



Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS

31-32 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Second Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

Name	Constituency	Party
ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)	Ste. Rose	NDP
ANSTETT, Andy	Springfield	NDP
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BANMAN, Robert (Bob)	La Verendrye	PC
BLAKE, David R. (Dave)	Minnedosa	PC
BROWN, Arnold	Rhineland	PC
BUCKLASCHUK, John M.	Gimli	NDP
CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.	Brandon West	IND
CORRIN, Brian	Ellice	NDP
COWAN, Hon. Jay	Churchill	NDP
DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent	St. Boniface	NDP
DODICK, Doreen	Riel	NDP
DOERN, Russell	Elmwood	NDP
DOLIN, Mary Beth	Kildonan	NDP
DOWNEY, James E.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert	Emerson	PC
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
EYLER, Phil	River East	NDP
FILMON, Gary	Tuxedo	PC
FOX, Peter	Concordia	NDP
GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)	Swan River	PC
GRAHAM, Harry	Virten	PC
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry M.	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen	Logan	NDP
HYDE, Lloyd	Portage la Prairie	PC
JOHNSTON, J. Frank	Sturgeon Creek	PC
KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene	Seven Oaks	NDP
KOVNATS, Abe	Niakwa	PC
LECUYER, Gérard	Radisson	NDP
LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling	Charleswood	PC
MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al	St. James	NDP
MALINOWSKI, Donald M.	St. Johns	NDP
MANNES, Clayton	Morris	PC
McKENZIE, J. Wally	Roblin-Russell	PC
MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)	St. Norbert	PC
NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)	Assiniboia	PC
OLESON, Charlotte	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald	Pembina	PC
PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.	Selkirk	NDP
PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson	Transcona	NDP
PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland	Fort Rouge	NDP
PHILLIPS, Myrna A.	Wolseley	NDP
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
RANSOM, A. Brian	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Burrows	NDP
SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic	Rossmere	NDP
SCOTT, Don	Inkster	NDP
SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)	Fort Garry	PC
SMITH, Hon. Muriel	Osborne	NDP
STEEN, Warren	River Heights	PC
STORIE, Jerry T.	Flin Flon	NDP
URUSKI, Hon. Bill	Interlake	NDP
USKIW, Hon. Samuel	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
WALDING, Hon. D. James	St. Vital	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 31 March, 1983.

Time — 10:00 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, by leave, I have two reports to table. The Fifth Annual Report of the Manitoba Municipal Employees Benefit Fund for the year ended December 31, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Virten on a point of order.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Speaker, when you called the Tabling of Reports by Standing and Special Committees, I believe a member of the Chamber was standing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, I believe you overlooked my standing. Perhaps we could revert to Presenting Reports by Standing Committees, by leave.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MR. P. EYLER: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain resolutions, directs me to report the same and ask leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Member for The Pas, that the report of the Committee be accepted.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS Cont'd

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the second report I wish to table is the Actuarial Report on the Group Insurance Plan part of the Benefits Program for Employees of Participating Municipalities in Manitoba as at January 1, 1980.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I have a statement to make but I wish to inform the House that it is in the form of a letter. It's a letter that I wrote to Ms. Begin, I would ask leave to accept it. (Agreed)

"Dear Madame Begin: I am writing you in regard to your comments made in the House of Commons - Tuesday, March 29th, in response to Alberta's proposal to increase charges to patients in hospitals. I refer in particular to your statement indicating that the New Canada Health Act would enable you to withhold transfer payments to provinces that did not comply with the basic conditions of the Hospital/Medicare Program.

"While Manitoba can agree with the sentiments you have expressed, I would suggest that there would be much more logic and support for your position if, indeed, the Federal Government were funding 50% of the operating costs of these programs as it did under the old cost-shared program. Under the present program, however, with block funding and considering that Ottawa's share of the cost reduces as time goes on, I believe the logic of your argument is lacking.

"As indicated in my most recent letter to you, we would also welcome the addition of mental health within the definition of "insured health services" on the understanding of course that the Federal Government shares the cost of these programs with the provinces on a 50-50 basis.

"In summary, therefore, I believe the Manitoba Government would be supportive of the position you are currently taking in attempting to preserve the basic principles of medicare and hospitalization on the understanding that the Federal Government would return to a cost-sharing formula.

"I look forward to discussing these issues with you further when we next meet." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of members of our party I would like to thank the Minister for making known his correspondence on this subject with the Federal Minister. I don't, on the surface, see anything new in the communication that the Minister has presented to the House, or tabled in the House. It's a reassertion of a commitment to universal medicare, universal hospitalization, to which our party and our government demonstrably subscribed, and continues to subscribe. I don't necessarily agree with the Minister and he knows that. In respect to the 50-50 cost-sharing formula, I think block funding can work very well provided there is communication and co-operation, which sadly has been lacking to a significant degree under the current Federal Government and under the current Minister of National Health and Welfare.

However, that debate can be left for another form in another arena, Sir, I thank the Minister for making

his correspondence known. We certainly would support the inclusion of mental health services under the insured health services category. That effort has been pursued for some considerable time by governments of both stripes, of all stripes, in the Province of Manitoba and we would continue to support initiatives in that direction. I do, as I say, think, however, that even insured mental health services could be included under the block funding umbrella provided block funding is administered through a co-operative approach to health care, through a respect for provincial authority and jurisdiction in the health care field and through much better federal communication with the provinces.

MR. SPEAKER: Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

ORAL QUESTIONS

Meeting with Consul General of the United States

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the First Minister, I would ask the Acting First Minister if he or she can confirm that the Consul General of the United States, Mrs. Lillian Mullin, was asked to a meeting in the Premier's office by the Premier, on Friday last, to discuss the participation of members of the Executive Council in a demonstration which took place the previous Wednesday in front of the American Consulate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. M. SMITH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, such a meeting did occur.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, can the Acting First Minister advise the House of the substance of the conversation that took place between the First Minister - I presume herself - and the Consul General of the United States at that meeting?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, we discussed the incident and I think communicated a position that was identical to the one we had expressed in the House.

HON. S. LYON: Can the Acting First Minister confirm, Mr. Speaker, that neither on that occasion nor on the previous occasion when a letter was written to the Consul General, the government has at no time apologized for the participation of government members in that unfortunate incident in front of the Consulate?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, we did not feel that an apology was appropriate.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Economic Development, in her own capacity, advise

the House of the substance of the remarks that she addressed to the demonstration on the evening of Wednesday last, that is a week ago Wednesday, at the U. S. Consulate, when apparently she was there speaking on behalf of the NDP Caucus and the NDP Government.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to dissociate ourselves once again from the burning of a flag, which was not central to the organization, unknown to the organizers, and certainly not something that I, or any of my colleagues, would condone in any circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, the substance of what I said was that I was there to speak in a mood of great sadness. Sadness, because we were hearing reports from Latin America, reports that were very difficult to confirm because of a news blackout, but which seemed to indicate, and there seemed to be enough similarity of reports coming out of the area to show that there was an incursion into the country of Nicaragua - an intervention, in our mind - within the boundary of a country and an interference in its right to self-determine.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke with some anger because I felt that throughout Latin America, the countries that were struggling against enormous odds to improve the economic and security conditions of their people were having not only the natural difficulties of poverty and illiteracy and the difficulties of struggle to contend with, but they were having intervention by direct or indirect military and economic aid or intervention.

Mr. Speaker, I called on the United States in behalf of the human rights of people in Nicaragua to withdraw their support of the intervening forces. That was the text of my comments, Mr. Speaker.

HON. S. LYON: Mr. Speaker, we thank the Minister of Economic Development for the recollection of remarks that she made on that occasion. If those remarks are in printed form or note form would she, Sir, mind filing them in the House, so that we may have them?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, due to my current handicap of my right hand, I am not able to write notes in a readable form. In that instance, I spoke impromptu. I might add that I followed comments by a representative from the Federation of Labour and comments by Dr. Carl Ridd.

I was very moved by the comments given by both speakers, particularly those of Carl Ridd who, as a United Church Minister, Professor of English at the University of Winnipeg, is known and respected, Mr. Speaker, as a thoughtful, concerned citizen, a person, who in his lifetime, I think has moved towards realizing that there are some injustices in the world that he must speak out on; and he, too, had voiced concern that the struggles going on in Latin America under a great variety of political and economic systems were being judged very simplistically, Mr. Speaker, and that intervention was being justified. I was moved by his comments and felt a great alliance with his sentiments, Mr. Speaker. I think the first day the issue came up the opposition did say that they had a tape of the comments made, so they no doubt already have access to the words which I spoke.

Motor Coach Industries - layoffs

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. Last week, I had asked her about the layoffs of some 532 employees at Motor Coach Industries, and she indicated she had received notice on February 15th and had taken no action. My question to her is, has she received notices of other layoffs and, if so, would she name the employers and how many employees are involved?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, it is the work of my department to be notified and to be aware of impending layoffs, in fact, we have legislation that has been in effect for some time, certainly, during the last administration, as well, to that effect. I don't think the honourable member is suggesting that when I hear from an employer that there is a possibility of impending layoff, and that employer shares with me in confidence some of the things that he or she is doing to attempt to avert those layoffs, that that be made public knowledge. I'm sure they respect the privacy and the confidentiality of an employer, as well as the rights of employees.

Early retirement program benefits

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I asked the Minister whether she could give to this House any information with respect to the proposal in the Budget whereby eligible civil servants would be offered, for a three-month period, advantages of a special set of early retirement program benefits. Can she give the House any information with respect to those benefits which the government intends to offer to senior civil servants?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to share that information with you and with honourable members here present, and I must apologize for not being available to make such information known earlier this week. As you are aware, I was away from the House for a couple of days.

The information on early retirement has gone out to the appropriate people, to civil servants, of course, in their paycheques this week. The basic premises upon this is based - and we will be introducing the legislation very shortly, a severance supplement act, which will give us the legislation for this move - but the basic premises are three: The first is the elimination of the early retirement penalty, that is, the 1.5 percent per year which is applicable to retirements that occur between ages 55 and 60. That is being lifted for the 4 months between March 1st until the end of June.

The second improvement is that of the pension formula itself; the calculation of the average salary will be on the best 6 of the last 12 years, as opposed to the best 7, which it is in legislation right now.

The qualifying service is the third area that we have put a window on, and that is that employees who are

over age 55 and who have 2 years of service; as opposed to the 10 years required now for vesting; those people will be eligible for this retirement.

The other item that I can tell you about is that all retirements will be calculated on the basis of the salary that people would be earning June 18th, which is when the old second year of the renegotiated MGEA contract come into play. So they will have their retirement benefits calculated on the basis of that June 18th date.

There have been letters sent out to all staff of the Civil Service, Crown agencies, boards, commissions and so on, outlining the basis of the plan. There is also a program being set up for conducting information seminars, retirement planning seminars and individual counseling for all interested employees and their spouses in major cities throughout Manitoba, not just here in Winnipeg. The announcement of these dates and locations, of course, will be placed on bulletin boards and printed in appropriate newsletters and so on.

Also, letters for all of those employees who are possibly eligible are being sent, that give them a specific calculation of their own personal potential benefits under the window plan. There are approximately 1,900 of these eligible civil servants, and 1,100 employees of other agencies and boards and so on, for a total of approximately 3,000 employees who could be eligible for early retirement. The estimates run between 300 and 500 who will take advantage of this.

Kimberly-Clark - layoffs

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister confirm that Kimberly-Clark have made an announcement, yesterday or today, with respect to the layoff of a number of employees, how many employees are affected by that announcement and what action has the Minister taken?

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, we have been dealing with the Kimberly-Clark situation for some time and I would ask that those questions be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, who is overseeing that program.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. M. SMITH: We have been working on the Kimberly-Clark plant closure for some time, as the Minister of Labour and Employment Services has said. The Winnipeg plant was employing 132 people and we have known for some time that they intended to close down their operation here. They are intending to retain their distribution in Winnipeg, but they will be contracting it out.

Mr. Speaker, senior officials from my department have met with the Kimberly-Clark management in both Toronto and Winnipeg to see if there was any way, ideally, to prevent the closure; second best, to extend the date; third, to see whether there might be alternate products which could be produced here, some way of giving work to the employees in some form or other. We have a highly-qualified consultant who has been working in a very short time frame to identify options if, in fact, some could be found.

We find the probability of a viable alternative in the short run remains low. Kimberly-Clark have listed the building For Sale but aren't selling their equipment. We have found out from the consultant that the removal of the equipment will not really interfere with the options that he has identified. We've had response from two potential investors and we're further exploring their willingness to come to the Winnipeg location. We did, in fact, write to all the companies that we could identify who were in a similar field and who might be willing to move in and pick up the slack.

I regret that we don't have any alternative at the present time, but I think we're doing whatever is feasible, given the circumstances.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Economic Development advise the House how many employees have lost, or are losing, their jobs as a result of this closing?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think I said at the beginning that the plant has employed 132 workers.

Manitoba Horse Racing Commission

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, a further question to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. Could she advise the House whether she approved job qualifications, which were tailor-made to match those of an American, Mr. David Freeman, hired by the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission, which have been described as not a bona fide offer by the Employment and Immigration Department; did she approve of those job qualifications which were apparently tailor-made to suit the American who was hired over 250 Canadian applicants?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, those activities are under the direct responsibility of the Commission and they do not bring all those items to me. They will, of course, observe the federal ruling.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the members of the Horse Racing Commission and the Chairman, in particular, have botched their jobs since the day the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism appointed them to do that job, is she prepared to ask that board to resign, and the chairman of that board to resign, and appoint some people who are suitable to carrying out that function?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I would be the first person in the world to admit that in all the activities of any board or commission there can be some weakness, or less than ideal decision-making. But I ask the House to put the activities of the Horse Racing Commission in perspective. We inherited a commission which was acting primarily with a single person, without regular meetings; there were no public advertisements when people were appointed to these different tasks; there was an approval of an operation at the track where there was not regular reporting, where we had great difficulty getting financial information, where the track just about collapsed and disappeared from the economic and recreational life of this city, Mr. Speaker.

The load, the responsibility that was on that commission during the past year has to be seen to be believed, and I know better than anyone here the hours and hours of negotiation and work for a pittance, Mr. Speaker, that that commission has undertaken to build the track, to keep it in a healthy state and to retain it for the Province of Manitoba. Their job has not been perfect but, Mr. Speaker, their accomplishments weigh enormously high when looked at in the total perspective.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister approve the work of her commission - which she appointed - in developing a job description which includes just about everything Mr. Freeman has done in the racing business and excludes 250 Canadian applicants?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, Mr. Speaker, I disagree with that evaluation, but I think the responsibility for working this situation through is with the commission, and I have given my undertaking that the commission will certainly follow the federal ruling, whether they agree with it or not.

Update on flooding

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. In view of the fact that 1979 was a spring something like this, which followed upon a record flood in the Province of Manitoba; in view of the fact that last fall we had probably one of the record numbers of inches of rainfall in October and the ground froze up very wet, and the ability of the ground to absorb any of the spring runoff is very limited; in view of the fact that we're now at the first of April and have had a series of cloudy days over the past month with very little melting and probably, within the next few days, warmer weather; in view of the fact that in some of the areas of the Souris River Valley, through a personal viewing of it in the last few days, that it appears as if what he predicted last week is already taking place, some 10 percent of that valley is now flooded, will he give this House an immediate update on Monday as to the possibilities of flooding in Manitoba and a current update with the situation as it is with weekend rainfall and snow that is being predicted?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all honourable members are concerned about the threat of flood. The earlier report that I indicated in the House was a favourable one but, as is always the case, there are certain areas of the province that are subject to some degree of flooding almost every year. I won't agree with all of the "in view of the facts" that the honourable member indicated because I don't know whether they are facts. However, as the report indicated, Mr. Speaker, there has been a build up of soil moisture, particularly last fall, and significant weather changes during this critical period can affect the degree of

flooding that we can experience in various parts of the province; and it is true that the department is concerned that we monitor these situations very closely.

Certainly, I'll be happy to give an update on Monday as to the areas that the department indicates may be subject to some degree of flooding.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his response and will look forward to Monday for a complete update on not only the Souris River but the Red River and Assiniboine River as well, because it is a major issue, particularly in light of some of the reporting that we'd received prior to the 1979 flood that the situation did change.

Mr. Speaker, there seems to be a problem with the members of the government being thanked for providing information by members of the opposition.

Four-year assessment on farmers

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the Federal Government, the Internal Revenue Department, are now going back and making a four-year assessment on farmers who are working off the farm to supplement their incomes are now being, or are subject to, an interpretation by the Internal Revenue Department which could cost them several thousands of dollars, will the Minister of Finance make representation to the Federal Minister responsible for the Internal Revenue Department, asking them not to impose past taxes or a change in the interpretation which would cost thousands of dollars to farmers who are having an extremely difficult time at this particular time in their livelihoods?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the honourable member could provide me with the full details of the cases that have been brought to his attention, I'd be glad to take a look at them and respond.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, rather than me give him the full details, I could provide him with one specific one that I have in my constituency, which is a broader issue. The Minister should be aware of the fact that in Ottawa last week it was raised in the House of Commons and asked, and his department possibly, if they are available to serve the people of Manitoba, could contact the Federal Minister responsible for this particular jurisdiction and have a report from them as to the current interpretation of The Federal Income Tax Act, so that in fact it could be acted upon more quickly than I could get that information to him.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, just further to the question that was posed by the Member for Arthur, I should advise him that we have made, and I, personally, have made representations to the Federal Government dealing with the questions of the calculation of expenditures and/or capital cost reductions in terms

of where farmers work off the farm and those expenses not being accepted by Revenue Canada. We've made certain proposals and, in fact, have proposed that this issue be discussed at the Ministers' Meeting as well, because it is a problem that is emerging and has been emerging for people who want to enter agriculture through a phase-in period.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Agriculture provide the House with copies of his correspondence to the Federal Government, as well as replies that he has received or will be receiving on this particular issue? And as well, Mr. Speaker, whose side is the Minister of Agriculture on, the Federal Government's or the farmers of Manitoba?

HON. B. URUSKI: Those kinds of discussions are ongoing. I have had representations made from constituents the same way as the Honourable Member for Arthur has made, and we have put those cases forward; some of which I have put through members of parliament through the same norms as he has. I have also made representations to the Federal Minister of Agriculture and to the Minister of National Revenue.

Mr. Speaker, the sarcasm of the Honourable Member for Arthur needs not to be answered.

Careerstart Program

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Labour, and this is dealing with information that I received earlier this week about the Careerstart Program. I was wondering if the Minister would consider extending the deadline of April 15th for applications, in view of the fact that most of the people in Manitoba have not received that information yet and the fact that this coming weekend the post offices in Manitoba will be closed Friday, Saturday and Monday. The timetable seems very, very tight for any application for a person to duly consider the whole impact of the program. Would the Minister consider extending the deadline?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the concern expressed by the honourable member across the way and I will take that under consideration. Our problem, of course, is our desire to get young people to work early in May since they will be out of school. So I will take that under consideration, given the fact that it is a holiday weekend and postal services may be delayed. The member may not know that there is a later date for northern applications, of course, because we are aware that the mail service is not all that it could be in the North. So we will take that under consideration, and if there is a change, I will bring that information back to the House.

MR. H. GRAHAM: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that I represent a constituency that has a large number of the farming community who do farm along the Saskatchewan

border, and in view of the fact that the regulations stipulate that a farmer must have his entire farm operation within the Province of Manitoba, would the Minister give special consideration to those farmers who live in Manitoba, have the majority of their farm in the province, and maybe have an odd quarter section across the boundary in Saskatchewan.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, if the member would have those people indicate to me specifically the problems that he is outlining, or if he could do so himself, those particular farmers and their desire to hire people and for what purpose, and so on, so that we could see if they actually did fit within the program itself, I'd take a look at it, yes.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I find that rather strange, coming from a Minister who's only allowing people two weeks to make their application, and we know the problems we have with mail these days. If I have to refer these people directly to the Minister, the deadline of April 15th will be long gone and their chances are gone. I'm asking the Minister now if she would consider the regulations that she has herself imposed, to consider the case of farmers who are living on the Saskatchewan border, and I presume on the American border as well, where they may have the majority of their farm in Manitoba and maybe a small portion of their land across the boundary.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Speaker, I think I just answered that question and the other one implied in it. I said I would take a look at the April 15th deadline in particular cases. I said if the member could provide me with information on particular farmers who are hard pressed to hire young people and are being excluded by the regulations of the program, I would like to see that specific information. If the member can provide that for me, then I'd be happy to take a look at it.

Buy and Renovate Program

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. J. STORIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just rise to respond to a couple of questions that were asked of me by the Member for St. Norbert on Monday with respect to the Buy and Renovate Program.

First of all, with respect to the amount of money that has flowed, I would like to correct something that appeared that I said on Monday with respect to the number of applications. I was going from a press report which had indicated 45. The actual number is 35 applications have been approved for a total of \$1.1 million in commitment. There are an additional 81 applications in process. Approximately 10 to 15 percent of that money has flowed. There are three or four individuals who have followed through on the process, who are in their renovated homes in the inner city area. As members will recognize, because the payments are made on a progress basis, the flow of funds of course will increase as the months proceed. We initially set a target of 100 units renovated. I don't think we will have any difficulty meeting that number. I suppose by that measure it is certainly going to be a success.

As well, the member asked a question about when the guidelines were established. Mr. Speaker, I have a booklet that was prepared for a meeting with realtors that staff had in November. This is a very detailed set of guidelines, information for realtors on the program and all of its aspects. It was available in November and realtors were working on that basis. Certainly information on the Buy and Renovate Program was available and guidelines were established. Some of the problems that we've encountered have been specifically because it is very complex and individuals come to us, particularly in those areas with their own desires and wishes with respect to how they can fit into the program.

I hope that answers the member's question.

Loan Guarantee Program

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister indicate that under the recently announced \$100 million Loan Guarantee Program of which the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation is providing a 12.5 percent guarantee on that \$100 million guarantee portfolio, can he indicate if the guarantee will be claimed and exercised on a 12.5 percent prorated basis on an individual loan case?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I don't have all the details of the program here with me, but when we are in my Estimates, we will certainly be able to get those details. The announcement was made, but there are a number of guidelines. I will have to check that out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister when he is checking that out might also determine whether the equity basis for eligibility has been raised from 10 percent to 20 percent. As well, would the Minister indicate that since this guaranteed program is considered the last hope for a number of farmers for arranging financing this spring, that if some of these farmers do not qualify under the program as announced, will it be the end of their farming operations? Is there no further place that they can go and apply to the MACC?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, this Loan Guarantee Program is a co-operative program with financial lending institutions who do the bulk of the ongoing lending to agriculture in the Province of Manitoba. MACC funding, in terms of debt consolidation and assistance is still available to farmers who qualify on an ongoing basis. Mr. Speaker, under the Interest Rate Relief Program as well, our staff are involved in assisting farmers who are in difficulties and dealing with those who may not qualify for the Interest Rate Relief Program in trying to put together packages of refinancing and assistance to make available as best they can to those who are having difficulties in meeting their needs for the springtime operations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 14th, I took as notice some questions from the Member for Minnedosa, wherein he asked information as to the number of municipal officials that attended the regional meetings held by myself in eight areas of the Province of Manitoba. I can report that at seven of those eight meetings there were representatives of various municipalities in attendance. There was a total for all the meetings of 15 municipal officials attending the meetings, representing 12 different municipalities in the Province of Manitoba. I might add that at the provincial conference, there were 18 delegates representing 15 municipalities throughout rural and Northern Manitoba.

Camp Shilo Report

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Has the Minister received the environmental report on Camp Shilo, which I understand has been prepared by Maclaren Plansearch?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, as part of a preliminary work the department was undertaking prior to completing negotiations with the Federal Government, the Department of Defence, in respect to the Shilo lease arrangement, we did ask for an environmental impact study in respect to the area. We have received a report; the department has been looking at it. I haven't personally examined it, but I am aware of the fact that there is concern in respect to the particular impact of leafy spurge in the area of the shelling. It is a matter of serious concern and that is one of the reasons why we felt it important not to merely enter quickly into a lease arrangement and make sure that all of the details and all of the concerns that we have in the area would be amply protected in any lease arrangement we make.

MRS. C. OLESON: Will the Minister table that report as soon as he can, please?

HON. A. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Speaker, certainly I will be happy to share the information of the report. I believe, however, that the department is still working with it and it will be the basis of discussion. I think that under the arrangements we have, the Federal Government shares costing in respect to the report and I would assume that it would be necessary to confirm arrangements with them. I don't think that should be any difficulty. Certainly I will be happy to provide the information as soon as I can.

Manitoba Horse Racing Commission

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, one further question to the Minister of Economic Development. Could she confirm that as a result of the botching of their responsibilities by the Members of the Manitoba Horse Racing Commission whom she appointed, Mr. Speaker, will the job given to Mr. Freeman now be advertised throughout Canada in Canada Employment and Immigration Offices on the basis of a job description prepared and approved by the federal department?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I think the preparation of the job description has to be done by the commission in consultation with the people affected. I have full confidence that they will be in communication with the federal department and I'm sure that they will make every effort to comply with their requirements. I remind the members opposite that the advertisement did go across Canada in four or five newspapers. This is the first time, Mr. Speaker, that a Horse Racing Commission in Manitoba has done other than make appointments. As I said earlier, there may be some procedural activities which need improvement. They would be the first to say that they have been going through a very difficult developmental task. They want to do what is good for racing in Manitoba, Mr. Speaker. I have confidence that they will act in a responsible and open and constructive manner.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the comment by the Minister that the Horse Racing Commission could make appointments, would she guarantee to this House, that in view of the botching of this job in developing a job description tailor-made to one of the applicants, will she guarantee to this House that this Horse Racing Commission will not make any appointments in the future and will be required to advertise any jobs throughout Canada?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the Mickey Mouse kind of logic coming from across the hall really does astonish me. You say that because a commission on one out of a hundred activities has done something less than 100 percent right, you take away from them all privileges and all responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, my understanding of people working in responsible jobs is that they do their level best to carry out a good job. No one is perfect - on this side, the other side, or anywhere on this earth, Mr. Speaker. I've already given my undertaking that the commission will act in a legal and constructive and open manner. I confirm that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for oral questions having expired Orders of the Day . . .
The Honourable Minister of Housing.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to Orders of the Day, if I might be permitted, by leave, to make a non-political statement?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)

The Honourable Minister of Housing.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

HON. J. STORIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend the Flin Flon Bantam Bombers were in Winnipeg to compete in the Provincial Bantam Championships. I would like to ask my colleagues and members opposite to join me in congratulating this group of young hockey players who, like the North itself, overcame great odds to succeed. I was pleased to note the press report indicated that they were a fine group of people, and in particular, the goalie Dean Owen, was outstanding.

I should say this is a particularly joyful occasion for me because I taught a good number of the individuals playing on this team. The team in general, is a fine group of young men.

The Flin Flon team will be representing the province in the Western Canada Bantam Championships which occur, I believe, not this weekend, but the following weekend in Winnipeg. I know the House joins me in wishing them well as they represent Manitoba.

ORDERS OF THE DAY COMMITTEE CHANGES

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MRS. D. DODICK: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have some committee changes, please.

For Municipal Affairs, I would like to add the Member for Gimli replacing the Member for Riel, remove the Member for Inkster and add the Member for Dauphin.

For Statutory Regulations and Orders, I would like to add the Member for Riel, removing the Member for Gimli.

In Industrial Relations, remove the Member for Osborne and the Member for Rossmere, add the Member for Kildonan and the Member for Thompson.

On Public Utilities, will you add the Member for Springfield, removing the Member for Riel.

I have copies for the Clerk too, if he would like.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. R. PENNER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance 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.

Mr. Speaker, the intention to proceed with Estimates through the balance of the day and, by agreement with the Opposition House Leader, to dispense with Private Members' Hour, and to continue with Estimates till 5:30.

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

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the agreement was to dispense with Private Members' Hour, but I'm assuming that we'd be adjourning at 4:30.

HON. R. PENNER: Well, presumably, if the committees are in full flight of interesting things and wish to continue

past that hour, arrangements could be made at that time. If they would rather go home and bury Easter eggs, I suppose that we can at 4:30.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Agriculture; and the Honourable Member for Springfield in the Chair for the Department of Government Services.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - GOVERNMENT SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN, A. Anstett: Committee come to order. Continuing consideration of the Department of Government Services, Resolution No. 83. Field Services; (f) Security Services: 1. Salaries, \$1,750,600.00. The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. When we quit the other evening, we had just started to get into the field of Security. I had started to raise the point that in the last short period of time, we have had a rather unfortunate incident at the Archives Building where security was breached and there was some valuable material that disappeared.

Could the Minister indicate whether the person that was apprehended was one of the new security persons hired in the past year?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Government Services.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the person that is alleged to have committed the offences and who had admitted to those offences was a janitorial staff, maintenance staff, not a security staff. Maintenance has been under in-house operation for a number of years.

As a matter of fact, I believe in 1980, the previous government was thinking of moving away from in-house janitorial services for the Archives Building and the staff at the Archives Building registered disapproval of that, and that move was then stopped. They continued with in-house janitorial, and that is presently continuing. The individual, therefore, was not a security person.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I thank the honourable member for that information. We had the announcement a year ago of the change in policy and there was going to be increased security staff hired in the past year. Could the Minister indicate how many new staff were hired in the past year?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, the total number of in-house in the last fiscal year and, therefore, not reflected in the Estimates that we're considering as additions to this year, was 46.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Could the Minister indicate what criteria was used in the hiring of that staff? Was this done entirely through the Civil Service Commission?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Was the final discretion left with a short list with the Minister in each case, or was the final hiring done entirely by the Civil Service Commission?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I was not the Minister when all of these hirings were taking place. However, it was done using normal procedures, which was through the department and the Civil Service Commission; that is, with the Deputy Minister through the department. I don't believe the Minister had anything to do with the final selection.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I thank the Honourable Minister for that information. At the same time, could the Minister indicate how many people were displaced out of the private sector security with the hiring of these 46 new staff?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we don't have the figures as to if there are certain number of people unemployed because of moving to in-house security, people who were working for private contractors. But they were encouraged to apply and did apply, many of them, and a number of them were hired because of their obvious familiarity with the job and skills in that area and were able to move into government service then. The exact numbers as to how many came from the private sector absorbed from those contractors who were displaced under this program is not available at this time.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister misunderstood me. I didn't ask how many were transferred, I asked how many positions were replaced, positions that were under contract. When a contractor, I presume, has a contract to provide security for a certain building he must guarantee X number of people. Could the Minister indicate how many positions were done away with in the tendering contract business and replaced by security from the government?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for misinterpreting the question. The fact is that approximately the same number of positions employed by the government would have been displaced in the private sector.

MR. H. GRAHAM: When the Minister says approximately the same number, can he be more specific?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I did state earlier that we haven't surveyed the private contractors to determine exactly how many positions have been displaced. In some cases, perhaps, partial positions were displaced; perhaps they were moved into other jobs that the contractor had, supplement work they had there. We have not evaluated at this point the exact number. We are saying, though, that approximately the same number of positions would have been displaced.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister does know exactly how many contracts were canceled; he

does know the exact number of people that were contracted for under those contracts. Is it possible for the Minister to give us that information? I don't need it right now; I can wait for it at a future meeting.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that four of the 46 positions were for supervisory positions. Therefore, the number from the private sector would have been 42 positions. Whether some of their supervisory personnel would have been displaced by this is not clear at this time.

MR. H. GRAHAM: So the number that were canceled by cancellation of contracts was 42. That is an exact number, is it?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: To the best of my knowledge that is an exact number.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(f)(1) Salaries \$1,750,600—pass; 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$440,100—pass; 2.(g) Gimli Industrial Park (1) Salaries \$1,368,900.00.
The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the Gimli Industrial Park I noticed that the staff is approximately the same number; if you take the increase in wages, it appears to be the same number. Could the Minister give us a report on the activities of the Gimli Industrial Park to the extent of the percentage of total utilization?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: The Gimli Industrial Park is currently 75 percent occupied which is slightly less than it was last year. There have been a couple of moves out of the Park this past year. One was EEE Trailers which consolidated their operations in Winkler and moved out of the operations at Gimli and there were a couple of warehousing operations that were moved out. Basically, other than those three, there is the same percentage of occupation of the Park.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Is the Gimli Industrial Park still being used as storage for some rather dangerous goods until such time as we find a safe place for their keeping?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is the case.

MR. H. GRAHAM: What security is there in place to secure the hazardous goods to ensure that there is no further leakage?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Environmental Control Department is in charge of that operation in terms of security and it is completely fenced off and secure from that point of view.

MR. H. GRAHAM: So it doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of the Minister at all as to the upkeep of it?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I have no further questions unless . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(g) Gimli Industrial Park (1) Salaries \$1,368,900—pass; 2.(g)(2) Other Expenditures \$910,700—pass; 2.(h) Alterations, Furniture, Furnishings and Incidental Expenses - Project Management (1) Minor Projects \$303,000.00.
The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, we notice there is a rather sharp reduction in Minor Projects in this field. Would that be as a result of the complete refurbishing of the Premier's office and it's not being done again this year?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, there has not been a greater degree of refurbishing of Ministerial offices during the first year of operation since this government has been in office than there has been in the past. I could go back and give the averages for the years, and you would see it's very similar; as a matter of fact, quite a bit greater in certain years, the amount of dollars spent on refurbishing of offices. It is an ongoing endeavour by the governments to keep the offices in good order in this building, but I would say that the difference in that amount simply reflects what will mean that the departments will have to do better planning for renovations and alterations ahead of time and, therefore, budget for it.

This is the amount that is spent from Government Services for alterations as they come up that are unplanned ahead of time in budgeting and, therefore, we have cut back on that appropriation. It would simply mean that other departments are going to have to do a better job of planning for their alterations because we will be able to meet those requests to a lesser extent, to the tune of \$95,000.00. As you can see, the \$248,000 figure is the amount that is recovered from other departments. They actually budget for these minor alterations to that extent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Further questions?

MR. H. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think if you'd go back over the years, you'll find that any year after a change in government that the Minor Projects under Government Services rises dramatically for approximately one year. I don't think it's confined to any one particular political party. It's the party in power at the time. I know the Honourable Member for Elmwood may have some disagreement on that. I believe he always wanted more work done in Minor Projects when he was Minister of Government Services.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I think that the statements made by the honourable member would be borne out to a certain extent. I can point out that in 1979-80 there was \$281,000 spent on renovations of this building. In 1982-83 there was \$109,000 spent. In the years in-between that time there was a lesser amount spent; \$12,000 in 1980-81 and \$30,000 in 1981-82. So, the members could see, Mr. Chairman, that when our government came into office, the amount spent on refurbishing and renovations for this building

was approximately one-third of that spent by the previous government in 1979-80. That is not including inflation.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister then if the reported \$30,000 of a minor nature spent on the changes to the Legislative Assembly, if that came under Minor Projects?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, that came under Construction Acquisition, as we indicated the previous day that we were dealing with this.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(h) Alterations, Furniture, Furnishings and Incidental Expenses - Project Management—pass. 2.(j) Energy Management and Technical Services: (1) Salaries \$361,200—pass; 2.(j)(2) Other Expenditures \$102,000.00.
The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, would this be the appropriate place to ask the Minister if he's received the weather information that we requested a couple or three days ago?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe the information the honourable member requested was made available to him the previous day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 2.(j)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.
Resolution No. 83. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$43,155,600 for Government Services, Field Services, \$43,155,600.00.
The Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: I just want to ask the Minister where I could ask some questions about the sound system in the Legislature, assuming there is a sound system.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I believe you wanted to know where you would ask the question about the sound services in this building, is that correct? I was referring to, and checking on the fact that we have already covered the areas where we would have dealt with that in Field Services, under Physical Plant.

MR. R. DOERN: Well, maybe the Minister could allow me to ask a question here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On a point of order, the resolution now before us is the blanket resolution for Item 2. Field Services, and debate on any item within that resolution is in order while the blanket resolution is before us.
The Member for Elmwood.

MR. R. DOERN: Mr. Chairman, just a couple of points. I've already asked this House, I asked a question in the House. I have never been satisfied with the new sound system in comparison to the old. We've spent a lot of money putting in a new system which may be good in terms of Hansard staff hearing and being able to type speeches. It may have other advantages in terms

of French translation, but in terms of members sitting in the House and hearing the debate without the aid of an earphone or earpiece, it's useless. In the old days, meaning before the new system a few years ago, a member could sit and hear the debate quite easily because each member had an individual microphone. Now we have so-called "natural voice" which means the speaker has no amplification, which means that the hecklers across the way have equal volume with the speaker and I think it results in an inferior system. I think it's chaotic and a nuisance in that one cannot, at times, hear the debate unless one has an earphone, which I think is unnecessary.

This is a preamble, Mr. Chairman. We have, upstairs in the galleries, amplification equipment. So the question is this: Why can't a sound system crew be brought in, some technical people? It's surely just a small technical problem to install some form of amplifiers, either on the floor, or an individual amplifier at each desk as before. Surely to God, with the passage of time and with all this modern technology, somebody out there knows how to install a system where you won't have feedback and where you won't require people to wear earphones. So I am simply saying to the Minister, would he check into this. Could he consult with the Speaker and Internal Economy to see whether some technical physical improvements could be made. I know that I don't stand alone on this. I know there are other members who also are dissatisfied with the present system. So I'm asking the Minister whether he either has checked into this or would be good enough to check into it and see whether we could make some improvement?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I believe that the honourable member had indicated to me that he would be approaching the Board of Internal Economy and the Speaker on this particular issue. If he has not done that, I certainly would be prepared to raise it at the Board of Internal Economy, on which I sit, to get the feelings of that Board with regard to this request.

MR. R. DOERN: I have drawn this to the attention of the Minister and I do so now formally. I have drawn it to the attention of the Speaker. I would ask the Minister to carry the case. If necessary, I would be happy to attend, but I would ask him to carry the case and make the enquiry and get some prices as well and some alternatives, because ultimately it will come down to a question of dollars and cents.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have given the undertaking that I would take it to the Board of Internal Economy. In terms of prices and so on, that was the next step that would have to be considered by the Board of Internal Economy if they wish to proceed that far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Further discussion on Resolution No. 83, Field Services?
The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Just a small matter on the same point as the Member for Elmwood was making. Even using the earphone where I sit, I have to have it on

full blast to hear some of the speaking, so that system itself isn't working all that well. I wonder if the Minister would mind having someone look into that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would certainly be prepared to take those matters if it is a general feeling of the members who control that Assembly, who are concerned about the sound system in there, and I think many have experienced some difficulty with it, that then there should be something done about it, and I think that general consensus would come out if there was a problem that most people felt was present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Further questions or debate on Resolution No. 83, Field Services \$43,155,600—pass.
No. 3. Supply and Services, Resolution No. 84(a) Executive Administration: Salaries, \$152,500.00.
The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a general question. At the beginning, I notice that the government department and agency provides support services such as transportation, office machines and equipment, etc., etc. In the field of transportation, and probably I'm a little more aware of it today, since we went to Brandon to the Royal Winter Fair yesterday, would it be Government Services that provided the transportation for members of the Legislature to attend the Royal Winter Fair in Brandon yesterday, or would it be some other department?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that was supplied by the Department of Economic Development.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I just wanted that clarified before we started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)(1), Salaries, \$152,500—pass; Other Expenditures, \$6,600—pass; 3.(b)(1) Central Vehicle Branch, Salaries, \$1,181,000.00.
The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, when we're dealing with the Central Vehicle Branch, the Honourable Member for Pembina indicated to me that he would want to ask some questions on the operation of the Central Vehicle Branch. I'm sure that there are many other members that may want to ask questions regarding the operation of the Central Vehicle Branch.

To begin with, I would like to ask the Minister how many executive cars, such as, Cabinet Minister's cars, the government has in its fleet this year, as compared to previous years?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the total number is 19 used by Ministers and the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier. The total last year, of course, since there were fewer Ministers would have been less; there would have been more in the executive pool fleet. The number that would have been present under the former administration would have been very similar to that because the Cabinet was very much the same at

that time, and there could have been a variation of one or two in the executive pool.

There's always about four or five cars that are kept on as pool cars for members of the Executive Council; if there's a problem to the individual cars, then they would draw from the executive pool.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Could the Minister indicate what people qualify for his definition of an executive-driven sedan?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the people that qualify are the Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier.

MR. D. ORCHARD: What's the total car fleet again?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the total car fleet for the government last year was 2,581. This year it's 2,524, a drop of 57.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, the executive fleet is approximately 19 cars, I take it?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: That is correct, plus the pool of four currently. Some of those in the pool are getting up pretty high on the mileage and will be retired when the replacement cars come in, but there's a total, then, of 23 active cars, if you want to use that term.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Who has access to the four cars that are within the pool that aren't assigned, I assume, specifically to a Minister?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, these are for use of the Ministers, as I mentioned earlier, when required, and sometimes Deputy Ministers have utilized those cars, but on very rare occasions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: How about Special Assistants, or any of the Order-in-Council appointments?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, ApECIAL Assistants would, if they required a car would obtain those from the regular pool of the fleet.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, G. Lecuyer: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Premier, I take it, has a fairly substantial use of a larger car out of that four-car fleet?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think it is widely known that the Premier has a compact car that he uses as his regular car, and only at times when that car would be in for servicing for long periods, would he use a car from the pool.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Could the Minister provide us with the number of times and the mileage that one of those full-sized pool cars has been signed out to the Premier's Office?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we can obtain that information; we certainly don't have it here readily available at this time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Then I take it the Minister will provide that information at his earliest convenience, which might be on Monday?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, it's possible that we could have that information for the honourable member this afternoon.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you. The Minister seems to make quite a lot of to-do about this new policy, the replacement of executive-driven sedans, with compact models. I take it that there would be 22 such vehicles because you have 23 cars, one of which is already a compact, and out of a fleet of 2,500 vehicles, or thereabouts, what you're talking about is replacing less than 1 percent of them with compact cars. Yet, the Minister likes to always bring this forward as being a great and tremendous amount of cost-saving. I really think that he's attempting, in some small way, to make a great to-do about 22 cars out of a fleet of 2,500 being sized down. We're certainly not going to have much of a dent on a \$600 million projected deficit that the government is running.

It may be very good politics to have the Premier with a picture in the paper beside a compact car, and then down the line immediately are the fleet of full-sized cars that all the other Ministers have, and down the other parking stall lineup is the fleet of full-sized cars that the other Cabinet Ministers have. It really is a little bit of, I suppose it might be called offsetting politics, the tradeoff being \$75 a yard carpet in the Premier's office in return for driving a compact car and still having access to any one of four stand-by pool cars which are full-sized, if and when the Premier needs those cars. The Minister really, in promoting this compact-car business, is attempting to make quite a large issue out of really much less than 1 percent of the car fleet being converted over. Particularly when each and every one of the Ministers has renewed, probably within the last year, his full-sized car, the last tag-a-long being the Premier who has decided to go for a compact car.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll deal with the last comment first and that is that the Ministers have not had new cars purchased. There have been six cars purchased in 1981, one for the Leader of the Opposition. These were purchased under the previous policy utilized by the previous government which was to purchase full-sized cars and the same criteria was used by this government for the first year.

Since that time, a new policy has been adopted and that would supply for Executive Council use only compact cars and the number replaced this year is only one so far and that is for the Honourable Minister of Economic Development; the car assigned to her was over the 151,000 kilometre mark. She is driving a pool car right now, a regular, small, Aries compact car until such time as her new K car arrives. The policy is that the cars will be replaced only during their normal replacement time when that comes up, which is four years or 128,000 kilometres, not before that. So there

will not be any replacement that will take place in an accelerated form; it will be a normal process. The only one that does not adhere to that and largely, I believe, to set the stage and to let people know that they are serious about is the Premier's car which has 78,000 kilometres and so that was not replaced under the normal replacement cycle. All of the other Minister's cars will be under the normal replacement cycle. That will be done over the next number of years under this policy and certainly will not take place immediately.

I can say that the previous government replaced cars in 1979-80, replaced 17 vehicles. We have replaced only six vehicles since we've been in office with the seventh one this year that has been ordered. I believe that it is a significant step because under the previous government of which the honourable member was a Minister, they did say that they would move towards the use of compact cars for the Civil Service, but not for themselves. We have adopted that policy for the Cabinet as well as for the civil servants generally and we have put greater emphasis even on the use of sub-compact cars. I should mention that of the fleet of 2,500 approximately, the number of sedans is only 1,085. We're dealing with a smaller group overall, so the percentage would be higher if we want to deal with the point that was made by honourable member that this was such a small percentage of the overall fleet.

Of that overall fleet of sedans, in 1981 when we took office only 75 percent of the cars were compact; we have that up to 94 percent now and we will be able to approach closer to the 100 percent simply by including the ministerial vehicles in that. We feel that is significant. I think it is a strong message to Manitobans that we truly believe that we should be moving to compact cars and we're prepared to drive them ourselves.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Premier's car with 78,000 miles on it was placed in the pool fleet or is it in the deputy minister's use?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Under the normal replacement for the ministerial cars, the ones that are in best shape are then put into the pool for the executive ministerial pool and, of course, the Premier's former car is a 1979 model which is four years old but it is one of the lower mileage cars and is in the pool for Ministers.

MR. D. ORCHARD: How many cars are now assigned to staff in the Premier's office?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we'd have to get that information from the Premier's office; I don't know how many cars are assigned to the Premier's office at this time. I would like to mention one other thing that has been brought to my attention and that is simply the fact that ministerial cars are not passed on to deputy ministers as has been the practiced under the previous government. That has been changed; they are used for ministerial pool cars only. Those that are in worst shape are dispensed with, sold.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I take it that the Minister will provide that information on cars assigned to the staff in the Premier's office at 2 o'clock and that - I take it the

policy has been changed - the deputy ministers will be receiving new cars.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, deputy ministers will receive new cars, compact variety, when their cars come up for replacement - the same as with all the cases when the cars are up for replacement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1)—pass.
The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, earlier in the Session the issue was raised in the Legislature regarding the great deal of difference that is paid for certain ministerial cars. In particular there was a car, I believe, the Minister of Agriculture had a Pontiac - I don't think it was an outstandingly different than any other car - but there seemed to be about about a \$3,000 differential in the price of that car as compared to Pontiacs of similar model that had been purchased for the use of other Ministers. Could the Minister indicate what difference there was in that vehicle that would indicate a \$3,000 differential?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, first of all there has to be a correction in the price of that vehicle. It was listed in the Order for Return at somewhere over \$14,000.00. There was an error, in that the computer listing had included federal tax and all of the vehicles that were listed did not include federal tax except that one, which was an error. The actual price for that vehicle is \$13,129 or \$13,154 - I don't know the exact figure but it's very slightly over \$13,000.00. Over \$1,000 of that difference was due to the fact that the federal tax was recorded on the computer when it shouldn't have been. So that would account for over \$1,000; we're dealing then with less than \$2,000 difference. There have been a number of cases in the past where government vehicles purchased in different areas of the province have resulted in significantly varying prices. For example, a few years back - and I could get the specific year - the Member for Thompson, the Minister of Labour I believe, Mr. MacMaster had a car purchased in Thompson. It was exactly the same kind of car that was purchased for the Leader of the Opposition at that time, Mr. Pawley, and there was over \$1,000 variance in that particular purchase, because one was purchased in Thompson and one was purchased in Winnipeg where they may have gotten a number of quotes on the price for the car.

It has been the practice for a number of years under the previous government as well as under this government, up to now, that Ministerial vehicles were purchased in the area of the choice of the Minister. So what happened was that the Minister would make a choice. If he wanted to purchase his vehicle in his constituency, which was done on numerous occasions under the previous government, and there was not always the number of quotes or there was no tendering for those cars and that may have resulted in some higher prices at times, but we believe that this should be addressed, and we certainly will be recommending that this be changed and perhaps be looking at tenders, even in regions, or that at least three quotations are obtained before a car is purchased. The Minister would

then be made aware of the price, because right now the Minister would indicate where he wants the car purchased from and he would not have any knowledge of the price of that vehicle. He would just give information to Government Services where that vehicle would be purchased and then it would be purchased there. So we want to provide a better system of communication so that the Ministers are aware of the price of the cars and they would be done only after a number of quotations are received.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I want to thank the Minister for that explanation. It still doesn't tell us why the difference in price, the differential is more than 100 percent greater than what it was between, say, a Winnipeg dealer and a dealer in Thompson. I believe this dealer probably isn't near as far north as Thompson, so I would expect that the differential would be less rather than 100 percent more. So, could the Minister provide us with a copy of the sales contract, the name of the company, and the name of the owner of that company, and the equipment on the car?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we could definitely provide that information. I have no hesitation in providing it as soon as we receive it. I will mention as well, though, that one other factor involved in the purchase of cars from the lot, between March and September, cars for that model year cannot be ordered and so, therefore, if there are any purchases that take place during that five months of the year, they have to be purchased from the lot from existing stock.

So what happens is that very often the car that is purchased is already on a lot somewhere in the area or may even be transferred from one dealer to another when they haven't got it in stock. In that case, sometimes the options that are present on that particular vehicle are not those that are necessarily requested or even wanted by the Minister, or standard options for Ministerial vehicles. We have a list of standardized Ministerial options and we have that available as well, but that was set up since the time of the purchase of the vehicle that we're talking about at this time. But I believe there was a list of options as well that were standard for Ministerial vehicles, and occasionally a car would be purchased where there were additional options because they were on the car at the time, and the car was being purchased at that time of the year where it could not be specified exactly what options were required and therefore ordered from the factory, as most of our tendered cars are done. So we would be able to get the information as to the specific options for the honourable member.

MR. H. GRAHAM: At the same time, would the Minister also provide us with the specifications of the options the department does provide for Ministerial cars?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, if the honourable member wishes, I could go through them right at this time.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Just table it with us; it would be fine.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, I can table this, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1) - the Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: When we're dealing with government vehicles, could the Minister indicate to us, excluding trucks over one ton, how many vehicles the province has that are of the four-wheel variety as far as power train is concerned, and what departments those four-wheel vehicles are assigned to?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: We have 11 half-ton four-wheel drives in the replacement section. Is the honourable member asking for the total number of four-wheel drives in the fleet or the number . . .

MR. H. GRAHAM: That's right, the total number in the fleet.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I do not have that figure broken out at this time but we can get that information for the honourable member.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I thank the Honourable Minister for that. There is another question I would like to ask the Minister, and that is dealing with the supply of vehicles. Does the Department of Government Services supply vehicles to boards and commissions of government as well as the Civil Service?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, that is the case in certain instances where cars are supplied to certain boards and commissions; this has always existed.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Then I would like to ask the Minister to provide us with the number of vehicles that have been provided to the new beef program in the Province of Manitoba.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have the listings for the total number of cars for each department, but not by commission or branch or so on at our disposal at this time, but we can get that information as well.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I thank the Minister for that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1)—pass; 3.(b)(2) - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the government is promoting a Buy Manitoba Program. Is the Minister giving any consideration to the introduction of gasohol at the Central Garage so that the fleet fueled out of Winnipeg would be able to burn gasohol which, of course, has 10 percent Manitoba production content, and by any reports I've heard of people using gasohol, it is at least as good if not better than comparable non-alcohol fuels. Is the Minister giving consideration to switching over the Central Garage to gasohol?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the total fuel needs are tendered; the quotes are received and the lowest tender is taken at the present time. A lot of the fuel that's purchased is purchased outside of the city by individual civil servants as they go about their business with the vehicle and therefore gasohol can be purchased

at that time. However, I feel that the suggestion - if that's what the honourable member is making - should certainly be investigated. If we can be utilizing gasohol in our fleet to a greater extent and using greater Manitoba content in purchasing, I would think that would be something that should be looked into in terms of comparable prices at least, and then make the decision from there as to whether it would still be feasible to change over at that point. If the costs are at least only marginally different, marginally higher, for the gasohol, then I would suggest that that be considered. I would strongly suggest that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well then, could the Minister indicate three pieces of information, basically, the amount of fuel, the volume of fuel that goes through the central garage over there; number two, who currently supplies that, who is the lower bidder on that fuel contract; number three, whether Mohawk tendered on that supply of fuel to the central garage?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that we do not have that information available here, but would certainly be prepared to provide that probably by this afternoon.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(2) - the Member for Assiniboia.

MR. R. NORDMAN: Mr. Chairman, how many of the government vehicles are presently using alternative fuels?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we have 14 propane driven vehicles at this time that we're experimenting with. I am sure people are aware that the Manitoba Telephone System has done quite a bit of work in this area in terms of the use of alternate fuels, propane and gasohol. We are obtaining the information from them and studying that information to determine the feasibility of whether we should move further into that direction on the basis of performance alone. I think the other factor that is certainly significant is the Manitoba content in terms of gasohol, as I mentioned before. That would add significance to utilizing gasohol in government vehicles.

MR. R. NORDMAN: Have you been able to ascertain whether the cost of the - I know there are certain things that you have to do to your motors to accommodate the other fuels - are you finding that they are reasonably cost-worthy?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, there's not a significant difference in the costs in terms of the overall evaluation. It is very close to being the same in terms of cost.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(2) - the Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has stated previously that in the field of energy saving, they have done extensive work in trying to save costs in energy in the heating and the care of provincial buildings. I

would like to know in the field of vehicles, the gross provincial fleet, what were the total purchases of fuel in each of the last three years by the government in their fleet to see whether the corresponding decline in the total usage of fuels follows the trend of Manitobans in general where we have approximately an 8 percent decline per annum since the price of fuel has gone up.

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Mr. Minister.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we do have a figure that gives the average kilometreage for government vehicles for 1979-80, for example, as a base year as compared to 1982-83. That would certainly indicate what percentage increase there has been and what is being achieved in terms of kilometres per gallon. However, the total purchase of fuel over the last three years, in each particular year, I do not have available. I am attempting to receive the information in terms of the average kilometreage, which I believe would indicate very clearly to the honourable member, in what direction we are going and what percentage direction or change there is.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I thank the Honourable Minister for that information, but in his efforts to obtain an average, surely he must use the figure of the total. I don't see how he can compute an average if he doesn't have the total to begin with. So I would assume that he does have the total amount of fuel that has been purchased through any fiscal year. That information must be available some place.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I didn't say that it's not available anywhere; I said I did not have it here at this time. I said that I thought we had the averages for the vehicles driven or the kilometres per hour. It turns out that we don't have the average kilometres right at this time. We certainly can get the total purchases though for each of those years. There is no problem with that.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I am sure the Minister will provide us with those figures then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One general concern and I often get it expressed to me by constituents in regard to the use of government vehicles. In a lot of cases, the concerns stem from a misunderstanding of the kind of use that is authorized for those particular government vehicles. I was wondering, therefore, whether the Minister could perhaps provide some information to people in general so that they are aware of the general guidelines, so that if there are any cases of abuse taking place that people will report them, but that people have a clear idea of what is authorized for government use and what isn't because I know it's a frequent concern that's expressed to me from the Thompson area.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I don't know whether I can reply comprehensively to that question at this time. I can tell you that there is provision for personal use -

something that is not necessarily known by the public generally - by paying a certain amount per month, in the neighbourhood of \$30 or \$35 per month, they are allowed up to 500 kilometres per month for personal use. That includes now with the new taxation guidelines by the Federal Government, going to and from work. So in addition to that, they have to pay the costs of operating that vehicle in addition to that mileage for any personal use.

In terms of spouses, I believe spouses can also operate the vehicle fleet under that clause as well. But they cannot, it is my understanding, use it for going to another place of work. In other words, use the vehicle for their own working needs. There's a number of considerations that one would have to take into account if one were feeling that there abuses taking place.

Certainly that is the policy, that there is provision for personal mileage. It is a source of problems because certain times vehicles are used excessively for personal use and that can present a problem in terms of cost to the government, and something that we have to be constantly concerned about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Well, the Minister has certainly, I guess has been made aware of the areas that I've been made aware of in terms of particular concern, which is basically the private use of those vehicles. As the Minister indicated, I think it's often not well known amongst members of the general public that there are situations under which government employees pay for that personal use, and therefore, it's for a legitimate use of those vehicles.

I was wondering though whether, perhaps if the Minister could provide me with detailed guidelines, perhaps I can distribute it to constituents who have expressed concern in this area, so that they're aware of the general guidelines, and so that if there are cases of abuse, they can report that and action can be taken to stop it?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the manual of administration contains those guidelines. I can certainly make that available to the honourable member.

I should point out though that the provisions for personal use are not something that is administered by this department. The provisions are negotiated with MGEA, and if they were to change, would have to be done under those conditions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b) - the Member for St. Johns.

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, do we have civil servants who are using their own cars for work, and if so, how much are we paying them? Is this on a monthly basis, weekly, or per mile, or kilometres, or whatever? If so, how many cars do we have like that?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we would be able to get that information only from the various departments that are utilizing that method of having government business being conducted, instead of acquiring a government car for a particular employee

who is perhaps not making enough mileage in a particular year to warrant having a government car, then we would pay mileage to that particular employee.

Usually, if he's under 19,200 kilometres per year, it would be more feasible, that is the figure that would it would be more feasible to pay mileage as opposed to authorizing a government car for the individual employee to use.

In terms of the actual rate, that is a negotiated rate with MGEA as well. It's a factor that has been negotiated. It's in the Manual of Administration as well, in terms of what that rate is. As I said, we do not have the exact numbers of cars that are utilized in this way by each department. We could get that from each department. It would take quite a bit of research.

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: But, we have something like that. I'm not thinking about the government cars, but their own. The civil servants who are working, they are using their own cars. Do we have something like that in various departments?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we would have to canvass the departments, as I stated, to get that information. I understood clearly that was personal vehicles that were being used for government business when circumstances require, and a certain amount per kilometre is paid by the government for that, and that rate is negotiated through MGEA. As I said, in terms of the actual number of vehicles and the total kilometreage for that particular category, we would have to get that information from the various departments.

If the honourable member was concerned about one specific department, we could perhaps isolate it that way.

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: No, any departments. Okay, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(2) - The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recall going back a few years, in the four years that I was the Speaker of the Assembly, I believe there was an occasion when my own personal vehicle was damaged in an accident on the grounds here, at which time I had occasion to use a pool car from the government fleet, because of my requirement to be in the Legislative Assembly as Speaker of the House. I wonder if the Minister could give us any information on the usage of pool cars by maybe other MLAs; to what extent that is done, and if it is done in the interests of carrying on their duties as Members of the Assembly?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, from time to time, an MLA is required to utilize the government vehicle if he or she is representing a Minister for a particular reason and in those particular circumstances, normally would use the Minister's vehicle, representing the Minister. However, if that isn't available for whatever reason, then occasionally, I understand the Minister of that department could authorize the MLA to utilize the vehicle to represent him on government business; him or her.

I should say, Mr. Chairman, that our department will not give out that vehicle unless the Minister has authorized the use of it for government business.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Could the Minister indicate the number of times that has occurred in the past fiscal year, just so we can have some idea of what usage is being made of that?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, a lot of this information is as complicated as some of the information that has been asked for in Orders for Return. I hope that we can get all of this information. We'll certainly make every effort to get that for the honourable member.

MR. H. GRAHAM: I thank the Honourable Minister for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee, 3.(b)(2)—pass; 3.(b)(3)—pass; 3.(c)(1)—pass.
The Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, dealing with the office equipment branch, there has been I know, numerous requests made from the various caucus rooms, I can only speak for our own, where there have been requests for additional office equipment and space to carry out the duties of the MLAs and they're operating under very cramped quarters. At the present time the use of the word processor, I believe there were some people around some while ago to our caucus room indicating that this would be occurring. Could the Minister give us an update on the use of the word processor and when we can expect that we will have the necessary equipment in place?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, in the reconciliation statement it is pointed out that a certain number of functions have been transferred to the Department of Finance. One of them is the word processing which has been transferred during the past year to the Department of Finance and, therefore, would be under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance and that would be where the question would be quite properly asked and answered.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, is it a correct assumption then that all the activities of the word processor now come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance? That no use of the word processing can occur without the approval of the Minister of Finance?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the complete authority for word processing is under the Minister of Finance's Department.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, then that answer begs some more questions that are probably more serious and that is in the very operation of the Legislature itself and the operation of Hansard. Does that mean that we in this Legislature are subject to the dictates of the Minister of Finance as respect the operation of the Legislative Assembly?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Hansard still has the same responsibilities that it had before but rather than co-ordinating with the Department of Government Services as they did in the past they are now co-ordinating with the Information Management Branch under the Department of Finance.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I always thought that the Legislative Assembly was an authority unto itself and it does cause me some concern to see that the activities of the Legislative Assembly as such now come under the authority of the Minister of Finance or under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance as to what it can do and what it can't do.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the function of Hansard has not changed. The only function that has been transferred is the Government Services function and Word Processing which has gone to the Department Finance, Information Management Section. So, therefore, it has not changed the way that Hansard would operate and certainly it has no effect on this department in terms of how Hansard operates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(1) - the Member for Kirkfield Park.ass.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I have a question about the typewriters that are used by the government. Are they planning to upgrade them in any way so that there would be at least correcting typewriters in most of the offices? I think, if I ask this, probably the secretaries will all cheer. I doubt very much if there is more antiquated equipment than in this government building when it comes to typewriters. I'd ask the Minister just when they're going to get updated?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: There is certainly an ongoing assessment of the typewriter needs under this branch as part of the function and the major stumbling block, of course, with any particular branch when you're dealing with the purchases of new equipment, is the amount of money that is allocated to that particular appropriation. So that is the limiting factor in going to new and better equipment in terms of typewriters but I can say that the department is upgrading a number of the current ones. Instead of replacing them with new, very expensive equipment it is rebuilding a number, utilizing them further, extending their life many more years in the service of the government. That is taking place in terms of rebuilding, 225 Selectric typewriters are being rebuilt under this program this year. At the same time new typewriter needs are constantly being assessed and they are being purchased as the money allows.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Further to that, Mr. Chairman, as far as rebuilding typewriters, and I understand the need to keep costs down but I think that - and I don't know if this applies outside of this building - but in some offices there isn't even one machine that even can type a speech properly, even in Ministers' offices. As far as our own caucus is concerned when I look at the equipment there I think that possibly some of this equipment maybe could be sold to schools to be used.

At least people who are putting out the amount of work that is put out in this building alone could have some updated equipment.

I think that priorities - when you see how people are working in these offices - I think that maybe it's just because it is secretarial service that no one really takes a good look at it. I think that the equipment is deplorable and I'm sure that if you go into any office building today that they wouldn't allow their staff to continue to try and put out the amount of work that is put out - I think that the cost saving alone should be looked at here in the amount of work that people are able to do with a machine that helps them do it. I think that maybe this is a poor way to save money.

I would like the Minister's comments on looking at this sort of thing. I'll go further. Has anyone discussed even with secretaries maybe what their needs are? I don't think that they go that far. I think that it is just looked at from people who never handle machines and I think that this is one of the things that certainly should be looked at.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the secretaries and people in the work stations are consulted on the use of the kinds of machines that they require and certainly that can always be improved but I understand that it is done at this time. I share the concerns. I think it is very necessary to have good, efficient equipment that works well and is up-to-date, certainly to make the employees efficient, they cannot be efficient if they are using equipment that is not working well, there is nothing that is more frustrating than that. I appreciate that and I am concerned about it and I can tell you that there is a large replacement in this particular budget year in that appropriation, perhaps it's not sufficient, as much as we would like to see but it certainly is significant in number and I can assure the member that I'll continue to put emphasis on that particular aspect so that we do have efficient offices and I appreciate the concern that's raised by the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(1)—pass; 3.(c)(2) - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Under Other Expenditures, would this be where TV's would be purchased, Mr. Chairman?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: I'm advised not. Mr. Chairman, I'm advised no.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Where would that be found?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, what happens is that the individual departments have to allocate a certain amount of money towards the equipment that they need and televisions are certainly no exception. What they would do if they felt there was a need for televisions, they would budget for it, and then the purchasing branch would obtain them at the best price.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well then, would the Minister undertake to find out how many colour TV's were purchased from 1977 to 1981 by the purchasing bureau on behalf of Ministers of Government?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Just to clarify, is the honourable member asking for the number of coloured TV's that were purchased for Ministerial use? If that is the case, during that period of time, my understanding is - if I'm not correct, I would like to have that information at this time - that is, there were 17 colour television sets authorized, and I believe eight Betamax or recording devices from 1977 to 1981.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Would the Minister please check those facts out and provide us with the information?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, we'd be glad to double-check those facts.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Whilst he's double-checking, if he would provide the Ministers to whom those colour televisions went when they were purchased?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I understand the honourable member would like to know to what Ministers those were allocated when they were purchased?

MR. D. ORCHARD: All 17 of them.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Yes, I will be glad to get any and all information on that I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(2)—pass - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

MS. G. HAMMOND: Is this the place, Mr. Chairman, that I can ask about telephones, or would you prefer it under Telecommunications?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, that would be appropriate under Telecommunications Branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(2)—pass - the Member for St. Johns.

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would like ask . . . Honourable Member for Pembina, I would like to find out if it will be possible that every MLA should also have a colour TV? Will it be possible to do it?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Just on that point, the Premier has indicated, and it is the feeling that we would not be purchasing further colour television sets. Therefore, it would not be possible under that policy to have colour television sets available to individual MLAs, unless I guess all of the MLAs in the Assembly decided that was a priority.

MR. D. MALINOWSKI: Mr. Chairman, the Minister just indicated that it will be impossible to get for us a coloured TV, how about black and white?

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would have to know more about the nature of the request and the rationale for it. I'm certain that the honourable member would like to raise that matter if he felt it was a priority with caucus or the Board of Internal Economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(2)—pass -the Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Earlier, when we opened our remarks on this general department, I made note of the fact that the Deputy Minister is being, I believe, transferred to another department. At this time, I would like to suggest to the Honourable Minister that he use his good offices, and I would suggest that the Deputy Minister be transferred to the Department of Finance. I have to admire his ability to generate funds for his department.

I notice that there's approximately \$350,000 more going to be collected from various other appropriations in excess of what he intends to spend this year, so if he can make money like that, I would suggest that he be transferred to the Department of Finance, and the affairs of the province would be much better off.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, any good news I certainly would take credit for, but I would just like to ask the honourable member exactly what appropriation he's referring to where the department has recovered more than - and exact amounts. Is the honourable member referring to (c)(3)?

MR. H. GRAHAM: I'm comparing the two figures in (c)(2) and (c)(3). Your Other Expenditures total \$1,294,000 and you expect to recover \$1,654,000.00. I think it's good business.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, some of those recoveries would relate to the total expenditures in the Office Equipment Branch, which is \$1,704,000, and so we've almost approached full recovery there, but not quite. It has, Mr. Chairman, improved considerably, as has taken place as well under Central Vehicle Branch, as we move to computerization and a better handle on exactly what is spent and where the money is spent, so that we can recover a greater and greater percentages of it from other departments. That is certainly happening in the Office Equipment Branch and the Central Vehicle Branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(2) - the Member for Virden.

MR. H. GRAHAM: While I realize the Minister would like to take credit, I think most of the credit is due to the Deputy Minister.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'll be happy to join in accolades for the Deputy Minister. I'm very pleased with the staff that we have, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(2)—pass; 3.(c)(3)—pass.
The hour being 12:30, I'm interrupting the proceedings of the committee until 2:00 p.m.
Committee rise.

SUPPLY - AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER: Order please. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture, Item 5.(g) Agricultural Training Branch: (1) Salaries.

The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: A question to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, before we proceed. Does the Minister have the information concerning a contract to Mr. V. Scott dealing with organic farming? If so, could he make it available to us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, staff did not bring the actual contract here, but we have the terms of reference and the entire costing formula in terms of what is required. I am prepared to table that for him and, as well, the background of Mr. Scott. We'll endeavour to bring the actual contract here. Oh, Mr. Chairman, we did check out legally; we were advised that we were not to table the actual contract, but we have the terms of reference and the breakdown of the budget as to the expenditure within a contract, which I am pleased to table for the honourable members.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, what kind of legal requirement is there that prevents a contract dealing with the expenditure of public funds from being tabled in this House, especially when that contract was entered into under the circumstances that this one appears to have been entered into?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that our administrative staff checked with Legislative Counsel. It has not been a practice in this House to table the actual contracts but, certainly, the terms of reference and the budgets within the contract are available for the honourable members.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I don't intend to pursue that, especially at the moment, but I can assure the Honourable Minister that we will be returning to that and, if necessary, we'll be filing an order for return in the House to gain that, because I think whatever the practice has been, it's improper, if a contract can be entered into by the government and the terms and the details of that contract are not made available to the taxpayers and to the members of the House.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I want to table these two documents, the Research Project on Ecological Agriculture. The terms of reference were attached to the actual contract which gives the timing and the costing of the salaries of the people involved and the curriculum vitae of V. Scott.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I think I'm correct that we are an Agricultural Training Branch in the area of the 4-H funding, as well as main input to any youth development through the Department of Agriculture would take place through this particular allocation and, as well, the operation of the Agriculture Extension Centre at Brandon.

In starting my comments today, I want to, first of all, in backing up some of our requests for increasing the funds or some of the reasons for criticizing the funds

reduced to the 4-H Program, I want to start out today, Mr. Chairman, that if every member of the committee wanted to avail themselves of a news release that was put out by the Department of Agriculture, I want to congratulate a constituent of mine, whose name is Scott Day, who is 18 years old from Deloraine, Manitoba, where he has been selected from all the 4-H students of Manitoba to go to Washington to a conference there on April 7th, or leaves on April 7th, and he goes through the process of receiving citizenship papers at the Canadian Citizenship Court at Government House in Ottawa and then to participate in the activities in Washington.

It's those kinds of young people, and the development of those kinds of young people, Mr. Chairman, that we're talking about when we're talking about funding 4-H. Mr. Chairman, one has to only use one or two examples like this to show that there are some top-notch and some quality leadership potential people coming out of rural Manitoba through this particular program. Those are the reasons, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure many members on this side of the House - in fact, all members on this side of the House - want to not see the funding for 4-H reduced but, in fact, encouraged to increase it. I was somewhat a little more confident in the past than I am today in this current Minister of Agriculture's approach to 4-H when he carried on with the proclamation of 4-H Week in Manitoba.

It was a recognition of 4-H that was started during the Progressive Conservative term of office that we decided to pay special tribute to the 4-H movement in Manitoba and, in fact, set one week aside as special recognition for that program. The Minister, whether he did it on a political basis or whether he did it with any true meaning, one would have to now question, because one would think it would be somewhat - I guess hypocritical would probably be unparliamentary - but it would seem somewhat unusual for a Minister of the Crown to, on one hand, say we fully support 4-H and the recognition of it and continue to proclaim one week of 4-H in Manitoba, or one week for 4-H, and then the next meeting that he has with his departmental people say, well, we can reduce the funding for 4-H because it really doesn't have that kind of significance to this government. Well, that isn't acceptable, Mr. Chairman. That isn't acceptable at all to the members of the opposition; it isn't acceptable to the majority of urban or rural Manitobans that those kinds of programs be reduced; particularly, in light of the fact, Mr. Chairman, that they are able to find funds to support a Marxist conference in the City of Winnipeg.

One only has to ask, where are their priorities? Mr. Chairman, if their priorities lie with supporting the Marxist movement rather than the 4-H movement, then let the public of Manitoba know it and the public of Manitoba will be told it over and over again. I think that the Minister could somewhat rectify what has happened if he were to change his decision on funding of 4-H and go back to Treasury and find some funds for that particular cause, and I recommend that he do it. I recommend that he do it, Mr. Chairman, because if he doesn't, he gives us no other argument than the one we're using, to tell the people of Manitoba where he stands and what his priorities are.

So I make that recommendation to the Minister because we truly are sincere about supporting the youth

in this country. I'm pleased; I said I want to congratulate Scott Day from Deloraine who has certainly made a major achievement. He's been selected from all over Manitoba, from all the 4-H programs, to represent Manitoba in Washington at a 4-H conference, and he goes through the normal process of associating and being involved with obtaining citizenship papers and the other youth in other parts of Canada. So, it's a movement that develops our young people; it develops people that we, not only in rural Manitoba but people from urban Manitoba can be very proud of. I think everyone of this committee would like to associate themselves in congratulating this young man.

Mr. Chairman, I have made that a recommendation to the Minister. I would hope that he would feel fit to introduce an amendment to his Estimates or a resolution to increase the funding for 4-H at this particular time. He indicated in his opening remarks that he had seen fit to reduce 4-H. He didn't substantiate it in any way, but in fact, found fit to reduce it.

I would wonder, Mr. Chairman, if he would respond to the question, will he consider increasing the funding to 4-H?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I have heard a number of opposition members referring to the 4-H Program. It is true that there are certain areas where we have slowed down. We have eliminated certain funds that were providing for things such as overnight stays and camping and that kind of thing. I want to assure the members opposite that when we went through those items we were very, very careful to ensure that we would not be affecting basic programming.

A lot of people on that side of the House are familiar with the 4-H, certainly a lot of people on this side are. I was involved in a number of 4-H Clubs when I was in my teens in rural Manitoba. You talk about people getting trips - somebody got a trip to Washington, I congratulate the young man. We also, were involved with those kinds of trips. I recall a trip in 1959 to Alberta that I went on. I recall very clearly how we had to raise money in order to do that. There was nothing wrong with that. There was absolutely nothing wrong with that - (Interjection) - the member talks about . . . that \$7,000 he's now spent a hundred times over in different ways. He can only spend it once.

But you know, one other way we could have saved a pile of money, would have been for us not to be sitting next Monday, when the civil servants are not going to be here in order to provide us with backup, when the restaurant is closed, an unsubsidized restaurant but it's closed, when we basically have no support system. But when we ask the opposition to maybe take that day off, they said, no, we want to be here. That means that there is a fair amount of overtime being paid in this place; that means that all of those people who are Members of this Legislature from outside of the City of Winnipeg will get the \$40 per diem, not only for Monday . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Member for Arthur, on a point of order.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't mind the Minister of Finance straying off the particular item that

we're dealing with as long as the opposition are going to have a chance to respond to that particular item of debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could the Minister of Finance contain his remarks to the 4-H Club?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I am. I am responding to the Member for Arthur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Municipal Affairs, on a point of order.

HON. A. ADAM: The member is trying to compare. The Member for Arthur is comparing spending of funding for 4-H, and he is also bringing in the issue of host grants to bring in people to spend money, stay for two or three days to spend money in Winnipeg, which the province gets back indirectly in other forms. He has brought the issue in. He has brought in issues that do not pertain to 4-H, so he shouldn't object now, Mr. Chairman.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, I certainly couldn't have put it better than the Member for Ste. Rose. Each one of those people who are from outside of the City of Winnipeg will be receiving \$160 in per diems for this coming weekend because we are sitting on Monday. If we were not sitting on Monday, they would not be getting that money, because the way our system works, if you have less than four days off, members from outside the City of Winnipeg continue to get that per diem. So we would have saved the taxpayers of Manitoba many thousands of dollars. Indeed, when we do the calculation with respect to that money and the overtime money, plus factoring in some consideration for the fact that we cannot operate at the same efficiency when we don't have some of our other staff here - you add the whole thing up. For Good Friday, the members of the Conservative Party want \$40; for Saturday they want \$40; for Easter Sunday, they want \$40.00. While the civil servants are off, while everybody else is off, you are saying you want to be here on Easter Monday. Well, that's fine, we could have saved a bunch of money there.

You talk about grants to people coming into the province, we had the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, members of that party coming to us asking for a host grant, if they were to have their leadership convention here in Winnipeg. That was under consideration by Cabinet.

Well, Mr. Chairman, these people are talking about one grant, they've spent it now at least a hundred times. On 4-H itself, we are continuing with the programming, we are committed to the programming. We believe that when it comes to vacationing that people will have to look for funds in the same way that children in Brandon, in Thompson, in Winnipeg and other areas where the 4-H is not a factor, have to pay for their own holidays. If we are going towards state-paid holidays, then let's have it universal for all the kids in Manitoba, or at least do it on the basis of economics. If there are areas where there are needs for children; if there are areas where children aren't getting cultural or other experiences that we believe are important and they

can't afford the holidays, then we should look at that kind of specific targeted programming. But let us not, in these hard times, say that regardless of income, regardless of need for a holiday, that one specific group should get the holiday, nobody else. That is not the way we should be operating government in these times and we will not operate government in that way in these times.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I have never in my life heard come from the lips of a man who is supposed to be the man who controls the purse or the provincial funds than I have just heard from the Minister of Finance. I have never heard such a bunch of drivel and irresponsible reasoning as to why funds are not available for the 4-H, Mr. Chairman. That's like using the argument, Mr. Chairman, if you don't get up in the morning, you don't have to buy your meals. If you stay in bed it doesn't cost you anything to eat. Mr. Chairman, when we have 54,000 unemployed people in the province; when we've got hundreds of businesses going out of business day by day under this ill-conceived and put together government, Mr. Chairman, we'd better be here Monday debating the affairs of the province and passing Estimates so that we can help those 54,000 unemployed.

The Minister of Finance has the audacity to sit here and blame the opposition for wanting to be here Monday. We are having Friday, Saturday and Sunday off, Mr. Chairman. It is our responsibility to be here Monday. Don't worry about the \$40 a day because I'll tell you, I would like him to substantiate how he can cover a hotel room in Winnipeg, which every one of these members have to pay from rural Manitoba for \$40 a day, plus pay his payroll tax, plus pay the increased sales tax, plus, Mr. Chairman, buy all the meals that they has to have when they are in Winnipeg and substantiate a \$40 a day expenditure that is costing his treasury to have us here debating the affairs of the province.

I never, Mr. Chairman, I would think that the media would be ill at this kind of an approach by a Minister of Finance who is supposed to be responsible. Mr. Chairman, talk about - if you really want to debate the funds that the Provincial MLAs get, I would like to be here earning it every day of the week when the province is in the kind of economic disarray that it's in under this administration.

What are we to do, Mr. Chairman, when - for how many years, I imagine since this Legislature has been opened - that is has sat on the Easter Monday. — (Interjection) — The long-term member for Roblin-Russell indicates that it always sat on Easter Monday — (Interjection) — because, Mr. Chairman, we believe in representing the people. How many private sector businesses close on Monday, Mr. Chairman? I know many businesses that have to stay open on Monday to serve the farm community, to serve the business community in Winnipeg. Service stations, anyone that wants to do business today you don't, Mr. Chairman, make a profit with the doors closed and that's been the problem with Manitoba and Canada, we're prepared to sit down, we think the world owes us a living and we try and sit down to collect it.

You can't have four days holidays back-to-back and be responsible. I don't care whether you're legislators,

whether you're in private business or whether you're a civil servant. How can you justify taking tax money.

This Minister of Finance has the audacity to stand here and say the reason that they aren't able to fund 4-H is because they are paying \$40 a day for four days for these members to represent the Legislature. I ask him again how can members of any party justify \$40 a day, and a hotel room costs you, how much in the City of Winnipeg today, how much does it cost you daily to eat, Mr. Chairman? — (Interjection) — No, it isn't because of the financial reward, Mr. Chairman, it's a sacrifice that every member makes and I think we should be here on Monday, we should be here to try and get people back on the employment rolls.

Here, Mr. Chairman, we have the First Minister playing politics with this, \$200 million for Jobs Fund. Why aren't we in here debating it then on Monday, the Minister of Finance wants to take Monday off. I want the people of Manitoba to know that the Government of Manitoba feel that they should have Monday off when everybody else, other than the Civil Service are working. An irresponsible approach by a Minister of Finance that has put this province into bankruptcy or near bankruptcy, and won't come to work on Monday, Mr. Chairman, and I want him to sit there and burn in it because I'll tell you, you go through the province right now, city or country and ask the people whether we should or shouldn't be working on Monday because the Civil Service isn't.

He justifies the reason, Mr. Chairman, that we shouldn't be working on Monday because the civil servants aren't working. Well, Mr. Chairman, that's cold comfort to a population in Manitoba who have been just asked to pay for one of the best sweetheart deals in the Civil Service settlement with a 27.5 percent increase over 30 months and he's now saying we justify the Civil Service Monday's off and we follow suit. Is he a leader, Mr. Chairman, or is he just there to manipulate himself through life? He's got to take some responsibility, Mr. Chairman, and the speech that I just heard has made me ill, to be quite straightforward about it. Coming from a Minister of Finance trying to justify why he's cutting the 4-H funds in this province.

Mr. Chairman, this is utterly ridiculous that we got into this subject to start with, we had hoped to debate the items of the Department of Agriculture and I would hope we could revert to it and get down to some meaningful debate on the issue that is before us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I believe we began the Estimates by reverting to some unfinished items from before and by general leave it seems to be that we have gone back to 4-H which was an item which was passed on Tuesday. If there are no further comments on 4-H we could possibly proceed to Item 5.(g)

The Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, in all fairness to the honourable members there are funds throughout the whole section 5 with the exception of (h) and (j) which would impact on the 4-H program. Although it's not specifically stated there are funds in all, indirectly in (a) but (b),(c), (d), (e), (f) and (g), the item that we're on now, are all involved in the 4-H program for

clarification, in fairness to the members opposite because all those areas deal directly and indirectly into some aspects of the 4-H program.

Mr. Chairman, if that's fair I would like to make some comments to the Honourable Member for Arthur.

Mr. Chairman, sitting here I was - needless to say if the honourable member fortunately was not able to be here the other night on the attack that was launched by his colleagues, the Member for Pembina and other members but especially the Member for Pembina dealing with the callousness of this administration towards 4-H. Mr. Chairman, the 4-H programming and the delivery of the programming we believe and in consultation with our leaders rurally, we will be able to deliver the high standard and calibre of programming that we have put in.

Where we said that there will be some reduction and we have reduced is in the area of funding where we felt that it could be sustained but that we still left as a regional decision that if people wanted to - the region of summer camp funding which was just about 100 percent covered by the public purse was to be left in then, Mr. Chairman, that would be their decision and they would have to look at their regional budgets as to where else they felt that they could save some money. We felt that certainly this was one area that some reductions could be made and some initiative and volunteerism in terms of raising some funds on behalf of young people participating that it would be not unreasonable to share in the costs with the province in terms of providing these camps.

Mr. Chairman, as well I mentioned the other night that areas of meetings and conferences, we felt that we could reduce some costs by eliminating some of the overnight stay, using possibly even some regional banquets rather than bringing in conferences centrally. We could use some of the local community centres, local women's institutions and aids to provide the food facilities and services for those kinds of conferences. There are a number of ways that we could have reduced some of the costs and we felt that we could still provide the same programming by the money that we have reduced the budgets now.

But Mr. Chairman, from a party who has expounded volunteerism, who have said that we support the volunteer effort, the initiative of citizens banding together to raise money, in fact, I can just as sure as I'm standing here, the former Minister of Health, the Member for Fort Garry, in terms of his health care programming was trying to bring about a greater involvement of volunteers in the raising of money and providing of services to Manitobans. He raises his hand. I remember his statement so well, Mr. Chairman. There is no doubt that the young people of this province have no difficulty, they are doing it all the time, raising funds. Mr. Chairman, I don't see a problem of sharing in costs of the summer camps with the province and with the students raising funds.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance was right on in terms of the comments with respect to the saving of money. — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, historically, - I believe requirements and the Clerk can correct me if I'm wrong - that if the Legislature does not meet after three consecutive days off; if they do not meet after four days, the requirement to pay the per diem allowance of living away from home is waived and there

is no allowance paid. Now, Mr. Chairman, the rest of the province, with the exception of the service industries, are off on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

HON. B. URUSKI: In fact, today the Member for St. Norbert mentioned the post offices and the Member for Virden mentioned the post offices and the mails.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

HON. B. URUSKI: Most of the services in the province on Monday are closed, Mr. Chairman. The Legislative Building, by agreement in terms of the negotiated agreements, Mr. Chairman, — (Interjection) — the fact of the matter is we're not talking about the \$40 the Member for Arthur is talking about. We're talking about the \$160 a day, Mr. Chairman, if they are really getting at the nub of the issue.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, they did raise a lot of side issues on Thursday night. In fact, the Member for Lakeside was part of that scenario, Mr. Chairman, and he knows full well what I speak of. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, if they do want to save some money, we do not call staff in on Monday and the costs associated with it. Mr. Chairman, we leave the House alone and those kinds of funds, — (Interjection) — can be saved.

Mr. Chairman, you know it seems that it's okay if you throw and use side issues from the other side and you hit the government, it's fine. Mr. Chairman, let's recognize the situation for what it is. If there is a bit of hardball thrown back, Mr. Chairman, from this side, we all get our backs up because we recognize the situation for what it is. The fact of the matter is, there was an approach by the House Leader from this side to the Conservative Party, as I understand, to leave the House not sitting, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm amused by the comments of the Member for Arthur in terms of saying work and being here. I don't even want to go that far down, Mr. Chairman, as was attempted the other night by his colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is, the 4-H Budget, we've indicated that we believe and in consultation with our leaders, we believe that we will be able to maintain the level of service to 4-H in the province in the areas that we felt that there could be some reductions and community effort and volunteerism, as I'm sure the honourable members on the other side espouse.

We are committed to 4-H, Mr. Chairman; we support it fully. Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that there can be savings made in this program as we have been able to find in other programming in terms of tightening up a bit. I'm sure the honourable members, because their Leader, on behalf of their party has said, tighten up. — (Interjection) — Oh, they're leaderless, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. Their now Leader, who's out looking for

another job, or whether there are — (Interjection) — I don't know. Maybe I should say, who is the leader on the other side, Mr. Chairman, who speaks for them? They have said that look — (Interjection) —

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, order please. Order. The Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The members on the other side have on one side said, look you have to cut your Budget; you have to restrain; you're overspending; look at the provincial deficit, Mr. Chairman. When we try in a realistic fashion to reduce some of the costing, notwithstanding to whatever group it is, Mr. Chairman, those are difficult decisions. The fact of the matter is, it does take consultation; it does take working; it does take a lot of discussions and a lot of work in a co-operative fashion to be able to make these kinds of situations work and still carry out the basic program. Mr. Chairman, we believe that we can do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I wasn't here to hear the Minister of Finance make his remarks this morning. I can't resist adding a comment on that particular item which is under Salaries, Agricultural Training Branch.

Mr. Chairman, the 4-H movement is all volunteer services when you get down to the grassroots movement that started the 4-H movement and brought it on. It's some of the enrichments that have been put in with trips and conferences and what-not that demanded some government support. That's where the government support started to creep in and it's like creeping socialism, once you get a bit of it, it's very very difficult to get rid of. That's what's happened in the movement.

The Finance Minister's remarks about not wanting to close the House down, Mr. Chairman because there's \$40 per diem involved for rural members who must maintain a residence in the city and travel hundreds of miles back and forth each weekend - incidentally, that per diem is taxable, Mr. Chairman, so you get about half of it. I would like some of those people that get home every night in the City of Winnipeg to try and live on \$22 a day, or whatever you end up with out of your per diem, and rent accommodation for six months of the year, whatever, has to be maintained in the city.

The point that was brought up about having the long weekend, Mr. Chairman, I will tell the members opposite that there are people out there where the real people are that are damned upset about Civil Service not working on Mondays. They get every excuse for a holiday off. They should be there to service the people in the rural areas that maybe come to town on Monday and desire those services. — (Interjection) — Because we didn't bring that up as an issue. It's been accepted under their bargained agreement.

But for the Minister of Finance to try and make that an issue, Mr. Chairman, is ridiculous. I'm surprised that he would bring that up, and to try and say that we could have more money for the 4-H movement, if the

members opposite and the rural members over there would forego their per diem, is just not worthy of the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. There are probably members in the rural areas that donate more to the 4-H movement than anyone on that side has ever thought of. There are members on this side that have been 4-H leaders; they've worked with the 4-H movement probably all of their lives and have children that have been in the 4-H movement, with large volunteer efforts.

They weren't thinking about a \$40 per diem that the members of the Legislature might give up and throw into the pot. There are members on this side that have thrown far more into the pot through effort and donations in the rural areas than would ever come from a chintzy little saving like the Minister of Finance is trying to say that should be looked at.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, it's obvious that the Member for Minnedosa got the statement that I made second hand and whoever passed it on to him certainly didn't pass it on in the way that it was made, so I'll have to repeat it, especially for his benefit.

I believe that the 4-H movement has had a tremendous, positive impact on both rural and urban Manitoba. I believe that it has trained very many young people and they have done well in life as a result. There are a lot of volunteers - in my own family, many people volunteering in that system. We were members, as kids, of 4-H Clubs. In fact, at home my parents still have a picture of me when I won the championship for showmanship with a Hereford steer. I enjoyed doing that and a lot of people who have later on had successful careers have done that and we are continuing with the program. What we are saying, however, is that there are some extras that we can get away from. We are not touching the programming and that's very important.

Where the other reference came in was in the attempt of the Member for Arthur, to spend that \$7,000 for a hundredth time in a different way. You can only spend it once and I was pointing out that, rather than doing that, he could have, for instance, cut back on the expenses that we would have in this House by sitting on Monday. I want to make it very clear to the Member for Minnedosa that just because we are not sitting in this House doesn't mean we are not working. More than half of the year this House is not in Session. That does not mean that we are not working. I would expect that members of both the opposition and of the government would be working on Monday. That has never been an issue.

The issue is, do we work in the Session or do we work out at the other activities that we have to carry on throughout the year. I was suggesting that if we don't have to be here in the Session, then we don't only save the \$40 for that day because that may not be a saving; we could add it on at the end. However, there are three other days for which we wouldn't have to pay any money out, so it's a total of \$160 that we're talking about, per member, outside of the City of Winnipeg, some of whom don't have the expenses that the member refers to and that's an area that we could have looked to save some money. In fact our caucus agreed that we would like to do precisely that, save

some money. We went to the opposition; the opposition said, no, they were not prepared to do that and that's fine. But I pointed out that there are other ways of saving money.

Along with that particular day, when we're in Session, we have a number of people working at time-and-a-half and we have a lot of support services that are simply not here and available to us in order that we can do a truly good day's work. It may well be that we could do a very good day's work one day down the line at the end of the Session when all of the staff will be here, rather than that particular day, because the issue is not whether or not we work a day; the question is what do we do on that particular day. So there are different ways of handling that.

You want to spend that \$7,000 a hundred different times, then we are going to start talking about other items that may not be items that you particularly want to talk about, but we will talk about them if you insist.

MR. J. DOWNEY: On a point of clarification, Mr. Chairman. We're dealing with Agricultural Training Branch: Salaries. Is that not what we're dealing with?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's the item under discussion. The Member for Wolseley.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairperson, I'd like to make a few comments about this very small readjustment in this particular Budget issue.

I really take objection to the members opposite assuming that none of us on this side know about the 4-H Program. Not only did the Minister of Finance participate in 4-H Programs, I participated in 4-H Programs for five years of my teenage life. Many of my aunts and uncles participated as leaders of 4-H Programs; my mother was a 4-H leader. In fact, the Member for Pembina referred to the fact that the 4-H movement started in the Prairies in Roland, Manitoba, which is my home town. My sister painted the sign on the highway denoting the founding of the 4-H movement in Roland, Manitoba, when she was 16 years old. That sign is still standing there today.

I think there's absolutely no question about the commitment of the members on this side of this House toward the 4-H movement. When it comes to summer camps, I spent many happy, productive, enjoyable, educational hours in summer camps when I was growing up in the rural community. However, I went to both 4-H camps and CGIT camps.

One of the ways that I raised money to go to those camps was to pick mustard and I picked mustard hour after hour, week after week throughout the summer, at a penny a stalk. And I added up those very important pennies and every single stalk of mustard and when I got home at night I tallied it up and I gave the total to my father. However, even though sometimes I would get up as high as \$60 worth of mustard, he would always end up paying exactly what the tuition was for that particular camp, whether it was \$22.50 or \$14.95.

I don't think the work or the experience did me any harm; it certainly taught me a little bit about capitalism, I'll tell you. In fact it taught me about organizing and from that, I discussed it very seriously with my sisters and we ganged up on him the next summer when we

found that we were being taken up short — (Interjection) — That's right, he did the very same thing with the pigs he promised us, and he knows very well and we've not let him forget it to this day. I think the things that we learned in the 4-H movement - and we didn't just participate in a trivial way; I won prizes at the Brandon Fair for my sewing, much and all as the members opposite think that is something that a feminist doesn't know anything about. I think that experience was extremely valuable . . .

A MEMBER: Let's face it, Myrna. You're just getting too old to pick the mustard.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: Yes, I'm too old to pick the mustard now but, in those days, I think it was a very valuable experience; we're very committed to this program. I think that the minor cutback the Minister has put forward in terms of summer camps is something that's not going to harm that program in rural Manitoba in terms of the ingenuity and the creative nature of the program and the dedication that the people in the rural areas have to the program. I really take exception to the suggestions by the members opposite that: (1) we don't know anything about it; and (2) that we're not supportive, because neither are the facts or neither are the case.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNESS: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to offer two comments in rebuttal to the Minister of Finance. First of all, I find it hard to believe that civil servants, the workers of the province, are servants to this Legislature and to the people, and I can't understand why we have to take our lead from what days we work in this House from the servants; I really don't. Secondly, the Minister of Finance talks about our hours. All I know is when we go through our Estimates procedures at 10 o'clock it's always members of our side that are prepared to work long into the evening to expedite the matters of government. So I don't think you'll find inefficiency coming from this side of the House very often.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(g)(1) Salaries—pass; 5.(g)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(g)(3) Agricultural Societies - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister of Agriculture proceeded to continue to licence the Assiniboia Downs this year with the current activities that are taking place with his colleagues due to the hiring of certain individuals?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it, we are not involved in any of the licencing procedures dealing with Assiniboia Downs.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Then I ask, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture when that has changed, because it has been the responsibility of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture to authorize all race meets in the Province of Manitoba.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we do the licencing of race meets outside the City of Winnipeg - including the City of Winnipeg - yes, the member is correct. My information that I received was not right up to the point, Mr. Chairman. I admit that, and I thank the honourable member for that information. We are involved in the licencing of those meets and they will be held as the applications come in, because I gather from year-to-year some societies change their dates; some that have two may reduce to one, but there is an ongoing process and that's carried on.

MR. J. DOWNEY: The specific question was, Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that the Minister did not know that he licenced the Assiniboia Downs or has to, has he had any discussions with his Minister of Economic Development, who has proceeded to have the hiring of an American citizen over 250 Canadian applications. Just taking it lightly, he certainly hasn't been involved or paid any attention to the horse racing activity that's taking place in the province. Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister again. Does he just sign all licences for all race meets without having any investigation or any work into the activities that are carried out, and does he support the hiring of an American to carry out the job where some other 250 Canadians applied and were rejected? Does he support that kind of action?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I won't even get into a discussion on that. That's a discussion that the honourable members should have with my colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, I believe, whose jurisdiction the regulation of the actual betting and the track falls under. The licencing of the tracks, Mr. Chairman, I'm kind of surprised to hear from the honourable members giving me the suggestion that maybe we should not be licencing the track. Mr. Chairman, the internal workings of the race track have nothing to do with the Department of Agriculture in terms of the internal workings. That administration in terms of the commission and the regulation of betting and the like falls under the purview of the Minister of Economic Development. Our licencing procedures, I believe, are virtually pro forma, are a formality in terms of making sure there are no conflicts between other racing meets in the province, to make sure there is a general understanding that no meet is competing with another meet to hurt the societies in other areas, but any more than that, Mr. Chairman, we're not involved in.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong the debate on this particular item, but is he not aware of the fact, particularly with the harness people in Manitoba, that there has been for a number of years a desire by those particular individuals to fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, and would he not want to have the authority of the operation of horse racing within the Department of Agriculture as it relates to the national scene?

The Federal Department of Agriculture has the full responsibility for horse racing in Canada, and I could think of no better place to have to report to than the Department of Agriculture, which has to licence all the tracks, licence all the meets, and if he's not making

himself aware of what his responsibilities are in the portfolio of Minister of Agriculture, then I would suggest that he'd better find out what what they are. He does have a responsibility and I'm not suggesting that he not licence it, but at least I think, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of those numbers of farmers and the many millions of dollars that are invested in the horse racing industry in Manitoba and basically come from farm people, the majority of people in Manitoba who have race horses and, particularly, the harness horse people are farmers, that is a part of their farming enterprise, not particularly the funds or the monies that they win at the track, but the actual breeding and the development of the horse race industry falls basically within the Department of Agriculture portfolio and in that jurisdiction, and that's why I am saying to the Minister of Agriculture, he should be a little bit more involved with the Minister of Economic Development in discussions.

As well, Mr. Chairman, we are debating Agricultural Societies. Then I'll ask the Minister of Agriculture, was he involved in the discussions at the Red River Exhibition we're having, which, by the way, reports to the Minister of Agriculture through Agricultural Societies? The Red River Exhibition, its legal connection is under the authority of the Agricultural Societies. Was he involved in the discussions that took place when they were contemplating the purchasing of the Assiniboia Downs? Mr. Chairman, it's a direct question. Or were they negotiating without the knowledge of the Minister of Agriculture being involved in those discussions? Was there a proposal put forward to him? He's now trying to say that he doesn't have any responsibility. I say, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture does have and should have a responsibility when it comes to dealing with this particular industry in the Province of Manitoba. Was he involved in discussions when the proposal was made by the Red River Exhibition to purchase Assiniboia Downs to do it under the authority of the Agricultural Societies?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should know that a society in terms of wanting to get involved in whatever projects they feel they might want to get involved in. It's really up to a society, I don't intend to dwell and meddle in the business of an individual society, whether it's the Red River Ex or any other group. But, Mr. Chairman, our staff were aware of the submissions made; I was aware of the submissions made, but basically the societies run their own show, Mr. Chairman. We try and assist societies in terms of our responsibilities under the legislation. The honourable member should know the various categories which societies come under and the various limitations of support that are provided for under the legislation. But, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that I, as Minister of Agriculture, should be involved directly in saying to a society, this is what you must do if it is your wish to at least explore the possibility of involvement, let's say, in the race-track, as the honourable member was suggesting. Those negotiations come to the Minister responsible for the operations of the track, for the physical operations and the running of the track. I would say that could and should take place by the Minister responsible and the

Minister is there in terms of being responsible. I am not the Minister responsible.

If the Government of the Day and this government decides that racing should ultimately become the responsibility throughout the province of the Department of Agriculture, under The Departmental Organization Act or the Executive Organizational Act - I am not fully conversant of the name of the title of the Act - Mr. Chairman, that would be done by the Executive Council of government to place those responsibilities under that particular Minister.

That is done from time to time with whatever functions, Mr. Chairman, that responsibilities change. But at the present time, the operations of the track, the physical operations of the track are under the authority of the Minister of Economic Development. Specifically to the honourable member, we were aware of the proposals that were made; our staff are aware of the proposals made by the Red River Ex. But to be involved in the actual discussions when the authority at the present time rests with the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Chairman, or getting ourselves involved in the internal workings of that society, the Red River Ex, I believe would be meddling.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I am sure the Minister of Economic Development was happy to hear the Minister of Agriculture say that the operations of the Assiniboia Downs fall within her jurisdiction, and that she has to take the full responsibility of the hiring of one American citizen over 250 Canadians and pay the medical expenses for that individual. Mr. Chairman, I say to the Minister of Agriculture, first of all, he has a responsibility to licence them and that isn't a fairly major responsibility in any department, I don't know what is. In my estimation if an operation isn't licenced, it can't operate. That's his responsibility to make sure that everything is done and up-to-date, Mr. Chairman, that licencing is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. The Minister of Agriculture was not aware of that.

The second point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, dealing with the Agricultural Societies, is the Minister telling us that when they were proposing to spend \$6 million or whatever the numbers of monies were involved in the purchasing of that Assiniboia Downs Race Track, under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Societies, whether it was the funds they now get - and there is a grant - I don't need to get specific; I think it's \$25,000 to the Red River Ex, or maybe it's \$50,000 - \$10,000 - but, that's a grant for them to use as they want - but they were contemplating entering into an agreement that would probably cost in the millions of dollars, \$6 million probably, going into debt or however raising those funds, which falls in his jurisdiction, and at some point could come back and say, that \$10,000 that were getting as a grant isn't sufficient to carry the deficit or the loss and he wasn't involved in those kinds of discussions. I think he should maybe, for his own good, Mr. Chairman, get a little more involved in his department to see what his authority is and his responsibilities are when it comes to the operation of these.

As well, Mr. Chairman, I believe, unless he's changed his policies, that the guidelines in place, where the funds that now go to Agricultural Societies are fairly cut and

dried by the government, that a certain percentage goes towards building funds. So to just say that he's not now meddling is wrong, because there have been guidelines that have been going on from day one. There are funds available for building grants; they can use it. It's not a matter of telling them whether they put lights in the cattle barn or whether they put in a wash rack. But, at least it goes towards a building fund within the Agricultural Societies.

As well, Mr. Chairman, Agricultural Societies provide a certain percentage of those funds for judging competitions or for seed classes or for judging programs in the livestock, prize money. There is a certain amount of funds, Mr. Chairman, go to the allocation of funds to the judging for that particular show. So he can't say that he's now going to step back and not meddle in the affairs of ag societies. He does now have guidelines which have been in place for many years, Mr. Chairman. It is not a matter of just giving a block grant on a willie-nillie basis saying, here's a block of money, use it as you see fit.

I bring this to the Minister's attention; I don't want to spend a lot of time on it, Mr. Chairman. My recommendation to him as Minister of Agriculture, if he is going to carry the responsibility of that department then, in fact, he'd better find out what his responsibilities are and jurisdiction is, so that the laws of this province are lived up to. Mr. Chairman, I would hope the Minister would as well not be cutting back in any major way, as I can see here, funding to the actual Agricultural Society programs.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister refers to the Keystone deficit. I'll ask him a direct question then. Is he prepared to change The Keystone Act of the Legislature to deal with that particular situation, or is he going to carry on the funding of the Keystone Centre as has been over the past few years, not allowing for any depreciation costs to be built into the operation of the Keystone? Are there any changes planned?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the agreement that is in place, remains in terms of the sharing of the deficit between the City of Brandon and the Province of Manitoba. The member should be aware, Mr. Chairman, that for the first time in the history of Keystone - in 1982 - the Keystone Centre showed a surplus in their operations. We have allowed the use of those surplus funds towards ongoing projects within the Centre in terms of Operating Expenditures and Capital Expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, those funds are being used for the benefit of Keystone. Of course, we anticipate in the Budget that part of the reduction of the costs shown here are the needs for the picking up of deficits for the Keystone Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Austin Museum, does it fall it under this heading of agricultural societies? It does? Could you tell me what funding there is for this year?

HON. B. URUSKI: The same as last year, Mr. Chairman, \$120,000.00. — (Interjection) — Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(g)(3)—pass; 5.(g)(4), Northern Development Agreement—pass; 5.(h) Manitoba Water Services Board (1) Salaries - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: In the Manitoba Water Services Board, Mr. Chairman, the First Minister the other day saw fit to make an announcement at a press conference before the Legislature sat, of some additional funds being put into water and sewer in rural Manitoba. Some 18 communities, I believe, he indicated would qualify under the program. Does the Minister of Agriculture have any further points of clarification?

I would further ask the Minister why the First Minister chose to make that announcement outside of this Assembly, rather than to the House when the House is sitting? Maybe he could clarify how this affects the water services funding and the current expenditures that are being allocated here?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I believe in the announcement by the Minister of Finance in terms of a funding for jobs in Manitoba, there's been an increase in funding of the grant structure to Manitoba Water Services Board by \$1.5 million; basically a 50 percent increase in funding to the Manitoba Water Services Board.

As the member knows, the Board has been funded annually to the limit of \$3 million. I can give the list of the communities that would be included, or all of the following additional communities: Altona, Elm Creek, Fisher Branch, Flin Flon, Gimli, Hamiota, Killarney, Pilot Mound, Portage la Prairie, Russell, Ste. Rose du Lac, St. Malo, St. Jean Baptiste, Steinbach, Stonewall, Stoney Mountain, Teulon and Winkler. Mr. Chairman, the additional funding, as I understand, will produce an additional 750 construction labour weeks of employment, of course, we believe this funding is very much needed, not only very much needed, we feel that the priority given to water services in terms of the broad community benefit is one of the most worthwhile ventures and programming that we can have in terms of providing for benefits throughout Manitoba, as well as increasing the number of available jobs that would be in the construction industry.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, it's been traditional when we got to this department that there would be a tabling of all the towns that were currently under construction, or projects that were currently under construction, proposed programs for this coming year. I wonder if the Minister would be able to provide a written list to us, so all members of the committee are familiar with the work that is being carried out, as well as specifically identifying those 18 towns that he has said will be included in the new allocation of funds through the federal-provincial agreement. If he would give us a list. He read them off, but a list as well, would be helpful.

As well, Mr. Chairman, some time ago, when we had made the decision to move the Water Services Board to Brandon to serve Manitoba from that more location for all of not only Southern Manitoba, but as well, be able to deal with other parts of Western and Northern Manitoba from that location, does the Minister have any intentions of moving that facility or that service out of Brandon back to the City of Winnipeg?

Two questions, will he provide a list, and is he planning to move that water service operation out of the City of Brandon back to Winnipeg?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, to the latter question in terms of the movement. Once that move is made, Mr. Chairman, we are trying to make sure that all the difficulties associated with it at the time are ameliorated to the best of our ability. The move certainly will stay and we did have - the member well knows - a number of personnel left the services of the board. There's had to be substantive recruitment of staff to fill those positions. We are continuing on filling them. I believe we're pretty well up to our complement now. We're going to try and certainly make the best of it. The move has been made.

Mr. Chairman, we didn't criticize the move. Implicit in the member's comment were that somehow we were critical that the move was being made. I should point out to the honourable member, it was the way that the move was being made in terms of the discussions and consultation that we were critical of, not the move itself. The member well knows that a number of good staff left the service because they felt that they couldn't take, either the move, or couldn't take the process of the move, or a combination of both. Mr. Chairman, the move will stay.

For the honourable member's information, he is aware of all the details that are provide in the Annual Report of the Board. I will as well, table a document that is entitled "Manitoba Water Services Board, Cash Flow Forecast as of March 10, 1982." That's probably as up-to-date as we have in terms of projects that are contemplated, some of which need approval. It's a two-page document that can be filed and put into Hansard and printed in that way, Mr. Chairman.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister made any changes to the personnel of the Water Services Board, and if so, who are those changes?

HON. B. URUSKI: Are you talking about the Board itself? No, Mr. Chairman, there have been no changes to the Board I don't believe; it's the same.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated a few minutes ago that it was the Minister of Finance that made those announcements on the expanded water and sewer. I believe it was the First Minister that made the announcement outside of this Chamber. I ask him, why was it made by the First Minister, and why was it made outside of the Chamber, Mr. Chairman, and not available directly for the MLAs or the opposition to respond to in this Chamber?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to get at, I guess, was the document entitled, "Capital Projects to the Federal Government." Part of our proposal to the Federal Government was the expansion in the \$200 million capital projects; part of that was to do with sewer and water, Mr. Chairman. That was announced and tabled by the Minister of Finance in this House, Mr. Chairman. We have moved on the Water Services Board - was part of that proposal and was announced by the Premier.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, am I clear that is part of the "Wish List" that's been prepared by government? They are now announcing these programs. Mr. Chairman, I again press the Minister to indicate why the First Minister had a press conference and did not announce the funding and the additional programs for water and sewer in this Assembly; why he had a press conference and, in doing so, did not allow members of the opposition to respond to the announcement of that program?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I want to inquire into that just so I will be sure. I will get back to the honourable member on that very specific question, so that I check with the details of how and why this announcement was made in the way it was. I want to check that out as well, so that I don't say something to the honourable member that may not be accurate. I will check that out and come back to the honourable member on that.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, I would appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, because we are dealing at this particular time with the Estimates of the department. There is no connection with the amount of funds that we're dealing with. We don't know whether the monies that are here, whether there's going to be additional permanent staff employed by Water Services Board or whether it's construction jobs. Those kinds of explanation, Mr. Chairman, should be made available to the House.

As well, Mr. Chairman, when the announcement was made, I was not in the Chamber. I was in my riding, and I heard through the media that there was some additional program to try and find out any specifics of what was happening. It was very difficult. I would take it that the Premier was just again trying to get political coverage rather than really meaningful job opportunities for people through the program. That's why I would have liked to have had the announcement made here, then there could have been an accurate assessment made and a response.

I would hope in his checking up of the Premier, Mr. Chairman, that he would let the Premier know how the opposition felt about this particular issue and would hope that he would recommend to them that he doesn't make it an ongoing habit.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the member should know, as well as many members know, that the grant formula under the Manitoba Water Services Board has not been changed for a number of years, so that \$3 million grant availability to communities as a percentage of assistance in construction costs has gradually been going down in terms of the amount of work that can be done. In fact, part of our departmental's proposal was to increase that amount of money to the Manitoba Water Services Board so that we could basically come up to where we had been over the last number of years and to at least maintain the level of work activity that could have been done a number of years ago.

So while the amount of money is very substantial in terms of assistance to communities in the Province of Manitoba, the member as well I'm sure is aware that the Manitoba Water Services Board does not go out and advertise for communities to apply for this program.

All municipalities are well aware of this program, and there is a long waiting list of municipalities who desire and want to get into the program, so it's not a matter of indicating to everyone and sundry that the program now is available. It's been available for a number of years. The funding has been increased to be able to do a greater level of work than we could have under the original grant structure. It's an expansion of the program, which I'm sure municipalities, villages and towns in our province will greatly appreciate, and will increase the number of employment weeks in the Province of Manitoba as well as provide necessary sewer and water works to our communities and municipalities.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, within the operation of Water Services Board, there is a policy in place that maintains a fairly consistent cost of water to the majority or to a lot of the communities in Manitoba. It's based on the fact that there are some communities subsidized because of the cost of treatment; some communities have natural water supplies that require very little treatment. There has been an ongoing policy of trying to equalize those different costs of water. In some cases, there's been a continuation of subsidization through the Provincial Government.

Will the Minister explain or tell us if the water rates in Manitoba are going to increase this coming year? Is he going to increase the average water costs to the rural communities or to all the urban communities throughout Manitoba, and if he is increasing them, how much are they being increased, Mr. Chairman?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the increase in terms of the fixed rate that is under the formula has increased from \$3.45 to \$4, I think it's per 1,000 gallons of water.

Mr. Chairman, as the member knows, the level of subsidy to communities has been growing with no change in the rates for a number of years. In fact, I believe the last adjustment rate was 1977. — (Interjection) — Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is that those same funds are reduced for other communities in the province who, under the new formula, have to pay the full costs and full price of water on the new construction costs, whereas those communities who have received this subsidy at the beginning of '70 are paid less and less of the share of the increased costs of service in those communities. I want to get for the honourable member the exact wording as to how the formula will apply, so that I don't say something that doesn't reflect the way the formula will operate. But there will be an annual revision of the water rates to those communities who had installations prior to the new program, prior to the Water Services Program that is now in place.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has now disclosed that the water rates for most of the communities in Manitoba will increase pretty close to 20 percent. They are currently at \$3.45 per thousand. It's now under the new policy of this government going to be increased to \$4 per thousand. That is very close to a 20 percent increase in water rates. — (Interjection) — He indicated himself on the record, well, he said 16 percent. That's his figures. The Minister from his

seat has said, the water rates under the New Democratic Party are going to increase by 16 percent. At the same time, he indicated that the last time there was an increase was in 1977; when the Progressive Conservative Government were in office, they didn't go up any, Mr. Chairman. There was four years in which we operated that department where there wasn't an increase, possibly could have been some subsidization - I'm not saying there wasn't - but what we are saying, Mr. Chairman, is we felt that the responsibility of government was not to increase them if we couldn't justify them.

We couldn't justify it, Mr. Chairman, with the concern that we had, to keep the small towns in rural Manitoba growing and developing and one of the ways you can do that is through water rates. But I think it's important that the record show there weren't any water rates during our administration and in fact, a lot of new rural developments in water and sewer, Mr. Chairman, the minute this government gets into office, another one of their major increases takes place so the water costs go up by 16 percent.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the increase of costs of water and having no account for the Federal Government guidelines of 6 and 5 percent; they're out on a ship all of their own, not paying any attention to the other costs that people have to incur but in fact this Minister of Agriculture, with Water Services reporting to him, has increased the cost of water to rural Manitobans by some 16 percent and he should have made a public announcement of that, through Public Press, so that people know precisely what his policy is and I would hope that he would proceed to do that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member should be aware that under the grant formula the water rates to a number of communities who constructed - I just want to make sure that I say this correctly - constructed facilities prior to the new Water Services Program, did have their water rates subsidized by the Manitoba Water Services Board. That subsidy has been increasing substantially, Mr. Chairman. In fact, for the four years this increase of just under 16 percent that was increased this year was over the six-year period, which averaged out to less than 3 percent a year in terms of an increase, when you average it out over the six years that there were no increases.

Mr. Chairman, the actual cost to the Manitoba Water Services Board, in terms of increases, was over 130 percent in terms of the cost of providing those services to those communities. So the fact of the matter is, the rest of the communities who utilized some of the funds, in terms of the grant portion under this program, were having part of the monies reduced by the increased amount of subsidies which did not even take into account some realistic basis for a price index and increase cost to the board, this was just a built in formula that the rates would stay the same. — (Interjection) —

Mr. Chairman, the fact of the matter is the honourable member doesn't seem to realize that every community which has built sewer and water facilities since the program began in the early '70s, has to pay the actual

costs of operation. It is only those communities who had the water services supplied to their communities prior to this new program, had that kind of a subsidy. So there in fact is an inequitable treatment as between communities, Mr. Chairman. That's what I'm trying to say.

The new communities pay the actual costs; those prior to 1970 - I believe the program was in 1970 - those communities had to pay, since 1970, had to pay the current cost as to the actual expenditures made, and the communities prior to that had the artificial rate which was, as I said, over those six years, the cost to the Water Services Board increased 130 percent to those communities and the increase, Mr. Chairman, was 16 percent. So there still continues to be that gap between communities.

There continues to be that inequitable treatment as between those communities who had their services prior to 1970 and today, because they are receiving a subsidy which has been growing - I believe it's in the neighbourhood of \$650,000 - annually now to those communities over and above the actual cost to the Manitoba Water Services Board. In fact, those communities who have sewer and water services put in today, have to pay the current costs, there are no subsidies. So there is an inequitable treatment as between communities.

The increases and changes that were made, Mr. Chairman, will be made on an annual basis as of April 1st of each year by an amount equal to the change in the utility consumer price index for the one-year period ending in August of the previous year and all the municipal corporations that were involved in this have been notified by letter.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not overly clear on what the Minister is trying to point out. The basic issue is that however you cut it, people who have been getting sewer and water provided through the Manitoba Water Services Board are now seeing an increase of 16 percent and he refers to the current installations. Well, Mr. Chairman, I would think that the cost of installation of a lot of the current-day works, because of a large amount of unemployed people and a large amount of contracting people who aren't employed, will it be able to cut their costs and the cost of current operations or installations would, in fact, not be as high as some of those three or four years ago when the inflationary costs were probably at a peak. So we may, in fact, see reduction in some of the installation costs and could in fact over the longer term with inflation under control, see a reduction in the cost of the installation of programs.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the people of Manitoba are going to have a 16 percent increase in their water fees, that's what I understand and the Minister cannot back away from that, whether it's through a subsidization or whether it isn't, that's basically what is happening.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I believe the honourable member doesn't understand the program and I will try and explain it to him.

The Water Services Program that has been in effect since the early '70s, the current program which had

the \$3 million cap for assistance in construction cost to communities, part of that \$3 million figure is the \$650,000 subsidy that goes to communities who had water services installed prior to this new program in 1970. Those communities who received the assistance over and above the remainder that is left of the \$3 million grant portion, pay the actual costs of supplying water to those communities. Any community that had water services constructed since 1970 pay whatever the costs are today. There is no subsidy to those communities under the Water Services Board Program.

Where the subsidy occurs is to those communities who had water services constructed prior to this new program in the '70s. But, Mr. Chairman, while the current communities pay whatever the costs are, there is no subsidy to them other than the construction assistance out of the \$3 million - which we have now increased to 4.5 - that's all the help that they get. Whereas the other communities that had their rates set by the Board and there was no increase over the six-year period, Mr. Chairman, now are going to have an increase to reflect, on an average base, the utility price index.

There will always be a subsidy to those communities which, from the equity point of view, Mr. Chairman, you can't argue that there is an inequity there. Because there is a group of communities in Manitoba who are getting a subsidy under water rates, and there is another group of communities in Manitoba who get no subsidy in their water rates at all. They pay the going cost. That is the program, Mr. Chairman. What we are trying to address, is to keep at least the subsidy figures at a constant rate so that there will be increased cost for a certain number of communities, but not for all communities. Only those who are on the program prior to the Water Services Board Program coming into place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Mr. Chairman, I would like to leave some questions with the Minister. They don't deal with this subject, but perhaps he can get the answers over noon hour.

No. 1, and these have to do with respect to the organic farming contract, NO. 1, who wrote the terms of reference? No. 2, who is the economist referred to in the material given to me? Did the contract go to Treasury Board? Did any member of his caucus make representation to him in support of this specific proposal? — (Interjection) — well, not really. If the Minister looks at the record, he didn't really answer that directly. Has the report due March 31st been made available to the Minister yet?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, part of that I will answer. The report may be within the department. I have not seen the report as yet. It may not be available — (Interjection) — as I understand it, the report is not complete. They are not finished their work, the study, terms of reference.

We will get those answers for the honourable member, but, Mr. Chairman, when I answered the question about who made representations, I indicated that I had received a number of enquiries from people around

the province. I know that I had discussions with caucus members from time to time on this whole issue of moving towards the area of doing some work in the area of organic farming and alternate methods. There have been a number of caucus members who have spoken about this. I believe the Member for Inkster has spoken about this; the Member for The Pas has spoken about this; a number of members from caucus have raised these questions with me, as well as certain of my colleagues, as well as citizens in the Province of Manitoba.

MR. B. RANSOM: When the Minister answered questions on Tuesday night, all he said was, I believe there are members of my caucus that do know V. Scott. That was the extent of what he said and my question was, whether or not any members of his caucus has made representation to him in favour of this contract. That's all.

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I indicated that a number of colleagues in caucus have spoken about this. For me to give the member, I may as well name all the members because we've had conversations about the whole issue of alternate methods in farming a number of times in our Estimates in caucus. Many members have made comments and the need to do further research in this area. I can answer the question with respect to this matter going to Treasury Board. It was approved by Treasury Board. Mr. Chairman, the name, I will get the names of the individuals who are involved. The terms of reference would have been prepared through consultation between Mr. Scott and our staff in the department. But, I will get the name of the individuals for him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in an area now of water services which of course is a great interest to the area that I represent. Sometimes we have too much water and sometimes we have no water. Incidentally, I just phoned home a few minutes ago, and there is four inches of very wet snow on the ground over there right now and we could be in a situation very very quickly where we're going to have

too much water. It's not going to be absorbed into the ground because the ground is already saturated with water so we could be in for quite a run-off this year. We could be having some serious problems because there is no doubt about it that the season is getting late and the runoff is going to be pretty fast. The thaw is going to be pretty fast.

I wonder if this is the area in which I could ask some specific questions. I would like to talk about Altona, Rosenfeld, Winkler, the situations as far as the water supply is concerned. — (Interjection) — The Minister indicates that that's all right. We know that Altona, of course does not have a sufficient supply of water, that the water that they get at the present time is from Neche which is in North Dakota. The supply up there is running low and a study is being done on the south Buffalo channel to see whether enough reservoirs can be built in order to supply the town of Altona with water.

I wonder if the Minister could give me an update as to how far that study has gone, how feasible it appears to be and if I could have the latest update on that particular program?

HON. B. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Altona study is being carried out under the direction of PFRA. They are looking at the various alternatives as to providing water. The study, I am advised should be in later this spring, but if the member would like we will take under advisement and provide the honourable member a copy of the study, if it's not too voluminous or at least the executive summary of the study and the basic recommendations to him so he'd be familiar with it when it does come in. On the understanding of course, it is a PFRA study it is not a Water Services Board study, although we do cooperate very closely because of the mix and match of the programs that we work on the various sizes of communities. So, with that understanding, that that can be released to other persons other than the community involved, with that stipulation, we will try and get it for him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour being 12:30, I will now leave the Chair until 2:00 p.m.