I know it's \$1.5 million but we have to remember that a certain percentage of them will never take the time to want to get their money out. But I think from some new tax force or encourage new tourists, we could make up this loss.

I think that it's a morally wrong money tree, a windfall received for the taxpayers through neglect and the suitors trust account of \$1.5 million. I believe about \$243,000 of that is in bonds and other securities. And I could point to public accounts. I believe it's available there for the public. On page 526 it shows a great deal of money, almost \$446 million that we look after for custodial accounts, moneys belonging to others, and I would like people to begin to look at that area.

I wanted to also talk to a letter that I had sent to the Attorney-General. I had sent my colleague from Minnedosa out to find it. I came rather ill-prepared in not having my complete file here, but the letter goes something like this. It says there are three types of lawyers, those that get the money out of the suitors trust account and pay it over to their client as a retainer indicated; there are those that get the money out of the suitors trust account and it is put into their bank account and is lost through the history of time, through a lack of auditing by the Law Society and through just a general case of being too busy; and then there's the third type, the type who's taken the retainer, was interested in the collection, was interested in law suits and all of a sudden became a prominent corporate lawyer, no longer had time to deal with the ordinary grass-roots type of customer that he wanted when he first started out or had left it to his students to look after and this is, in my opinion, gross negligence. It is something that I believe that these learned gentlemen have to look at and begin to study because, you know, have you ever tried in a sort of a house of human life to live in it and, out in the business world, almost every stick of furniture is a lawyer. I'm serious; it's unbelievable.

We had a very big article in Time Magazine not too long ago about creating so many new laws every year, and we're pouring about 2,000 graduates a year out into the system. We've got to pass new laws to create new work for them, and I would like to see that during the translation into French, that let's review the past laws, the past legislation; let's review these laws now that we're spending the money on translation and let's have some of these laws changed so that ordinary men and women can achieve simple common sense solutions without having to hire a lawyer. And my resolution, ladies and gentlemen and Mr. Speaker, I think is something that I'm very proud to say I'm standing here hoping to achieve today. If you read the great book it says that you're supposed to be your brother's keeper and I'm sure that he didn't mean a legal brother. --(Interjection)-- I didn't mean that gentlemen either.

But let's encourage and enforce a self-policing policy. Let's have some of this windfall money maybe directed to audit the law firms of this province so that

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

what is left in the Eighties will be the finest group of men and women, the leaders of the community that everybody could look up to. These same men and women, and I know many of them have a Christian desire for change but are moulded into one block and that's called the Law Society, the legal club. They have unbelievable political and civil clout that no single person can take on. And I am recording this and other material for history to give other honest men and women a chance to speak out, demand that the cancer in the legal profession be cured before it's too late, because Watergate happened, because everybody else said let somebody else do it.

My lawyer says that I have some kind of a death wish to want to speak out against these fine ladies and gentlemen but I'm not attacking them because I think if they wouldn't become so over-sensitive and have a self-examination and have that thirst to get even all the time . . . And I really say this: That I hope that some day, if I'm proved right, they will help me to obtain the position of fun and respect in my home town that I once enjoyed, that has been temporarily taken away because of that same establishment, in part, attempting to have that thirst for revenge because I have been suggested to, whether it's in the shower at the Squash Club or whether it's in restaurants or whether it's in the Law Court, that I have some dislike for lawyers.

And I can say that that is only partly true, because I am interested, and I perceive my position to be, Mr. Speaker, to stand up here and correct something that is wrong. And if nobody else is willing to take on this ivory tower then I'm going to stand here and be counted, because I think that this particular Resolution spells it out. That money has been sitting there year in and year out, and guess who it comes to? It comes to the leaders of the community, the government of the day, who after six years, puts it into the Consolidated Fund, and after seven years it disappears.

And I remember, I had a personal case, and if you go back - if they print the next ten years I'll be able to get my \$90 back, because they wouldn't give me the \$90.00. Judge Molloy wouldn't let me have it. I filed my own Notice of Motion. They wanted me to hire a lawyer. And I say that I went through it. I have lived the University of Life degree attempting to take on a system that is morally wrong; and we sit here as the benefactors of the neglect by members of the legal profession who, if they take a retainer, if it is in their Code of Ethics, and I don't have a copy in front of me, if it's there, Mr. Speaker, then they should be prepared to look at it and look at it with an open mind and forget that it's coming from the Member for Wolseley. Think of it as coming from some other concerned citizen.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: I've looked in vain, Mr. Speaker, across the way for a fellow member of the club to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I'll deal only with the resolve that the resolution which we have before us related to monies which are held in court under the present Suitors Monies Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Member for Wolseley does raise some good points with respect to The Suitors Monies Act, and I can advise you, Sir, and members of the Legislature, that we have been reviewing this matter for some time and I intend to introduce a new Act to replace the existing Act to deal with a number of problems; one of which, Sir, is the question of notice to a litigant or their legal representative after a specified period of time advising that the money is being held in court to the credit of the action.

The second point we will attempt to deal with is a less cumbersome and inexpensive procedure for payment out of court of monies held in suits; and the third principle which is not dealt with in the Resolution, Mr. Speaker, but one which we intend to deal with, is the question of interest on monies held in court. At the present time interest is only payable on monies held in Court of Queen's Bench actions and we intend, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the question of interest on monies held in County Court and Surrogate Court matters.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

Mr. Speaker, those three matters will be dealt with in a new Act shortly to be presented to the Legislature, and I have no objection if members of the Legislature wish to pass this Resolution.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 11 - AMBULANCE SERVICE

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rossmere, as follows:

WHEREAS Winnipeg heart attack victims who suffer cardiac arrest outside hospital have less than a 5 percent chance of survival;

AND WHEREAS authorities have recently stated that this survival rate could be improved to 25 percent if Winnipeg Ambulance Service crews were better trained and equipped;

AND WHEREAS expert studies have stated that in order to be effective, ambulance response time to cardiac arrest calls must be made in less than five minutes;

AND WHEREAS a recent study in Winnipeg found that ambulance running time was over 5 minutes in 50 percent of all cases;

AND WHEREAS current Winnipeg Ambulance Service practice is to equip each vehicle with two persons;

AND WHEREAS the head of the emergency department at the Health Sciences Centre has recently stated that it is very difficult to provide good basic life support with only two people in a moving ambulance vehicle;

AND WHEREAS ambulance services are related to general health care and, therefore, directly impact an important area of provincial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government will subsidize approximately 27 percent of the Winnipeg Ambulance Service's projected operating deficit for 1980;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT an advisory committee be created to evaluate the adequacy and efficiency of the Winnipeg and other municipal ambulance services and report thereon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Resolution describes the appointment of an advisory committee, which I would suggest implies some expense on the part of the government, and therefore I would suggest is out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington on the point of order.

MR. CORRIN: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker, as the Honourable Attorney-General is aware, in the past there have been many advisory committees established by this Assembly and by his government in order to study a vast number of different issues and matters, and in many of these cases of course, there has been no remuneration paid to members of such committee. Often they are seconded, as is in the case of the Maternal Care Task Force from the Civil Service, the ranks of the Civil Service; the task force on government organization struck by the Honourable First Minister and the Treasury Bench in 1977 reported without any cost to the public treasury or purse. So, Mr. Speaker, I think on the point of order, within the terms of the proposed Resolution there is no indication that there should be any expense, and it would be our advice that we would not wish it to be so. And I think obviously within the general terms of reference of such past committees there is no reason to anticipate that such an expense would be borne.

So I think, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Attorney-General, he is anticipating a problem that would not necessarily arise, and I would say with respect to him, Mr. Speaker, that his concerns, although justified, are unwarranted in the circumstances and on the basis of precedent.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. SPEAKER: If the honourable member wishes to make some minor changes the Chair has the authority to make minor changes. We could, in there, stipulate that the advisory committee serve without fee.

The Honourable Member for Inkster on a point of order.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the House Leader is stretching the rule. The rule with regard to requiring a message from Her Honour before presenting a Resolution surely involves a program for the expenditure of money. And the Estimates will provide for all kinds of consultants and all kinds of people involved with the government that can do the type of thing that is referred to in this committee. It's not suggested, Mr. Speaker, that it be a committee which has a specific budgetary item, and I urge the Chair to look at Resolution 17:

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that an immediate study be made of ways and means to provide alternatives to the Greater Winnipeg Education Levy, with a view to its ultimate abandonment."

Would the Attorney-General say that the words "consider the advisability of an immediate study" because it would mean that staff are somehow involved in it. And I really think that the rule is being stretched. Surely the purpose of the rule is to not require the government to set up a budgetary item, either for the purpose of expending money or for the purpose of reducing provincial revenues. This particular Resolution asks for an advisory committee. I can ask the Clerk, Mr. Speaker, to refer you to a Resolution that was moved several times in this House by the Liberal Party, that there be a Committee of Education established, and I can't put my finger on the journal immediately but I know that there is such a Resolution because we took it out last year when we were discussing the same type of problem.

It did not involve a message from His Honour, and I really respectfully request the House Leader to permit this Resolution to proceed on the basis of its present wording, since it does not specify a government expenditure, and doesn't necessarily involve a government expenditure.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington on a point of order.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the point of order, duly in order to facilitate the progress of the debate because it is an important issue, I'm sure, to all members in the House, we will accept the recommendation made by yourself, Mr. Speaker, and include the consideration of advisability as one of the resolves, or as part of the resolve in this particular motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I'm still asking for advice. I'm not too sure that it is completely advisable that we put "serve without fee". I think it's a significant change.

Another question that I'd like to inquire of the member, he is asking that it report thereon. I presume he is assuming that it report to the Legislature is it, or where does he wish the report to go?

The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. At times the acoustics in here are very poor indeed, and I would indicate to you that I did not suggest that we should consider whether or not the matter go with or without fee, I just said that we should put in the Resolve that the Government should rather consider the advisability of proceeding with this particular advisory committee and in so doing, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it obviates the need for all other debate and discussion and we could proceed I think on that basis, as you suggested earlier, to deal with the matter expeditiously.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there agreement on the House then to make the change right now, "to consider the advisability of"? (Agreed)

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

MR. CORRIN: Mr. Speaker, in addressing myself to this question, I think firstly it would be incumbent upon me, as the mover of this particular Resolution, to acquaint members who are not familiar with the Winnipeg Ambulance Commission and the service it offers, with some historical data pertinent to the subject.

As some of us will remember, and I think there are several members in this Chamber who participated in the formation of the Winnipeg Ambulance Commission, in 1976 it was decided that it was in the best interests and the well-being of the communities served by the councillors of the City of Winnipeg to create and establish a commission which would be responsible for the implementation and provision of ambulance service throughout the Unicity Metropolitan area. Mr. Speaker, some of us will recollect at that time there was a great deal of controversy as to the adequacy of the services being provided by several private sector firms. Complaints had risen on a number of occasions with respect to the quality of service; it was agreed, I think, not only as between members of Winnipeg City Council but also, I believe, members in this House in the course of debate that something had to be done in order to rationalize and ameliorate the then existing situation.

So, Mr. Speaker, in 1976 the Winnipeg Ambulance Commission was struck. A representative board was appointed, several city councillors as well as several people representative of general citizenry. I'm advised today that there are three city councillors, an accountant, a registered nurse and a physician incumbent on the board.

Now, Mr. Speaker, conceptually the idea of a unified central ambulance service was, I think, a wholesome one, one that was to the benefit of the community. But of late, Mr. Speaker, it has come to light that there are indeed still deficiencies with respect to ambulance service. And before I perhaps approach the substance of my remarks I would like to acquaint members present with some of the criticism that has been tabled and levelled at the commission, at the fairly newly founded commission in this regard.

I think it's illustrative, Mr. Speaker, to refer to remarks made by Dr. Arnold Tweed, who is, as some of us are aware, the Education Chairman of the Manitoba Heart Foundation. Dr. Tweed, in referring himself to the provision of service by the Ambulance Commission in the month of February of this year, indicated - and I should indicate that he did so in his formal capacity at a meeting held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre - that Winnipeg heart attack victims who suffered cardiac arrest outside of hospital had less than a five percent chance of survival. And, Mr. Speaker, this is cause for grave concern because Dr. Tweed went on to indicate that he felt that atrocious survival rate could be improved to 25 percent if Winnipeg ambulance crews were better trained.

Now when you consider, Mr. Speaker, that 1,500 Winnipeggers died of cardiac arrest last year, we can indicate that 60 to 70 percent of those people were stricken and died outside of hospital before they were delivered to emergency care services at one of the local hospitals. I think we can say that we have a situation that should well cause some good degree of grievance and concern in the minds of our residents and citizens.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that when we examine these statistics and we find that, just as Dr. Tweed has indicated and indicated in his submission, if the ambulance service crews were just simply better trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation technique, if there was just sufficient training - and I suggest that can only be as a result of more money for the service, Mr. Speaker, but I'm anticipating my future remarks - if there was better training provided to those crews, 25 percent he predicted, he suggested, could have survived and arrived at the hospital and been maintained and kept alive. Mr. Speaker, a 20 percent reduction in the mortality rate in this regard, I would suggest to all members of the House, is something to be striven for and is a worthwhile goal.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gerry Bristow, also in February of this year, the head of the Emergency Department at the Health Sciences Centre, in revealing statistics of a study he made in conjunction with Dr. Tweed and the Manitoba Heart Foundation - and I should indicate that in this regard the two physicians examined some 849 cases of patients suffering cardiac arrests outside of hospital and, Mr. Speaker, they determined that only 33 people survived - in the study of 849 cases of Winnipeggers suffering this sort of difficulty outside of hospital only 33 had survived.

Now the two physicians indicated just a few months ago that they thought that the ambulance response time, being in 50 percent of all cases studied over five minutes, was atrocious. They indicated that was simply untenable. It was virtually unconscionable, in view of the fact that we have technology available to us in this city to make provision for recovery of patients and removal to hospital in all cases under five minutes. But, Mr. Speaker, they determined that there were simply too few units. There weren't sufficient units distributed throughout the city in order to afford this sort of opportunity to all our citizens and, Mr. Speaker, in this regard I think it's incumbent on me to indicate to the House - and frankly this was of some degree of shock to me, Mr. Speaker - that the former City of Transcona, now the Community Committee area of Transcona, doesn't have one single ambulance unit within its boundaries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in talking to the chairman of the Winnipeg Ambulance Commission this week, I was able to determine that there was not one single station in the whole community area of Transcona. Now, Mr. Ragsdill indicated to me in our discussions that particular area was served by a station situate in East Kildonan at the intersection of Kimberly and Golspie Street. He told me that particular station only had one vehicle. It wasn't even duly served. It didn't have two vehicles; it rather had only one vehicle, and he told me that it was serving 110,000 people.

Now that, Mr. Speaker, is not my representation, that's the chairman of the Winnipeg Ambulance Commission. Now he indicated, Mr. Speaker, because I asked him, he indicated that in the event of that particular ambulance being out on call somewhere in the East Kildonan community or other place - and he reminded me that if there was a major accident or a fire the vehicle had to go out, that was policy; if there was a fire the ambulance had to follow the fire equipment regardless of whether or not it was established that people's lives were in jeopardy as a result of the fire - he told me that the unit for Transcona would have to travel from either the downtown station or St. Vital.

Now, Mr. Speaker, he said that there were documented cases of people waiting and he said between 12 and 15 minutes for the arrival of an ambulance, and referring to Dr. Bristow and Dr. Tweed's studies, Mr. Speaker, it's unacceptable that anybody suffering from cardiac arrest, a heart attack, should ever have to wait for more than five minutes and, Mr. Speaker, the fundamental inequity of the situation is that we're treating people in Transcona fundamentally differently than we're treating people in other parts of the city.

I was advised that core area residents, inner city residents, invariably received ambulance attendance within the acceptable five minute time frame. He advised me that one of things that caused the distortion that demonstrated this poor time response in the Tweed-Bristow Report was the Transcona situation. I'm not sure of what the population of Transcona is, Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you that with the recent development it's considerable, and I would suggest that all members should be concerned about that particular situation, certainly the Winnipeg Ambulance Commission is.

That, Mr. Speaker, brings me to the rationale for the study, the requested study into the matter. Mr. Ragsdill and other city councillors, I think quite legitimately, have suggested that there is simply deficient funding being provided on the basis of the per capita grant accorded to the city Ambulance Commission by the province. They are suggesting that they can't possibly maintain any sort of quality control or service standards in the face of what appear to be rather static per capita grant appropriations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to misrepresent the state of affairs so I think I'll refer to statistics which are available to all members, in order to demonstrate that the situation is fundamentally unjust. Mr. Speaker, in 1977 under the former government some \$588,000 was accorded to ambulance service on the basis of the same per capita grant. Today, Mr. Speaker, we have a per capita grant amounting to only some \$671,000, which I believe only amounts to some 17 percent increase over the past three years. That, Mr. Speaker, as you will appreciate, if we budget it on a global basis, is only some 5-1/2 percent per year increase. And, Mr. Speaker, that's not actually how it happened because the staging and phasing was somewhat different and I would suggest somewhat less compatible with good standards. There was a substantial retrenchment in 1978. The purse strings

Tuesday, 18 March, 1980

were loosened in 1979 and of course recently we've been told that further funds will be appropriated for this service in 1980.

But, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the fact that we've had a 17 percent over the past three years, that does nothing to actually address the very serious situation that the Ambulance Service has found itself in. I would remind all members and I see that the Minister of Health is listening attentively and I presume he will be participating in this debate, Mr. Speaker, that health care costs - and he said that in his Estimates and he's correct, Mr. Speaker, as he has suggested health care costs are leading the way in terms of governmental inflation - health care costs do not necessarily correspond with the rate of inflation as faced by consumers generally. So when people say well we gave them 9 percent this year, doesn't that match inflation, that's not necessarily true because health care costs may well be going well beyond 9 percent because of the indigenous and very different nature of that particular service.

So I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that inflation with respect to health care is much higher than the normal rate and I would suggest that 5-1/2 percent over three years is simply deficient.

Mr. Speaker, this has been reflected with respect to the treatment of the service and how it has been funded by the commission over the past several years. Mr. Speaker, because of the restrictive fiscal policies of members opposite we have seen a situation where user fees, fares for ambulance service per ride in the city of Winnipeg have increased in just a year from \$30 per ride to \$60.00. Now, Mr. Speaker, members opposite may think that reflects some sort of fundamental equity, that reflects some sort of justice in that the user pay principle is pertaining but, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest with respect that it's untenable and surely regrettable that we should have a 100 percent increase in such a fundamental service provided to our citizens in just over a year's time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this service is funded on the basis this year of a \$4 million appropriation. The commission has a gross budget of some \$4 million. \$2.5 million of those dollars will be picked up by the rate payers of the city of Winnipeg. That, Mr. Speaker, is the deficit which has been put upon the civic ratepayer, property tax payer, for this health care cost. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that there is great cause for concern when we have that sort of distortion in terms of the burden on the shoulders of the Winnipeg ratepayer, for that matter any ratepayer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know how anyone could justify the imposition of that sort of tax on the ratepayer when obviously the provision of that particular service has absolutely nothing to do with service to property. Surely and I think reasonably, Mr. Speaker, we could all agree that the Canadian Medical Association two years ago was correct when they suggested at their annual convention that ambulance services should be accorded the status of a full time, full health care facility. They suggested that the time was long past when any government in Canada should regard the provision of ambulance services as being something that is within the domain of urban or civic government. They suggested that it wasn't a matter for municipal governments, but rather for so-called senior governments, Mr. Speaker. And they're right, Mr. Speaker. There is absolutely no justice in according that sort of burden, in imposing that sort of burden on the municipal ratepayer.

Now, I'm advised, Mr. Speaker, that my data indicating the provincial government subsidy somewhere around 27 percent is probably inaccurate. It's been suggested to me that I probably would better have suggested something in the order of 17 or 18 percent, as being a more adequate and accurate reflection of the true situation.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that while the government is sustaining only some 17 or 18 percent of the cost of this particular service, the ratepayer is paying on a per call basis, probably up to 50 percent; because you know we have \$60 per ride, Mr. Speaker, but we have \$120 to \$130 actual per call cost associated with that service. That's what it really costs, I'm advised, to send an ambulance unit to a citizen's door. So even at the \$60 rate, we're asking the ratepayer to afford an enormous burden.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would indicate that, because I'm sure that members opposite may well suggest, as they often have when we debate these matters, that the city has a block fund. Over and beyond the block fund, of course they have this per

capita grant I've referred to, but they always have the recourse to the block fund, and they remind us that that has increased some \$3 million this year, and that presumably gives allowance to the city to set affairs right in their own house. Mr. Speaker, I want the record to show and disclose that ambulance care was not one of the conditional grants rolled into the block fund. When the Minister announced the block fund a few years ago in this House, he did not, Mr. Speaker, mention that as being one of the nine conditional grants that were being rolled into the global block fund.

So, Mr. Speaker, I presume and anticipate that nobody from the other side would be so bold as to suggest that the city could use its general block grant in order to ameliorate their situation. But Mr. Speaker, should any member be so bold, I would indicate that the record of this House discloses that that was not one of the block funded grant items.

So Mr. Speaker, we have to indicate, and I would remind members that when members on this side made provision for the service, it was also on the per capita basis, and I acknowledge that. I was not a member at that time, but it would be acknowledged, I am sure by all members that the service was originally implemented on the per capita basis. But Mr. Speaker, I would like to think that a more humanitarian approach should be taken with respect to this matter.

Mr. Speaker, in order to resolve whatever difficulties we have, whether, I suppose it's chicken and egg argument, some people will suggest that the city is inappropriately using the funds, not allocating them in the most efficient manner, other members might suggest that the city is under-funded as I have. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that rural members may note that their citizens are not even accorded anything resembling this sort of service in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that it behooves this House to evaluate the matter and create an advisory committee in order to look into this in some substance and detail and report back and provide us with pertinent data and information on which future debates and policy decisions can be made in this regard.

Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Crescentwood.

MR. WARREN STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak to this Resolution, but I would like to speak to all nine aspects of the member's Resolution and speak to it in some depth. I wonder if you might so see it to call it 5:30 and give me an opportunity at another time so that I could speak to it with my full 20 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there a feeling in the House to call it 5:30?
The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that the House do now adjourn and resume in Committee of Supply at 8:00 o'clock.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. tomorrow. Committee will meet at 8:00 p.m. this evening.