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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	Virden	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

Monday, 11 April, 1983.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - LABOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: The meeting will come to order. We are in 3.(a)(2) - the Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I was saying before we broke at 4:30, I don't think anybody in this Assembly is not of the opinion that there is a very urgent situation, a crisis situation with regard to summer jobs at the present time and I would include in that category, not just students, but also young people in general because there are many young people who have been out of work for quite a while. Certainly I've seen people in that situation in my constituency and I'm sure it's the case across the province. It is certainly an area that I know is of a major concern in my constituency right now.

In Thompson the major employer, Inco, is going to be hiring very few, if any, students this year and this is about the first year that this has ever happened. They've had varying numbers over the years but there has always been at least 45 or 50 at the minimum and they're not going to meet that level this year. This places a greater burden on a program such as the Careerstart Program and others of a similar nature.

In looking at the Careerstart Program, which is an improved version of some previous programs, I was wondering if we could perhaps look at what happened last year with the previous program, the Career Internship Program, as compared to previous years and see the basic trends and in particular, I'd like to look at the trends within the North. It's my understanding from talking to people connected with the previous program in Thompson there was a dramatic increase in the number of businesses and community organizations participating under the previous program as compared to the program in 1981 and all previous programs to that and I was wondering if the Minister has any statistics in this regard as it relates specifically to the Northern area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. DOLIN: I have some figures for 1981 and 1982 for the youth programs in the North. The Manitoba Private Sector Youth Employment Program in 1981 employed 155 young people. The Career Internship Program in 1982 employed 325 young people for positions.

MR. S. ASHTON: Mr. Chairman, that's an increase, in fact, it's more than double and it kind of reminds me of some of the comments which were made about last year's program around this time by members of the opposition who were trying to predict doom and gloom for the program. I certainly found it wasn't the case in

my constituency. However, I take it that it's part of the normal political process.

My area of interest, though, was not so much historical figures but as I said, is the actual reality of the situation facing young people this summer. I was wondering if there were any special efforts that the department would be undertaking at a regional level to try and get the same kind of promotion that obviously they got last year because it's rather a significant increase in the number of jobs under the summer programs.

HON. M. DOLIN: One of the important changes is the change within the department itself so that the services are co-ordinated and offered on a regional basis. There's the Northern Regional Employment Services staff and office and that group of people will be searching the North for job opportunities; helping young people and, in fact, all unemployed people match to these opportunities; taking information about the various programs of the government after these people, both employers and potential employees; and in general seeking employment opportunities and matching them to unemployed people in the North.

MR. S. ASHTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I certainly feel that's the area that we have to look at in terms of expanding job opportunities because the impression I gathered from talking to people with the Department of Labour in Thompson last year was one of the areas where they had a fair amount of success, and that was that there was a fair amount of promotion. I know some members that question the amount of promotion. I'm wondering though in areas such as Thompson whether these packages of information are being mailed out to everybody and whether there's going to be any in-person follow-up because I think that the best way of promoting the program is a combination of information, personal contact and accessibility from departmental people.

HON. M. DOLIN: There was certainly an inclusion of the North in the mail out of information on this program as there was on others, and the staff has the information available and takes it out, you know, in person, to people who would be interested. Also, the deadline for the North was May 6th and that originally was set later than the other one because of the problems in the North and I think that was part of my initial announcement about the program. But we will extend that deadline for applications for a week as well, just as we did for the southern regional services.

MR. S. ASHTON: Well, I thank the Minister for that allowance for the particular situation of the North. I think this is one thing that is often overlooked with a lot of government programs and, that is, that in the North you have different time frames, different situations, and often it takes a slightly different treatment in terms of things such as application

deadlines and also in terms of the way you promote a program.

It's all very well to have the media promotion I know that's always been a part of these kinds of programs, but to have that regional emphasis, I know from personal experience, really helps get the local businessmen and the local community organizations in touch with where the program is at. It's a lot easier to relate to a departmental employee in the City of Thompson, for example, than it is to relate to somebody via the phone in the City of Winnipeg, so I think it's an excellent move in that regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister earlier today indicated that the majority of the advertising for the programs took place in Winnipeg and the Member for Thompson has just asked about northern programs. Possibly the Minister has answered this earlier, but what type of a rural advertising program was put forward by the Minister? Could she indicate that type of advertising, the papers that were covered and the information provided if she hasn't already done so?

HON. M. DOLIN: I did answer that question rather completely this afternoon. I indicated that a mailing was done, that a mail walk or mail drop was done to businesses and farms throughout rural Manitoba; 64,000 of the leaflets were distributed and advertising was done in rural weeklies - Thompson, Roblin, Portage, Flin Flon and Brandon papers and so on - a thorough covering of the province with information.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is maybe not aware that the Manitoba Co-operator, which is a farm grain producers' co-operative, covers the majority of agricultural people in rural Manitoba. Did she provide that same ad in this paper?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, it was. It was on the back, so they had to cut up the questionnaire.

MR. J. DOWNEY: The Minister indicates that it was provided. As well, she indicated that it was rural drop. I have a farm in the southwest corner, Mr. Chairman. Did she drop it at every farm, or how did she decide who was going to get the information?

HON. M. DOLIN: It was done through the postal system. I'm sure you are familiar with the way that is handled.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'm not very satisfied with it, Mr. Chairman. I'm not very happy with the postal system in Manitoba, so that may be why some of us didn't get our mail. But I think it's important that the same kind of information and advertising of programs is available.

Does the Minister believe that she is adequately covering the numbers of, particularly, those students who are looking for job opportunities who are going to have jobs created or developed by the Government of Manitoba? Is she satisfied that she will cover all those people who are looking for jobs?

HON. M. DOLIN: As I stated this afternoon, yes, I am satisfied that the program is adequate.

MR. J. DOWNEY: She is indicating that there won't be any students going without a job this summer. Is that what she's saying?

HON. M. DOLIN: If the member wants me to repeat all my speeches from this afternoon, I'd be happy to, but what I said, basically and briefly, is that this program is not the only program going on in the government right now and it's certainly not the only program for young people that deals with the problem of unemployment among young people. It is part of a whole. That is exactly why we wish to discuss job creation initiatives that are a part of the Jobs Fund under that particular appropriation, because then we can look at the totality of the program. Although it is expandable and probably will be expanded, there is no intent or promise that this particular program is going to put every young person between 16 and 24 to work. There are lots of other opportunities and we still have opportunities in the design stage that we will be putting into place to meet the needs of the unemployed in Manitoba.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, the Minister may not be aware that her colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, has not been paying the kind of attention that he should be to the employment opportunities that have been traditionally offered through the Department of Agriculture in the Research Branch, in particular, at the University of Manitoba. There is one particular program that has been cut by some 30 jobs which have been traditional in plant science and field test operations within the university programs. Can the Minister assure us that she will now, with her career program and her job opportunities, be prepared to fund the shortfall that the Minister of Agriculture has seen fit to let lapse? Will she now replace that with the funds that are available in her department so that program can be carried on?

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, firstly, the funds are not in my department as I have stated repeatedly. Secondly, it sounds to me like the member is talking about a university program which means the university is the employer. I'm not sure, it's not my Appropriation and I can't speak to it, but I'm sure the member is quite aware that the employer, whoever that employer is, is the one who applies for funding under the program.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister of Labour not realize that it is her responsibility for all of the people who work and have jobs in Manitoba, that it falls within her portfolio, and if one of her Cabinet colleagues do not feel they are able to carry on with a particular responsibility, that she should pick up that shortfall and see that there are those opportunities provided? Because I can truly point out specific areas where there is a shortfall in funds and it hasn't happened prior to this particular year, it hasn't happened before the NDP came in, but now that the NDP are in office we find they don't seem to have the kind of co-ordinated efforts that have been put in place in the previous, not

only four years but quite a few years, where the people have found traditional employment students, in particular, through job opportunities provided through meaningful work opportunities. I think if the Minister of Labour has not done so, she should discuss with the Minister of Agriculture how they could put funds forward or encourage the university to make jobs available that are of meaning to rural students, not only agricultural students, but whatever department they're taking their education in and give them some experience.

As well, Mr. Chairman, I have a difficult time with the Minister of Labour who has apparently failed in her efforts to provide the kinds of environment, or overall environment, where students from whatever walk of life they come from would have had job opportunities through the private sector, whether it would have been the Western Power Grid Development, whether it would have been the Alcan Smelter, or the Potash Mine in Western Canada — (Interjection) — You know, the Minister of Labour laughs. She laughs at some 800 jobs that would have been developed, Mr. Chairman, in the potash industry in Western Manitoba. She laughs about those kinds of jobs.

What about the job opportunities that would have been provided through Manitoba Hydro in the development of Limestone and the Western Power Grid? Mr. Chairman, these are summer jobs that every student in Manitoba could have worked on. We wouldn't have needed a lot of additional funds provided by government if she and her colleagues had been doing their job. But because she's a member of a Cabinet that snuffed out some of the major economic initiatives - the Alcan Smelter is another one - if she hadn't have been part of a Cabinet that snuffed out those major economic initiatives that were set forward prior to their entering government, then she wouldn't have had to sit here and take the embarrassment of lack — (Interjection) — well, she's again laughing. You know this is serious business, Mr. Chairman. — (Interjection) — The Member for Thompson says my speech is a joke. I would like him to go and talk to the unemployed people. In fact, I challenge him to a debate in Thompson with the people up there — (Interjection) — well, invite me up and I'll debate with him.

But, Mr. Chairman, what I'm saying to the Minister of Labour is that she wouldn't have been such a failure in the provision of jobs for students if there had been summer jobs provided through the economic initiatives that had been set forward in the previous four years. It wouldn't have been such a mark of failure on her record because it would have been an automatic that the summer students could have gone out for summer job opportunities.

I ask the Minister, - and I'm very serious in my question to her - is she aware that many university students today for the first time in the last four years have had to go to their parents or had to go to other economic support mechanisms for them to pay for their tuitions that they haven't had to do for the last period of time, that this is the first year they've had to go for outside support? They can't support themselves during the NDP Government times to provide themselves with enough money to pay for their tuition fees and have had to go to their parents or outside sources.

That, Mr. Chairman, is a mark and an outright abolition of her responsibilities. I think she's the one

that's going to have to wear the marks of that kind of record because, in fact, if she did a little tour and a little research right now at the university she'd find probably 50 percent of those students without jobs for this coming year and have to go for outside support for tuition. If she had a meaningful program that wouldn't have happened. By her own admission there are some 17,000 people without work coming out of that work force, and she's satisfied. She just told us that she's doing all she can to provide work activities for those people. It's a shame, Mr. Chairman, and a sham on the young people of this province.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Chairman, I have in front of me the totals, the overview of Student Summer Employment Programs. In the summer of 1981-82, the number of student jobs created - 9,439.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Big deal, what about the other 17,000?

HON. M. DOLIN: That was 1981, before this present government took power.

A MEMBER: You're a bloody failure.

HON. M. DOLIN: 1982 - 12,351 jobs created for students, a substantial increase without the Power Grid or Alcan which may or may not have provided any jobs at all; a substantial increase and there was a change in government from one year to the next. It is certainly my hope and my intent to create all the jobs that are necessary to employ people' but I'm sure that the members who are questioning - if we can call it questioning - who are making comments about these Estimates, would support the idea of a mix between the private sector and the public sector. I find the suggestion that government is responsible for creating all the jobs for young people an interesting one in light of the fact that they are also saying that it's the private sector that is going to do this.

I point out again, that our unemployment rates in Manitoba are still not satisfactory, of course, are still much better than all but one other province, the provinces that believe that the private sector is going to do it all. There has to be a balance and that is the balance that we are attempting to achieve and obviously the private sector out there, particularly small business, were those who study and research these things say that most of the jobs will be available. Those businesses are supporting these programs. A tremendous response from business and farms for the programs that you have questioned about so far, that response is coming in daily. So the people out there know the programs, the people out there are responding to them, and from the figures I just gave you the increase in numbers of jobs created, you can see that it didn't take Alcan of the Western Power Grid to put students to work last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: What was the unemployment rate in 1981, and what was the unemployment rate in 1982?

HON. M. DOLIN: For whom?

MR. J. DOWNEY: For the young people under 25 years of age in Manitoba, Mr. Chairman.

HON. M. DOLIN: If you want youth unemployment you'll have to wait a moment.

MR. J. DOWNEY: They've had to wait for a job for a couple of years.

HON. M. DOLIN: I think a lot of them are going to school. Have you seen the enrolment rates at the universities and community colleges?

MR. J. DOWNEY: Has she been recognized, Mr. Chairman?

HON. M. DOLIN: I have several sets of figures here for you . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: I just want the unemployment for those people under 25, Mr. Chairman, for 1981, and those under 25 for 1982.

HON. M. DOLIN: Do you want percentages? Do you want labour force, or do you want the numbers of unemployed?

MR. J. DOWNEY: I would like both, Mr. Chairman, the percentage and numbers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants both the absolute number and the percentage number.

HON. M. DOLIN: The labour force in 1981, both sexes ages 15 to 24, was 130,000; in 1982 it was 128,000. The unemployment figure in 1981, ages 15 to 24, was 10.6 percent; in 1982 it was 13.9 percent.

MR. J. DOWNEY: What is the difference in numbers of people, Mr. Chairman?

HON. M. DOLIN: What is the difference in number . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: In numbers of people. How many more are unemployed in 1982 versus 1981?

HON. M. DOLIN: Approximately 4,000.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, then the Minister is indicating that, in view of the fact that with the number of programs she has introduced, there is still an increase of unemployed students in that age group. In fact, it points out that she is not dealing with the problem that is before her.

HON. M. DOLIN: We put them to work.

MR. J. DOWNEY: There are 4,000 more unemployed the year after she's introduced a multitude of programs, Mr. Chairman. She hasn't increased any more, Mr. Chairman.

HON. M. DOLIN: Excuse me, but the question dealt with last year. You were talking about last year's figures

and the year before that. The programs under discussion in these Estimates are this year's programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur, what is the question?

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the question is, does the Minister agree that there are an additional 4,000 people more unemployed this year than there were last year under her administration?

HON. M. DOLIN: The member asked for figures from 1981 and 1982. I gave you the figures for 1981 and 1982. I did not give you figures for 1983.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I appreciate it would be difficult to give them for 1983, but the Minister had the responsibility for 1981-82, 1982-83.

HON. M. DOLIN: I'm sorry, I did not.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that the percentage increase this year from last year, was from 10.6 percent on 13,000 to 13 percent for a number of 12,800 people for this particular year, which gave us an increase of unemployed people in that category, of 4,000. That's 1981-82. So what she is saying is that she has not been able to deal with the unemployment problem. Why did we get to this, Mr. Chairman? If she had been dealing with it in a responsible manner, why did she get to this?

HON. M. DOLIN: I don't know where the member was during the last Estimates. I certainly wasn't here. I'm not quite sure what his point is, because he is referring to programs and initiatives for 1983 for student employment using figures that he asked for and that I gave him for 1981 and 1982, and talking about the fact that "my programs" did not meet the need.

The programs in fact, if I can speak about the former Minister's programs, did meet the need. We put those students to work just about that difference that you were talking about, but those were not my programs and they're not the ones under discussion. This is the first time I have been in an Estimate review, and I wonder who the member thought he was seeing last year. It wasn't me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I remind all members of the committee again that we are considering 3.(a)(2)(a) and that, according to Rule 64(2), "Speeches in the Committee of the Whole must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion."

The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that the Minister is not taking responsibility for the Minister that was in office prior to her . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: Either one of them.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Either one of them, she said. That's fair game. If she doesn't want to associate herself with the Minister of Finance, that's quite all right.

Dealing specifically, Mr. Chairman, with the numbers she's dealt with, is she indicating to this committee

that their new programs this particular year will, in fact, reduce the number of unemployed this coming year to what they currently are now from the 13 percent of the 12,800? Will her programs that she is talking about, that she is spending provincial funds, taxpayers' money, will that reduce the number of unemployed students over the next year so that when we come back to the next Estimate process that she is able to give us figures that show that the numbers of people who have employment are less than they are today? Can she give us that assurance? That's what she is wanting her money for.

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Chairman, I answered questions almost identical to this this afternoon under a section which we have already passed. We are now under (2)(a) Administration, Salaries. I would hope that you would call this committee back to the point which should be discussed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just reminded everyone, including the Member for Arthur, that the speeches in the Committee of the Whole must be strictly relevant to the item or clause under discussion. The item or clause under discussion is Administration, Salaries of the Labour and Employment Services.

The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't mind moving on if the Minister, if she doesn't do it now, is prepared during her wage allocation to provide me with the information that I'm asking for. Is she telling us that the programs she has in place will, in fact, reduce the number of unemployed from the 18-point-some percent that it's now at in that age group, and will be lower, in fact, a year from now? That's what we are asking her for and if she doesn't want to answer it now, then we will proceed, Mr. Chairman, to ask her during her Salary. I will pass to the next item if you call me out of line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, on this item, I wanted to ask one further question. It has been brought to my attention from municipal people and other people outside, Mr. Chairman. This relates to the fact that an unemployed young person is able to receive a wage assistance at the rate of \$2 per hour and if the position is filled with a Native student, the employer will receive wage assistance at the rate of \$4 per hour. Does the Minister not feel that the program is downgrading Native students by having such a differential?

HON. M. DOLIN: Mr. Chairman, the special measures component is an incentive component.

MR. G. MERCIER: I appreciate that's what it says, Mr. Chairman, but I'm asking the Minister if she doesn't feel that such a differential is downgrading the ability of Native students?

HON. M. DOLIN: In keeping with the way this government functions certainly measures like this are

not likely put in place. There was consultation with Native organizations throughout this and they are very pleased, in fact, delighted with this kind of incentive. It's the employers that we are trying to encourage.

MR. G. MERCIER: So the Minister doesn't feel that it is downgrading Native students to offer double the wage assistance in those cases?

HON. M. DOLIN: Perhaps I could ask the member to be more specific by what he means exactly?

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I think I've adequately explained it. The normal assistance is \$2 per hour to an employer, a Special Measures component it's called. If the position is filled with a Native student - I'm not questioning the disabled part of it at all - the employer is entitled to receive wage assistance at the rate of \$4 per hour, which is obviously twice the normal assistance. Does the Minister not feel that she is downgrading the ability of Native students in providing double the wage assistance if they are provided with employment?

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, I'm still interested in hearing the member define downgrading, particularly when he separates out Native students from the disabled, who are both covered by this special incentive. It is, after all, not the students or unemployed youth, it's the employer who is being encouraged to hire these young people. But I wonder just what the member means by downgrading.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, I'm asking the question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister because I've had this raised to me. Does the Minister not feel in offering double the wage assistance that what she is saying is that you can expect 50 percent of the work? This is a question that has been raised and I'm asking, does she not consider she's downgrading the ability of Native students to perform a job by offering double the assistance?

HON. M. DOLIN: First of all I am amazed that the member should suggest that and again single out the Native students. He must be assuming then that the same is true of the disabled student or unemployed young person. But I can assure the member that it is the employers who have historically shown a great deal of resistance to hiring disabled young people or people of any age, or Native people of any age, and we could go on, we could probably add to that list. The resistance is there on the part of the employer.

What we are doing is encouraging employers to hire these young people because we know that they can do a good job and they will do good job and we know that they are deserving of attention in the labour market. We feel that it's important to help employers pass this resistance that they have, many of them, not all of them certainly but many of them, and that's the reason for the incentive.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I don't want the Minister to get the wrong impression. Everybody is deserving of assistance that is unemployed. I just wanted the Minister to explain the rationale for offering

this particular assistance. Has this been done in any other program, the Minister or her department? Have they looked at other programs where this has been done and has it proved successful?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, there was an incentive grant for the disabled young people last year.

MR. G. MERCIER: Not for Natives?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, for the disabled.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, I just say to the Minister, Mr. Chairman, perhaps she could take this question as notice for the next set of Estimates. Perhaps she could develop some statistics that might just indicate how successful the special measures component was in the program this year?

HON. M. DOLIN: Certainly. We would be monitoring that anyway and we'd be happy to report it to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, just a brief question. Maybe the Minister's answered this earlier and if she has just say so and I can read it in Hansard. As I understand it the Careerstart Program is going to provide a \$2 per hour subsidy to the employer of an employee. Is that correct?

HON. M. DOLIN: That's correct. To the employer for the wages of the employee.

MR. J. DOWNEY: At what rate is the employer charged the employment tax on those individuals, on the \$4 or on the \$2 plus what the normal wage would be, or what is the employment tax charged on? What rate?

HON. M. DOLIN: Employers pay a variety of wages to employees. When there is a \$2 subsidy on those wages that doesn't assume any particular wage that the employer is paying. It often depends on the job being done. The payroll levy as you refer to it, the health and post secondary education levy, is assessed in the same way that it is assessed for any other employee.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the \$2 that is paid in subsidy regardless of what wage limit or what wage a maximum is being paid by the employer, is charged the 1.5 percent payroll on the \$2 an hour that they are paying as a government program.

A MEMBER: So what?

MR. J. DOWNEY: So they're not getting \$2 an hour subsidy.

HON. M. DOLIN: You still want to know whether the 1.5 percent comes on the balance of the wage, or whether that \$2 is included?

MR. J. DOWNEY: That's right.

HON. M. DOLIN: It's on the total wage, on the gross wage.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So in other words, Mr. Chairman, the program is not in fact paying \$2 an hour subsidy but is in fact paying \$2 minus 1.5 percent government payroll tax? Is that correct?

HON. M. DOLIN: The program pays \$2 an hour subsidy.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Of which there is 1.5 percent payroll tax taken off it. Is that correct?

MR. P. FOX: There's a lot of taxes taken off all your wages.

MR. J. DOWNEY: That's for sure. With the NDP there's a lot more and they just waste it, Peter.

HON. M. DOLIN: If I could answer the member. There is the inclusion this time also of 10 percent for employee benefits that is paid out. That is additional as well and is new in this program. A whole lot of taxes for all kinds of things are paid by employers. They have a lot of expenses. This is merely one of them. The unemployment insurance and various other things have to be paid as well and if the member will recall, unemployment insurance costs have gone up tremendously this past year. I don't hear him mentioning that but it's another one of the costs to an employer.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I'll ask another question of the Minister then.

She said there's a 10 percent benefit as well. Is the 1.5 percent payroll tax paid on that 10 percent benefit as well as the 1.5 percent has to be paid on the \$2 government subsidy that is paid?

HON. M. DOLIN: My understanding is that it is paid on the wages of the employee.

I would suggest though that if you have any more detailed questions on the health and post-secondary education levy they'd be more appropriately asked of the Minister of Finance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It would facilitate our proceeding if the Member for Arthur will confine his questions to the item under discussion.

The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm talking about the Careerstart Program and I'm asking the Minister of Labour if the 1.5 percent payroll tax is deducted from the wage of the people that are getting the \$2 an hour subsidy. She's saying, if I understand it correctly, yes, that the government are collecting the 1.5 percent payroll tax on the government subsidy, so in fact the \$2 an hour they are paying is not \$2 an hour but less the 1.5 percent payroll tax that is government money. Is that not correct?

HON. M. DOLIN: That is not correct.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Then, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has misled this committee. She just prior to that told me that is the case. That the 1.5 percent payroll tax is paid by the employer and it is deducted off the total wage of which part of that total wage is made up

of the \$2 an hour out of her program, and the 1.5 percent is deducted in fact from that particular \$2 that is paid in subsidy to the employer. Is that not correct?

HON. M. DOLIN: The employer can pay that tax from whatever fund he or she wishes. It is figured on the wages of the total number of employees, not just on students hired for the summer, certainly. It's a tax figured on the payroll. It is not deducted from the wage subsidy given to the employer.

If the member wishes to figure if he was an employer he would in his mind reduce that subsidy by an amount he would have to pay for that levy then I suppose he can do that but it does not lessen the amount paid in subsidy.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, on the Careerstart Program let us use the figures - and I'll just set out an example of them - that the employer is starting a new business and he is prepared to pay \$3 out of his own business and the government is paying \$2.00 That is a \$5 an hour wage to an individual. Is it correct that there will be a 1.5 percent employment tax to be paid on that \$5 an hour? That's the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's correct.

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, that's correct.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Okay. So in other words the \$2 the government are giving . . . Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman for the Minister of Labour because the Minister of Labour is having a hard time getting a straightforward answer. In other words the \$2 an hour subsidy that is being paid in the Careerstart is taxed at 1.5 percent, so in fact it is less than \$2 an hour.

As well I have a further question and I thank you for answering, Mr. Chairman. A further question, she said there was a 10 percent benefit provided in this program, and I don't understand precisely what that is, will that be taxed at the 1.5 percent as well, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did the Honourable Minister get the question?

HON. M. DOLIN: No. Will what be taxed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the Member for Arthur please repeat the question?

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes. The Minister indicated earlier that there was a 10 percent benefit as well provided through this program. Am I incorrect in understanding it in the way in which I have interpreted it?

HON. M. DOLIN: The formula, if the member is thinking of being an employer and hiring under this program or any program, and in fact if the member is thinking of being an employer in this province, the \$2 subsidy - assuming it is a \$2 subsidy and not \$4 - plus 10 percent, that's for the employee benefit package, plus the employer contribution to the wage whatever that is, it might be \$3, it might be \$2, it might be \$10 who knows, equals the wage. That wage, plus the wages of all other employees of that employer times 1.5

percent indicates the amount of levy to be paid to the Government of Manitoba.

MR. J. DOWNEY: A final question. In other words the Minister is saying that they are not providing the support to the level in which they have indicated in their program of \$2 an hour plus 10 percent. It's 10 percent and \$2 an hour minus the 1.5 percent payroll tax that immediately comes off the top to pay for government tax. So it is somewhat less than what they're advertising. Does the Minister agree or not?

HON. M. DOLIN: I suppose that if the employer has to pay a municipal tax of some sort as well that it would further reduce the subsidy by the member's computations.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, the Minister can go round it, fudge it and try and throw other things into the debate if she likes. She has to agree I think, Mr. Chairman, that the persons who are getting support from the government, are getting the support minus 1.5 percent for the provincial payroll tax. Is that not correct?

HON. M. DOLIN: I suppose the member can have that opinion if he wishes. It is not accurate to my way of thinking, nor I would think to any clear thinking person's way of thinking, but the member could have that opinion if he wishes. All the figures that a business person uses in determining wage packages, in determining tax packages, in determining costs of running the business are of course figured into his or her accounts. Now if you wish to say that one particular expense comes out of one part of a person's wages well then you can say that, but that doesn't make it true.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister has to admit that there is a reduction in the amount of subsidy that she's paying to the employer by the amount of 1.5 percent both on the \$2 subsidy plus the 10 percent benefit that she talks about. So in other words what she is doing, on one hand she is taxing that individual through the tax department to pay income tax and to pay all those taxes that anybody in business has to pay to operate in Manitoba, and they are turning around and giving them those funds to employ people.

But the point I want to make is - and I think it's pretty well pointed out now - she has to admit that the subsidy she is paying is reduced by 1.5 percent because it is in fact - well she admitted it earlier in committee - it's the payroll tax that has to be paid by those employers of people and that's it. Mr. Chairman, I'll quit at that and if she doesn't want to respond further but I take it as 1.5 percent less than what she's saying she is giving to those people who are employing people. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. A. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, this is not the place or time that the Minister should be obliged to give the Member for Arthur an economics lesson but I'll venture a little bit of advice notwithstanding.

There's no doubt in the history of government finance that government puts out money to stimulate the

economy and it puts out money to assist people getting jobs and to be holding jobs and there are returns come back to government by virtue of the fact that those monies are also taxable, and those monies once put into circulation have a multiplier effect.

That is the reason — (Interjection) — Well, now the Member for Minnedosa says come now. He knows about the multiplier effect because he was in the banking business and one of the first lessons you learn in elementary economics is the banks take your dollar that you put in the banks and by virtue of their system they are able to loan out \$10 and the velocity of money produces significant returns. So, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. What is the point of order?

MR. D. BLAKE: The point of order is that the Minister is imputing motives to the banking system that they take a dollar on deposit and they lend out 10. It's an old Social Credit funny money philosophy theory that is just not true. They can't lend out any more than their liabilities and their deposits happen to be liabilities not assets . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair rules there is no point of order. The speeches of the Committee of the Whole must be strictly relevant to the item or close under discussion. Can we go back to the item under discussion?

HON. A. MACKLING: So, Mr. Chairman, in respect to the monies that are paid to the university students or other employees, it is true that the small businesses who hire these students may make more profit and if they make more profit then they will be taxable and we, the Government of Manitoba, will be receiving money back and it will be offsetting the money that was paid out to assist those small businesses in their employment programs. What we're looking at is the payment of the money. Whatever taxes befall either the recipients of the money, if the students earn enough, that given the present income tax provisions they will be paying tax back to the Federal Government and the Provincial Government. — (Interjection) — Well, some do, Mr. Chairman, and to the extent that the small businesses earn money, they will be paying tax back to the Provincial Government or Federal Government. So those are the economic facts of life for the Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Member for Arthur want to be recognized or does he want to raise the point of order?

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'll be recognized, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, that's all you want, you want to be recognized. The Member for Arthur is recognized.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, with all respect, Sir, you

just brought us to a point of order a few minutes ago. I'm talking about the Careerstart. The point that I wanted to make and make sure - the Minister hadn't responded - that the \$2 subsidy paid to the small business or anybody who is employing people in Manitoba has a deduction to pay of 1.5 percent. As well, they have to pay the 1.5 percent deduction on the 10 percent benefit that she talked about and I have taken it and I have taken it. I'll leave this committee with the idea that is true, Mr. Chairman, that she has not withdrawn that statement, that I can leave this committee with that as fact and I will quit at that. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley has been trying to receive recognition, shall we give it to her?

The item under discussion is 3.(a)(2)(a) and we're going to confine our discussion on the item under discussion.

MS. M. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairperson, I'd like to make a comment. The members opposite on this particular line of the budget have been trying to say that the Minister's job creation efforts are not enough to meet the task at hand. That's what they've been saying on one hand; on the other hand, the Member for Arthur seems to be most concerned that while we are assisting employers to the tune of \$2 an hour to create jobs for young people in this province, he seems to be very concerned that they might have to find 3 cents per hour to pay the payroll tax for that particular individual. Now, it seems to me that the issue here happens to be trying to get young people employed in this province and assisting employers or encouraging employers to take on that task, and also getting a job done that that employer sees useful in his or her enterprise. So I think for them to be spending the last 15 to 20 minutes worrying about 3 cents an hour shows just exactly where their commitment to employment for young people in this province rests.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, does this area of Administration administer the Manitoba Employment Action Program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, it does.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister issued a press release in February indicating that the initial \$2 million allocation had been increased to \$5.6 million. Could the Minister point out to me where that money is contained in her Estimates?

HON. M. DOLIN: The remaining part of the Manitoba Employment Action Program that overlaps into the '83-84 fiscal year amounts to approximately \$3 million, which is under the Jobs Fund initiatives.

MR. G. MERCIER: It's in the Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, that's correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is this another new initiative?

HON. M. DOLIN: Obviously, when it's a continuing program from last year and this is the remaining portion that's in this fiscal year, it is not a new initiative although the Manitoba Employment Action Program itself was a new initiative during this past fall and winter season. The Jobs Fund, as we have so carefully pointed out on numerous occasions, is made up of employment creation programs, some of which are continuing and some of which are new initiatives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister had issued a press release in January with respect to the \$24 million job development program with the federal Employment and Immigration Department and the province funding \$12 million of that program. Is there money for that program for '83-84 in the Jobs Fund, too?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, there is money in the Jobs Fund for that in that program. The administration of that program falls under a different line of my budget - further down, the Federal-Provincial Programs Co-ordination.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much is in the Jobs Fund then for '83-84 for that program?

HON. M. DOLIN: For which program?

MR. G. MERCIER: This federal-provincial job development program - NEED.

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, I just indicated that's under Item (d). The discussion of the administration of that program should take place under (d) in the same way that I have allowed some discussion of the Careerstart Program, but it's a Jobs Fund initiative and the money is in there, so I will not be discussing the financial implications of the program until we get to the Jobs Fund appropriation.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much money is in the Jobs Fund then?

HON. M. DOLIN: \$200 million.

MR. G. MERCIER: We know how much is in the total, how much is in there for the NEED Program?

HON. M. DOLIN: I'll be discussing that under Appropriation 29.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, "can wait till (d)." I'm asking a simple question about how much is in the Jobs Fund for the NEED Program that her department is administering. It's just a simple . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: This question is not even appropriate as far as my Estimates are concerned and I have said that repeatedly to the member. Federal-Provincial Programs Co-ordination is Item (d). If we could pass these other items, we could get that far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: We'll wait until (d) then.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: What other job creation programs are administered under (2)(a)?

HON. M. DOLIN: Under (2)(a), it's Salaries, not Expenditures. I think you might be talking about (3).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we're talking about Administration. This is an area that has administered the Careerstart Program and a number of other programs, including the Manitoba Employment Action Program that I referred to earlier which the Minister indicated is financed \$3 million in the Jobs Fund for 1983-84. I am asking her if there are any other employment programs that are being administered out of this department for which there is no specific appropriation and perhaps are funded out of the Jobs Fund program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. DOLIN: If there are any other programs administered out of the Jobs Fund program by this staff, is that your question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will the Member for St. Norbert repeat the question, please?

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am asking the Minister if there are any other job creation programs administered by her department that do not appear under one of the following appropriations and perhaps which are being funded out of the Jobs Fund.

HON. M. DOLIN: No, there are not.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many staff man years are in this department?

HON. M. DOLIN: There are no staff man years in any of my departments. Staff-years in this department, there are 24 in the Branch.

A MEMBER: Staff person years, staff years.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is there an increase?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, there is no increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Chair is having difficulty trying to - will you please indicate . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: I said, there was no change.

MR. G. MERCIER: Why have salaries increased then by over 20 percent?

HON. M. DOLIN: The increase shown in Salaries includes the following: the 1982-83 general salary increase shortfall, a share of that, which is \$37,000; the 1983-84 wage increase which is \$50,600; the 27th pay period, remember, is in there, \$22,500; and merit increments and other adjustments amounts to \$800.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 3.(a)(2)(a) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister - I believe it was this Minister, in August; maybe it wasn't. I'm not sure. Yes, it was - announced a job creation agreement to provide temporary work for 293 Sherritt-Gordon employees at Lynn Lake in August. Today, during Question Period, the Member for Turtle Mountain questioned the Minister of Energy and Mines with respect to not approving a job creation agreement proposed by Sherritt-Gordon. Could the Minister explain the difference between the agreement that was approved in August and the one that is being proposed, which has not been approved?

HON. M. DOLIN: The question the member asked, again is under Item (d), but I would be happy to explain to him that there is a basic difference in the two programs.

MR. G. MERCIER: Why would the Minister be happy to deal with one item on this, as opposed to . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. M. DOLIN: All right. I'll wait until (d). If the member wishes me to do so, I will.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly, the members of the committee want to facilitate the proceedings of the House. Can you follow the rules, please?

The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: I'm just wondering why the Minister arbitrarily chooses to answer one question and requires me to wait to have other questions answered.

HON. M. DOLIN: Because, theoretically, we have no program as you suggest. You have just asked a question about a program that doesn't exist, the one at Sherritt-Gordon that you questioned in the House today, so I would be speaking about a program that isn't in place.

MR. G. MERCIER: Which has been proposed - it doesn't matter whether it is in place or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(2)(a)—pass; 3.(a)(2)(b)—pass; 3.(a)(3) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, on Item (3), does this include more than the STEP Program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert is asking a question.

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, it includes . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Please let me know when I'm not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because I cannot tell whether you want to be recognized or not. Please signify.

A MEMBER: Wave your flag, Gerry.

MR. G. MERCIER: I'll let you know when I don't want to be.

HON. M. DOLIN: This appropriation includes the STEP Program, as you mentioned, the Hire-a-Student Program, Volunteers in Public Service, and the Northern Summer Education Program.

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Minister break out the funding then for each area?

HON. M. DOLIN: The total funding for the STEP and government program is \$2,399,600; the Hire-a-Student Job Centre Program, \$177,400; Volunteers in Public Service Program, \$161,100; and the Northern Summer Education Program, \$160,900.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there is a small decrease in funding compared to last year. Can the Minister indicate which program was affected?

HON. M. DOLIN: The health and post-secondary education levy, which I believe is about \$40,000, is out of there and into the appropriation under the Civil Service, where all of that levy is located.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(3)—pass; 3.(a)(4)(a)—pass; 3.(a)(4)(b).

MR. G. MERCIER: Where is the funding for the Northern Development Agreement Program? Is that contained elsewhere?

HON. M. DOLIN: That's in Northern Affairs - it's 20 percent in Finance and 80 percent in Northern Affairs.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is the department's function here then?

HON. M. DOLIN: We administer the program.

MR. G. MERCIER: And you administer the Manitoba Careers Travel?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is that all?

HON. M. DOLIN: Under that particular Appropriation, yes, that's the program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(4)(b)—pass; 3.(b)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister outline her policy position with respect to this area and whether or not there have been changes in policy, or any proposed?

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, perhaps just a few remarks about this branch would be appropriate then. The branch is responsible for the development of policies and programs that enable the government to respond to issues related to immigration, demography and citizenship.

The objectives of the branch are to ensure that the levels and composition of immigration into Manitoba, including refugees, supports the attainment of Manitoba's demographic, humanitarian, economic and labour market goals and reflects Manitoba's absorptive capacity with respect to the labour market, health and social services.

Another goal of the department is to facilitate immigrants' effective attainment of self-sufficiency and ability to participate fully in the social, political and economic life of Manitoba, which includes maximizing employment opportunities for immigrants. In that particular area, we're concerned with English as the second language in the workplace; we're concerned with the Newcomer's Guide and other objectives such as that. There's no changing in staffing for this year.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister taken a position with respect to immigration levels?

HON. M. DOLIN: I'm not sure what the question is. Are you talking about levels of incoming immigrants?

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes.

HON. M. DOLIN: There's an ongoing negotiation process that takes place with the Federal Government with the Minister responsible, and that still is in place, of course.

MR. G. MERCIER: I know there's an ongoing discussion. I want to know what is the Minister's position on immigration levels compared to last year?

HON. M. DOLIN: Last year, our immigration figure was 4 percent of the Canadian total immigration, which was around 5,000 people. That has remained consistent - 4 percent, 5 percent of the Canadian total for the last 10 to 15 years. It hasn't changed.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has the Minister taken a position with respect to the total amount of immigration?

HON. M. DOLIN: Aside from the very important fact that we support the position of the Federal Minister in the Federal Government with regard to refugees and a humanitarian approach to immigration, I would say that there's not been a change in numbers. But perhaps if we looked at the number of refugees as opposed to regular immigrants - there may have been a change there. I don't know that information.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister taken a position with the Federal Minister with respect to the total immigration level into Canada and Manitoba?

HON. M. DOLIN: That really is a federal issue and the figures are determined on about a three-year basis, so it depends on what the Federal Government determines that it's going to spend on the refugee or the immigration situation and how much they spend overseas on this. As I say, that figure is determined usually on a three-year basis, so it's not an annual negotiation.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Annual Report indicates that this area develops information with respect to the preparation of an annual position on immigration levels, and this represents Manitoba's input in the Federal determination of the size and composition of Canada's immigrant intake for the following calendar year. This is an annual position, as set out in the departmental report. Does the Minister take, or has she taken, or is she taking a position with respect to total immigration levels in Canada?

HON. M. DOLIN: As I mentioned earlier, our number one priority is the humanitarian issue and that is what we have made clear to the Federal Government. Our second issue that we negotiate or that we talk about with the Federal Government, has to do with the employability of the people coming into the province. We've also determined that we will take a certain number of special-needs immigrants and the number that we have indicated that we can absorb in Manitoba is 25.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is the planned intake of refugees for 1983?

HON. M. DOLIN: We again plan to absorb about 4 percent of the Federal total, which remains at about 5,000 persons.

MR. G. MERCIER: The Annual Report indicates that Manitoba has tended to receive a higher proportion of the Canadian Refugee Movement than it has of the total Immigration Movement - 5.5 percent of the Refugee Movement as compared to 4.2 percent of the total movement for 1981. Is the 5.5 percent figure of the Refugee Movement which the province has received in the past been reduced to 4 percent? Is that what she's saying?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, you asked about the immigration figure in total and I indicated earlier that our first priority is to offer a refuge, if you will, to the refugees, so that being our priority in negotiating the number of people that we will take and the status of those people is that refugees are very high on our priority list. So there is a higher percentage of the whole that are within this classification.

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

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that the Minister issued a press release with respect to a

program under this area during the year. Could she comment on this section?

HON. M. DOLIN: Is the member referring to The National Training Act? Well, I have the whole Training Act with me but I don't think you want me to read it to you, so I'm looking for a sort of encapsulated version of it for you.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there was an indication that the Provincial and Federal Governments signed an agreement for the expenditure of \$140 million to train skilled workers during the next three years and that was back in September, I believe. What is Manitoba's share of that program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert is asking Manitoba's share of that program.

HON. M. DOLIN: Our share under the Skills Growth Fund is what you're asking, I believe?

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, is that the \$140 million program that was signed?

HON. M. DOLIN: \$108 million is what it is now. The terms under the Skills Growth Fund are somewhat flexible, in that each province submitted a list of programs they would like to have covered under that program. The Federal Government, of course, had ideas too about the things they would like under the program and it was negotiated over many long months. The announcement has not yet been made on that. What we have heard is that Manitoba's share will be around \$10 million.

MR. G. MERCIER: Over how long a period?

HON. M. DOLIN: That's the first year of the program.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is there any funding in the department for that, to cover the province's share, or will that be out of the Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: Under the Skills Growth Fund portion of that Act, that's all federal money. That's start-up money for programs which the province would then continue in many cases.

MR. G. MERCIER: So under that training agreement, it's all federal funding?

HON. M. DOLIN: Under the agreement, it is all federal money. The Training Act Agreement is a vehicle for industrial training, institutional training and the new component, the Skills Growth Fund.

MR. G. MERCIER: What does the province agree to do in the agreement? Do you administer and spend the money as the Minister of Natural Resources indicates? I don't have any objection to that.

HON. M. DOLIN: We agree to provide the training in many cases. The institutional training is taking place at our community colleges. Many of the programs under

the Skills Growth Fund, of course, are all offered through provincial opportunities and provincial groups. This could be taking place in a free-standing sort of training centre such as the one that has already been announced, the Technological Training Centre, or they could be within the community colleges or the universities. So there are a number of different ways in which both public institutions and private-sector institutions are involved in this and our part in this is negotiating as good a deal as we can for Manitoba.

MR. G. MERCIER: In those cases then, they pay fees to those institutions like Red River Community College?

HON. M. DOLIN: Under one section of the agreement, yes, they agree to purchase so many places for training and so on.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is this a pure Canada-provincial agreement so that over three years the Minister indicated \$110 million will be spent? Did she?

HON. M. DOLIN: The agreement is a three-year agreement. The allocations that are negotiated for the purchase of training sites are done on an annual basis. The Skills Growth Fund is a two-year program under The National Training Act to which approximately \$110 million has been allocated nationwide, but it was not predetermined how much each province would get. That had to be negotiated and it was negotiated on the basis of programs submitted and what the Federal Minister wanted done, what the skills are, the designated occupation lists, and so on. So, all of these things had to be taken into consideration and we tried, as I say, and negotiated the best possible deal for Manitoba.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, then is the funding under this appropriation just confined to administrative duties related to the agreement with the Federal Government?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, it's a very small branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(1)—pass; 3.(c)(2)—pass.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister said we could discuss the NEED Program here.

HON. M. DOLIN: In general terms.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, my question earlier on to the Minister when she referred to this appropriation was, how much of the province's \$12 million share of the NEED Program is to be funded under the Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: I believe the question was, what did we appropriate for funding under the NEED Program?

In the press release that accompanied the announcement of this program, the joint press release with the Federal Minister who has indicated that the province would match the federal funds, which meant \$12 million on either side, that's for the 18-month run of the Need Program. There was another \$5 million in the Fund for Manitoba that's directly administered by

the Federal Government, and of that, \$1 million is for administrative costs. So there's 4 million that they expend on their own; then there is the 24 million, 12 from each side, that is available for federal-provincial funding of projects.

MR. G. MERCIER: I must have missed it, Mr. Chairman. How much money is the province spending in the next fiscal year on this program?

HON. M. DOLIN: That is an allocation under the Jobs Fund and I will discuss it under Appropriation 29.

By the way we are actually discussing (d)(2) at this point, I hope the member realizes, not (d)(1).

MR. G. MERCIER: Well you want to discuss this under (d)(2).

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, it's not an apprenticeship program.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is covered in the apprenticeship programs?

HON. M. DOLIN: Apprenticeship.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are now discussing Item 3.(d)(1)(a).

HON. M. DOLIN: Under the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Unit we have the primary objectives that are centered on the establishment of standards of competency for persons working in designated trades, the training of individuals via apprenticeship training to attain those standards, and the examination of individuals to ensure standards have been obtained. Increased utilization of apprenticeship training via both expanding numbers of apprentices and greater numbers of designated trades is also an objective of the unit.

The unit also undertakes a development of standards of service for barbers and hairdressers, and examines for competency in conjunction with the issuance of licences to persons employed in these occupations.

As part of its mandate, the unit is responsible for the administration of The Apprenticeship and Tradesman's Qualifications Act, The Barbers Act and The Hairdressers Act. During the past year they've been actively involved in developing and refining training curricula for apprenticeship training, particularly with reference to the roofer, industrial instrument mechanic, and aircraft mechanic trades. This last one, the aircraft mechanic trade was newly designed for apprenticeship training during the past year.

In addition discussions are nearing conclusion with respect to the potential designation of cooks and bakers for apprenticeship training and certification. The role of industry and effective program development has continued to receive high priority, enabling information exchange between employers, employees, instructors, and apprenticeship staff in the continuing development of apprenticeship programs.

There are 26 staff years in this branch and that's no change from '82-83. That's what we're requesting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(1)(a)—pass; 3.(d)(1)(b)—pass; 3.(d)(2)(a) - the Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, this is the area, I take it, that administers - the Minister said earlier - administers the NEED Program. How much money is allocated to the NEED Program from the Jobs Fund in the upcoming fiscal year?

HON. M. DOLIN: The line in this budget is for the salaries of the people that do the administrative work. The expenditures under the NEED Program, like other programs in the Jobs Fund, are contained in Appropriation 29.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much are they administering in the Jobs Fund?

HON. M. DOLIN: I was just confirming with staff the mechanism here, and as programs are approved under the NEED umbrella, the NEED Program, through the NEED Advisory Board and so on, money is then requested from the Jobs Fund. So there is not a specific amount that is being spent in '82-83. I gave you the global figure for the 18-month program' which runs over three fiscal years and that was carefully delineated in the press conference that we originally had on this program.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister doesn't invite me to her press conferences.

I want to know how much is the province going to spend on the NEED Program in 1983-84?

HON. M. DOLIN: I don't have that figure. No. 1, it is under a different appropriation, and No. 2, it had not yet been expended.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much do you estimate to spend?

Mr. Chairman, you know, the Minister is going to cause herself a lot of problems. You know, we went through a great harangue last week because she wouldn't answer some simple questions on Careerstart. She dealt with them today. We asked our questions and it was over and done with.

You know, we're getting to the same point on this particular program. I'm asking a simple question as to what her department proposes to be spend on the NEED Program in the upcoming fiscal year? That's not a difficult question. There are funds here for the administration of that program in her department, and I would ask her just to give us that estimate.

HON. M. DOLIN: If you're talking about the administration of the program, that's the salaries of the people who administer it, and that's the line budget that I can talk to you about.

If you're talking about programs under the NEED umbrella, those are in process right now. I have given you a figure that reflects the amount that the province is committed to for that program for the 18-month duration of the program. The amount that will actually be spent in 1983-84, I can't give you.

If you wish to take three months off the beginning and three months off the end, and say the middle 12 months of that 18 is in fiscal year '83-84, and divide the money accordingly, you could come up with a ball-

park figure for what might be expended in this fiscal year. But the fact is that it has not been expended. We may expend the entire amount, and we may not; it may carry over into the following fiscal year. The program runs for 18 months.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that could apply to any appropriation here. Just because something is included under the appropriation doesn't necessarily mean it's going to be spent. But the Estimates have to contain an estimate of what is expected or anticipated, or estimated to be spent under a particular program.

There's a program here which the Minister announced on January 14th, 1983. She also previously announced it on December 6th, 1982, and I want to get an explanation of that in due course. She estimates in the press releases that the Government of Manitoba will match the federal funds with \$12 million of job creation funding. I'm simply asking, in the fiscal year 1983-84, how much do the estimates contain for this program?

HON. M. DOLIN: I think I have been very clear in answering the member, that this is a Jobs Fund allocation. That line is in Appropriation 29. The money is available as programs are approved and we can apply to the Jobs Fund for the money. It is not within our budget, so I can't tell you how much we are going to spend in 1983-84.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we went through this in the Careerstart just a few minutes ago. The Minister said that we should deal with the NEED program under (d) and so I deferred . . .

HON. M. DOLIN: I also clearly stated that I would not answer financial questions because it was under the Jobs Fund.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, financial questions, I'm just asking for the lump sum that the government anticipates spending on this program in 1983-84, which her department administers. Surely to goodness, that is not too difficult a question.

HON. M. DOLIN: \$12 million over the 18-month life of the program.

MR. G. MERCIER: When did the program begin?

HON. M. DOLIN: January 1st of this year.

MR. G. MERCIER: We're dealing with a 12-month period in the Estimates, obviously, Mr. Chairman. How much does she expect to spend from - perhaps she could estimate how much has been spent to date then, from January 1st, or how much she expects to be spent by the end of March, I guess.

HON. M. DOLIN: Up to the beginning of this fiscal year, \$2.6 million in federal and provincial joint funding had been approved.

MR. G. MERCIER: Does the Minister then expect to spend in the area of \$7 million to \$8 million in 1983-84 under the NEED Program?

HON. M. DOLIN: That's possible. It is also possible that we would expend the entire amount. There has been nothing expended to date. Those are approved projects.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the Minister trying to tell me that there is this program, a federal-provincial agreement, and there is no specific funding approved anywhere in the budget to carry out the program?

HON. M. DOLIN: There is approved funding in Appropriation 29.

MR. G. MERCIER: How much?

HON. M. DOLIN: \$12 million for the life of the program.

MR. G. MERCIER: But you can't budget for 18 months in this document, you can only budget for 12 months.

HON. M. DOLIN: If I could repeat to the member again, the whole point in having a Jobs Fund is to allow the kind of flexibility that will let us approve more expenditures for a program that is quite successful and putting people to work very quickly, and perhaps less expenditures for a program that is not able to get that kind of a take-up. It allows that kind of central administration and that kind of central disbursing of funds. That is not possible when you keep everything locked into departments and you have to go through an interdepartmental trade of not only programs, but of funding and everything else. That is the whole point of the Jobs Fund.

Perhaps, the member is making the point for us, because it's exactly this kind of co-ordination and this kind of flexibility that is going to be such a positive thing to work with as we put Manitobans back to work.

A MEMBER: Come, come, that is utter nonsense.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister indicated it was \$2.9 million that she anticipates being spent up to the end of the 1982-83 fiscal year. Then she's saying, the balance of the \$12 million commitment can be funded in 1983-84 out of the Jobs Fund.

HON. M. DOLIN: I indicated that federal-provincial approval, so far, commitment of \$2.6 million has been given to projects. That is federal and provincial commitment up to April 1st. The cost-sharing depends on the project involved.

MR. G. MERCIER: I wonder if the Minister could explain. It appears there was a Canada-Manitoba press release, dated December 6, 1982, that Canada and Manitoba agree on job creation funding and the Federal Minister signed a letter of agreement. Then there was a press release issued by the Minister on January 14, 1983, announcing the Minister had signed a letter of agreement January 12th to formally announce the start of the program. Can the Minister explain the reason for the two press releases? Did she not announce it on December 6, 1982?

HON. M. DOLIN: The first information that you have, the earlier date, was a letter of intent to finalize the

negotiations. We were close to having an agreement at that point. There were a couple of items that still needed to be negotiated. We completed those negotiations and determined the final details of the program and announced that, in fact, the program was under way.

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Minister indicate what was at issue between the Provincial and Federal Government?

HON. M. DOLIN: The situation towards the end of the calendar year in 1982 was that all provinces were negotiating under this agreement, and negotiating for a share of the funds made available by the Federal Government, and were negotiating how they would match these funds and what the details of the program would be. The Federal Government wished to have some indication of where we were by the end of the calendar year and we gave them that assurance, so that we agreed to those items already negotiated and we indicated in writing our agreement with them and then concluded our negotiations soon afterwards.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, in a newspaper article of December 22nd, the Minister of Mines and Energy, who I suppose may have been the Acting Minister of Labour, indicated that the Manitoba Government feared abuse of the program unless rules were tightened. He said that this Minister had raised that and other concerns with the Federal Employment Minister. Was something done in the final agreement to overcome that concern?

HON. M. DOLIN: I don't have that particular press release in front of me, so I can't comment specifically on what the Minister of Energy and Mines was saying, but during that time between the signing of the letter of intent and the final signing of the agreement, there were negotiations going on in all provinces, and as you recall, Manitoba was one of the earlier ones to sign.

Particular items under discussion were the number of exhaustees, the definition of exhaustees, the social assistance participants, their input into the program or their inclusion in the program, and also the one unique feature of the Manitoba agreement, which is the determination that if there had been a layoff by the employer, that layoff list, the recall list would be given consideration in the case of that employer coming in under the program.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Mines and Energy has reported saying that a prime concern is that an employer may decide to lay off workers and then replace them with those workers whose UIC benefits have run out - their wages would be subsidized by the new program. Is that one of the Minister's concerns?

HON. M. DOLIN: That was the government's concern.

MR. G. MERCIER: Was it worked out in the new agreement?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes, it was. We have a clause that allows for the recall - a percentage of the people

employed are to be from a recall list, should an employer have laid off employees. So if the employer is coming in under the program and is going to receive subsidies for wages, then if that employer has, in fact, laid off employees, a percentage of the people hired under the program must be from that recall list.

MR. G. MERCIER: Can the Minister tell members of the committee how many Manitobans are presently on Unemployment Insurance Commission?

HON. M. DOLIN: The number of exhaustees, or on unemployment insurance?

MR. G. MERCIER: The number of exhaustees and the number who are presently on, who have the prospects of becoming exhaustees.

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, we're looking for those on the Unemployment Insurance rolls. I can tell you that figures that are perhaps six weeks to eight weeks old indicate that we have just under 8,000 exhaustees in the province and I have them by CEC regions, but the total is just under 8,000.

Unfortunately the last figures we have on the Unemployment Insurance rolls are from December, 1982 and is 44,000 in Manitoba.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister approved the rather controversial program that was proposed by the City of Winnipeg under this program?

HON. M. DOLIN: That program has not been forwarded to me by the Advisory Board yet.

MR. G. MERCIER: It's been approved by City Council has it?

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, it was approved by City Council before it was sent to the NEED Advisory Board. It wouldn't have been sent to them without approval of City Council. My understanding is that it was approved by the Council. I also have a copy of a memo from their Executive Policy Committee, and the program, because it has so many components, I guess, is still before the Advisory Board and I assume they will be indicating to me what they wish to have the Ministers do with it. They advised both the Federal Minister and myself on these programs and they come forward from that Advisory Board to us for signature, after they've gotten through them.

MR. G. MERCIER: Who is on the Advisory Board?

HON. M. DOLIN: There are four members appointed by the province and four members appointed by the Federal Government and all eight people were negotiated and agreed upon by both parties, so they're not simply named. They were agreed upon.

MR. G. MERCIER: Can the Minister advise us who they are?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes. The members of the Advisory Council, the original group - there is one change, but

I'll read you the original group: Mr. Art Cameron; Mr. Bob Dryburgh; Ms. Mickey Ferguson; Ms. Terry Hanley - Terry Hanley has since resigned from the group but that's fairly recent and there will be a replacement there - Mr. Sam Linhart; Ms. Donna Lucas; Mr. Al McKenzie and Ms. Maureen Prendiville.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that there are some 8,000 exhaustees, according to the Minister's latest available statistics, and some 44,000 people receiving unemployment insurance benefits as of December, 1982, are there other programs in the works under the NEED Program, not exactly like the City of Winnipeg's proposal, but are there other proposals that the Minister or the Advisory Committee are considering?

HON. M. DOLIN: There's a very heavy response to this program and the Advisory Board is meeting weekly and sometimes more often than that to deal with the programs that are becoming before them.

MR. G. MERCIER: So in all likelihood, the money allotted to this program is going to be spent in the forthcoming year?

HON. M. DOLIN: Well, I'm certain that full take-up on this program is probably in the works right now.

MR. G. MERCIER: Under this item, I was going to ask about the Sherritt-Gordon workers, which the Minister said should be asked under this program. There was a program announced in August of 1982 that provided some temporary work for some 293 Sherritt-Gordon employees. Manitoba funded some \$300,000, although I appreciate I think it was funded from the Mining Community Reserve Fund. I take it the Minister shares the views of the Minister of Energy and Mines with respect to the recent proposal by Sherritt-Gordon for funding?

HON. M. DOLIN: I believe that the Minister of Energy and Mines has indicated that he has requested a meeting with the president, and so on, and he is going to be talking to him. But I think that there's an essential difference in the two programs, and that is that the programs that took place in the past at Lynn Lake and Leaf Rapids and even to a greater extent in Thompson, were programs designed to fill a particular time gap while there was a layoff, a temporary layoff, and the employees were going to be called back to work, and in fact, were called back to the job that they were doing before. The jobs that were created during that time did not relate to their jobs in the mine. They were jobs that were community based and they created lasting assets for the community itself. What is being proposed here is something quite different. It's a departure from the actual work the people are doing but it's not something to take place just during a temporary shutdown. It's a whole new venture and that's something quite different.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has that program been considered by the Minister or her department or an Advisory Committee, if there is one, in this area?

HON. M. DOLIN: No, that is being handled by the Minister that you questioned today.

MR. G. MERCIER: Are there any other federal-provincial programs that are monitored or co-ordinated through this appropriation?

HON. M. DOLIN: Section 38 of The Unemployment Insurance Act is the one that was used to provide the kind of job creation initiatives that I just spoke about during the temporary layoffs in Thompson, Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake. That sort of program is administered through this Branch as well.

MR. G. MERCIER: That's the only other program?

HON. M. DOLIN: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(2)(a) - the Member for Thompson.

MR. S. ASHTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask the Minister if she could perhaps pass on a bit of information about how successful these programs in the North were despite the fact, as the Minister pointed out, that there was concentration on community projects rather than specific projects related to the normal work of the employees.

I know from the latest reports from the Thompson Improvement Projects, for example, that something approaching 370 positions were created and, in fact, that work is still continuing at the present time on school renovations, which are going to result in major renovations at the Thompson school system. I was wondering if perhaps the Minister could indicate the general experience that her department, which was quite heavily involved with the formulation of this program, has had with this particular concept.

HON. M. DOLIN: Just briefly, I think that two of the important things that came out of that experience in Thompson were the lesson in co-operation that we learned in the development of the projects, co-operation from all levels of government, from the school divisions, the fourth level of government if you will, from the union, from the company itself, a large group of people from varying backgrounds getting together and determining how they could best work together.

The other thing that we think is very important from this project is the creation of lasting assets for the City of Thompson and that's a criteria that we use often to determine the value of a project. While we're putting people to work we want it to be, as much as possible, the creation of something to which they can look with pride and a community can have as a lasting economic asset. That happened in Thompson and we're very happy about that.

I think it's also rather heartwarming to know that now while the people have gone back to work at the mines there is an upsurge in work at the mine. So the people in Thompson are very busy because they're finishing off these projects that they started under the Thompson Improvement Project and they are also working very hard at the mine as work increases there and that's good to see in Thompson which has really been hit hard by the recent recession.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time being 10:00, what's the wish of the committee?

HON. M. DOLIN: Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. Eyler: The committee will come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Health, Item 4.(d)(1) Continuing Care Services: Salaries. The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few more questions on this particular appropriation, this section, Continuing Care Services and I would like to deal with them now.

If we begin from the accepted premise that Continuing Care provides alternate care to institutional or custodial care, provides the kind of care that enables people to stay in their homes and provides comprehensive services to the well elderly and to the sick who may be or could be in nursing homes and providing that care to them in their own homes, then we face the fact, Mr. Chairman, that the administration and the directors of the Continuing Care Services Branch, or directorate, have a responsibility for standards, policy formulation, monitoring of their standards and of their activities, and the question occurs as to whether there is duplication in respect to monitoring of standards and policy formulation in this field.

There are, for example, in the executive function of the Department of Health under the office of the Provincial Gerontologist, some responsibilities for program and policy consultation, interpretation and I presume, formulation, therefore, there are people in that directorate and that office, Sir, who must obviously be doing some of this kind of work that also falls into the realm of responsibility for Continuing Care administrative personnel.

There are personnel, for example, in the administrative services section of the department in the Medical Supplies and Home Care Equipment directorate, who have a responsibility for providing equipment and supplies to persons requiring care in their homes. Then we have the Health Services Commission responsible for the setting and monitoring of standards of nursing care and care supplied in nursing homes or personal care homes, which are the facilities in which many of these people on Home Care ultimately find themselves.

So the possibility certainly seems to exist, Mr. Chairman, for some overlap and duplication of services in terms of providing the consultation, the counsel and the guidance in delivery of these programs, the expertise in shaping the programs, the establishment of standards, the development and formulation of policy and then the monitoring of the way those programs are carried out are their three groups; one for example in the office of the Provincial Gerontologist; one in the office of the directorate of Medical Supplies and Home Care Equipment, and one in the administrative office of Continuing Care Services carrying out these same functions, all at one and the same time. Are there

specific assignments that are carried out in Continuing Care by a staff of standards officers and monitoring officers in Continuing Care that do not overlap with some of the other offices and responsibilities that I have described? Could the Minister comment on that, the efficient use of manpower in the setting of standards, the formulation of policy and the monitoring of Continuing Care Services?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are no problems at all, no duplication at all. The equipment in the personal care home is the responsibility of the home or the individual, like the wheel chair is apt to be purchased by the patient themselves in a personal care home, for instance. The department is not dealing with that at all.

As far as the supplies for home care, the director knows what he needs and he makes sure that he has the supplies. In the policies, if there is something new that we need, that is discussed with the Director of Continuing Care and they often discuss the supply, of course, but there is no difficulty there at all.

As far as policy dealing with the standards, well, there is a director at the Health Services Commission responsible for standards. That hasn't changed from the time my honourable friend was the Minister. The standards in the personal care home, of course, is the responsibility of the Director of Continuing Care.

The only thing new is the gerontologist and the gerontologist is a very small - the unit, that directorate as of now consists of only two, the Provincial Gerontologist and a secretary. Of course, the provincial gerontologist works with a number of people. As I stated earlier when I introduced the gerontologist, I stated that she is the Province of Manitoba gerontologist. She works half the time with people outside the department on pension or on all kinds of community services and housing. Of course, she figures in many of the - when the policy papers are prepared. We have a policy committee, when we're not in Session, every second week and these people meet together and they often, for instance, Enid Thompson and Kay Thomson, and Betty Havens meet quite often because they are working together, but I can assure you there is no duplication at all. For instance, the support services, they are the three people that represent the department on that.

So, the responsibility of the gerontologist is in the field of dealing with the elderly and, of course, she will take part with the planner. There's another one that we have to add, the Director of Planning is involved in that, but that's one thing we've had no trouble at all in trying to do away with duplication and so on. They often work together because they bring different expertise and together when we have all these people that have had so many years of expertise that works very well, but there is no duplication at all, I can assure the member and the members of the committee that.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, in delivering the regional services in the field, public health nurses are used very extensively in the department and I'd like to ask the Minister whether delivery of home care involves service by public health nurses to any significant

degree? I know that there are a substantial number of R.N.s LPN's that are involved in delivering home care. The biggest category of service suppliers, in terms of an individual occupational group in the home care field, would be the homemaker, of course, but then there are substantial numbers of registered nurses and LPN's, aids, orderlies, and therapists. What about public health nurses? Are they being utilized to deliver home care in any way or to any significant degree?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, in the City of Winnipeg, of course, there is no problem there, they are separated. There is the public health nurses who are delivering preventive programs mostly and those working with home care. Of course, there's the Victoria Order of Nurses.

In the rural area we were quite concerned. We've hired people over the past, the public health nurses, and the first thing we know, as I mentioned earlier, they're out there delivering services because there is always an emergency it seems, and it's something that has to be done right away, but we are separate in that we've tried in certain areas.

I think the first place they tried was in Carman, where we had two nurses. Instead of them going all over the place, one nurse is strictly Home Care Program and the other one is preventative program and they're happier and it's working very, very well and it has been much more efficient.

So we're looking at that, but the public health nurses definitely in the past have been involved with, not only nurses, they've been also social workers and so on, and people in the team in the field have been occupied with the home care delivery. Of course, for the panelling also in the rural area and so on, they're usually on the board that does the panelling.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, just so that I have the point straight in my own mind, is the Minister saying that his office is looking at amalgamating the services of public health nurses and the nurses who are involved with delivering continuing care and home care?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, exactly the opposite, separating them; especially in the rural area because they've been amalgamated a little too much and one program is suffered at the expense of the other one. The Home Care did not suffer but the preventative programs and especially in child and maternal care, and the education has suffered. And the nurses who have been hired to do public health are not too happy.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Who monitors the service, and services and performance of the continuing care nurses serving the elderly, particularly in the home care area, Mr. Chairman? Is that done by the Office of Continuing Care itself?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, through the Regional Co-ordinator of Continuing Care, but through the Office of the Continuing Care Services.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I want to just check with the Minister on the matter of Services to Seniors that also comes under this particular appropriation. So

I don't want to pass the complete appropriation yet because I want to talk to him for a few minutes about Services to Seniors, but that would conclude my series of questions with respect to the first three subsections of this particular appropriation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(d)(1)—pass; 4.(d)(2)—pass; 4.(d)(3)—pass; 4.(d)(4) - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister about the current status and operating condition of the Council on Aging. I know that earlier in the Estimates we dealt with the Office of the Provincial Gerontologist, but certainly under Services to Seniors comes the kind of approach that we attempted when we were in government to put in place through the input of senior citizens of Manitoba themselves, through a council that was established to enable them to assess and evaluate the general field of Services to Seniors and the general environment of life for senior citizens in Manitoba and to produce from their studies of those two subject areas recommendations for the government for future programming and services and for meeting senior citizens' concerns. So it does legitimately fall under the Services to Seniors item that we are discussing at the present time, even though I know the office of the Provincial Gerontologist was established really as part of the overall thrust contemplated by the establishment of the Council on Aging.

Where do we stand with the Council at the present time? In the first year of its operation, which was the last year of the four-year Progressive Conservative administration, 1977-81, the Council undertook a comprehensive circuit of Manitoba and Manitoba seniors in their home communities throughout the province and developed something like 35 or 40 recommendations, that they commended themselves to the government, whatever government, of the day for action. I've seen very little follow-up, or response, or reaction by the current government to that initiative and to that work by the Council. In fact, there has been very little attention of a public nature paid to the existence of the Council of Aging in recent months. I would hope that it's not something that is being allowed to wither and die on the vine. Could the Minister report to the committee on that item?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the member is correct that there was a little less activity this year, not because we're trying to wind it up or to ignore it, quite the contrary, it is now being expanded to 15. There has been some changes in the makeup, that is an advisory board, but it also reports directly and works very closely with the Provincial Gerontologist, now that we have a Provincial Gerontologist.

We've expanded as I say. Some of them, their terms were finished, we've replaced some and I believe that my recommendation is going to Cabinet either tomorrow or next week. So very shortly we'll announce the number.

They have been working, maybe not as visibly as they had in the past. During the term of my honourable friend, they had started the first Manitoba senior citizen handbook and that was just about ready when there was a change in government. I think I passed the copies

around last year and that has been very very well received and now this is being brought up-to-date and translated into French, Ukrainian and German. It seems that a lot of these people would welcome that and I understand that we should have nearly 100,000 copies by the end of this year.

They have also worked on the report on the Young Adult Disabled, the transportation for the mobility disabled and physical fitness programs for seniors, and this has been received during the year. Also the Council forwarded to me the study they contracted on Elder Abused last fall and we've appointed an interdepartmental committee to review the study. More work and more discussion has to be done on that but this is something that we value.

But we recognize that the Council that was established under the former government is a very valuable one. We've made some changes to accommodate the addition of the Provincial Gerontologist and they report directly to her instead of the Minister now and it will be expanded. So they will carry on the same thing. We're trying to get not all senior people, not necessarily people that are retired, but people that are in their 65th birthday or somewhere around there. So we're trying to do that. We're trying to represent all parts of the province as much as possible - men and women - also if at all possible the different ethnic groups that we have in the province.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Are there any fundamental changes to the terms of reference of the Council on Aging that are being contemplated by the government?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Unfortunately, I haven't got the terms of reference here. It is pretty well the same thing, except the reporting, now instead of reporting to the Minister, the Council reports to the Provincial Gerontologist. That's the main change, there might be some slight modification of some of them, but fundamentally they're doing the same thing again.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, what else is happening under the Services to Seniors category or umbrella? Is there anything happening at the present time in the New Horizons area?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I should say before I forget, I said that there was a minor change, it's a little more than minor according their gerontologist. I felt that an independent council like that became more of a militant group, which is all right, but the work was all being done by the department anyway, so now they're working closer together. As I say, they're reporting to the Provincial Gerontologist.

Well, everything was going fine until my honourable friend mentioned the word New Horizon. That's a word that I don't like too much and I'll explain why. That's a Federal Program, if you remember, and this is something that the people that started it, the Federal Government, and then they pulled the rug and we ended up - and I'm sure that you went through that also - having to pick the pieces up. So, we're not really involved. I mentioned that to the Minister who, to my surprise, said that was the first time that was brought to her attention. She said that she would look at it. I

haven't heard anymore about it. So we're not involved per se, although we have helped some of those that have been in difficulty over the years.

I'll mention those that are covered by this amount under 4, and there's the Age and Opportunity Centre. Last year they received \$350,000, this year \$379.5 - I think that we all know what the Age and Opportunity Centre does. It's not something new, it's been with us for a while.

There's the Brandon Civic Senior Citizens incorporated; they received \$37.4, now it's \$36.2. They are working with the Provincial Gerontologist also. We have been for a number of years providing support to the Brandon Civic Senior Citizens in support of their program and outreach, Lifestyle Counselling Information Referral Services, education in meals - the latest Meals on Wheels is self-supporting of course. In 1982-82, the level was 28, funding was increased to 32 for '82-83, an additional amount of 4.5 was granted for a non-recurring item of expenditure and now we're back to the 36 - well it's a little more than it was, not counting the additional amount of \$4.5 thousand.

Then there's Meals on Wheels - we're also familiar with that program. It was 35.5, now 38.5. There's the Rural Senior Centres. I might say that Meals on Wheels, Rural Senior Centres, Brandon Civic Seniors, and Age and Opportunity Centre, they might not be recognized by this department, but I'm sure the Minister remembers that they used to be under the Department of Community Services and Corrections and in December of 1982 this was transferred to the Department of Health. I now have the responsibility for services to seniors programs, so that's why they're here, but they're not new programs.

There is a rural - yes, I mentioned the Rural Senior Centres. The Manitoba Society of Seniors, that's one of the New Horizon Programs that was started and we bailed them out last year. We felt that they were very active, very interested people. They were doing a lot of work, so we've given a small grant last year. For this year, it'll be 43.2; last year it was 23.5 and this year 43.2.

Finally, there's a program my honourable friend knows about. I don't think there was any funding at this time, but now we are funding the Youville Foundation in St. Boniface to the tune of \$64,000.00. This will cover the items under (4) Services to Seniors.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister if there has been expansion in the numbers of senior citizen centres. The so-called multi-service senior centres that had been developed and established in a number of rural communities; has there been an expansion of the number of centres, has the program been extended into new communities in the province; and what are the contemplated plans for '83-84 in terms of multi-service senior centres?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The department has provided a grant of 11.7 in partial support of programs at the Gordon Howard Seniors Centre at Selkirk, and other proposal for senior centre funding are being considered and there was a 9 percent increase in available funding recommended in '83-84. Some are being considered, but that's the only one that we provided the . . .

MR. L. SHERMAN: Does the government contemplate any new programs, any innovations or initiatives in programs for Services to Seniors, over and above those that are included in the existing umbrella? Does the Minister foresee the Council on Aging developing and proposing some program thrusts that he is now considering with his officials and would be planning to initiate in '83-84 in the Services to Seniors area?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I couldn't say that we're thinking of too many programs at this time. We're certainly working with them. We're looking at the recommendation of the World Congress on Aging. We found that we're probably one of the leading countries in Manitoba, or probably one of the leading programs and services for the seniors, but there is no doubt that with our Gerontologist, who is working by the way on the Canadian paper, worked on it before, there'll be a conference. The Canadian provinces will be invited by the Federal Minister when all these reports and the recommendations are ready, that should be later on this year and the Minister had request that we allow Ms. Betty Haven to work on that committee with other staff of different provinces and the senior government and, of course, we agreed to that. But we're more looking now at the services we have to see which ones that we could improve. We are looking, of course, at Home Care and the program that we both mentioned, the support services. We are looking in Fitness also to see what we can do for the well elderly. As I say, some of the new programs we've looked at, there's been the Society of Seniors and some of the seniors that I stated. We have \$32,700 for rural centres and allocated on that, there is the one in Selkirk, 11.7, so there are other considerations.

So there could very well be other programs, but I think we want to solidify, look at what we have to make sure we don't start duplication and to ensure that the programs are good programs. I think that, if we keep up with that, we'll be doing very well in this year with the economy the way it is.

MR. L. SHERMAN: How will that system of formulation and proposal of ideas from the Council on Aging to the Minister now work, Mr. Chairman? The Minister has said that within a very short period of time, within the next few weeks, he expects to announce the new makeup of the Council on Aging. There will be some expansion of the numbers, probably some changes in personnel. I would ask him whether he's considering changing the chairmanship. But, over and above all that, how will that line of communication now operate with the Provincial Gerontologist in place? Will the Council on Aging, under its chairman or co-chairman, still sit down in communities around the province, communicate with elderly people, identify the programs, problems and needs that elderly people see, and make recommendations to the Minister, or will everything be vetted through the Provincial Gerontologist?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The committee will keep on with its work in the rural areas, as I said earlier. That is why we wanted to make it even more representative in age, sex, ethnic origin and the district, the area of the province where they are, trying to make it as

representative as possible. Not only will they come in and make recommendations to government, but they will also inform the seniors of the programs we have. We feel that they'll actually have two roles to do; inform the seniors, let them know of the programs that we have in place, how to communicate - something like the handbook, that was part of it - and then of course make recommendations.

Yes, I certainly intend to meet with them occasionally, but they will report to the Provincial Gerontologist, who certainly has an awful lot more expertise than I have in that, and policies will be formulated and we'll do the usual thing. They'll have to be brought into the department and then go to Cabinet or Treasury Board to be approved.

If my honourable friend's main reason for this line of questioning is to find out if they're going to be as important, if they're going to have as much a voice to the government, I say, definitely yes, because the Provincial Gerontologist will carry a lot of weight in our department and in the government.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I'm pleased to hear that, Mr. Chairman. I would hope that it's not the intention of the government or the Minister to downgrade the Council on Aging in any way, and minimize its role and weaken its potential for doing a very important job for Manitobans.

One of its recommendations, shortly after it brought in its first range of proposals to the government of which I was a member, Mr. Chairman, was a recommendation for establishment of a gerontological centre or a centre for gerontological studies in Manitoba and, ideally, because of geographic location, service facilities, support structure, etc., etc., in Winnipeg. With the Provincial Gerontologist now and a functioning Office of Gerontology under the Provincial Gerontologist, is there a continuation of that interest and that momentum on the part of government to develop, under this category of Services to Seniors, a source of information and knowledge and expertise in geriatrics and gerontology where studies in gerontology, courses and training in gerontology, can be carried out, where community gerontologists as well as clinical professionals can be trained and made available to the community generally for this area of programming? I would like to have the Minister's perspective on that, Mr. Chairman.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to inform the committee that the Federal Government, through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, has indeed funded a Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba. The Provincial Gerontologist sits on the Centre's Management Committee and provides an important link between the department and the university. The co-operative stance will continue to be pursued to the benefit not only of the university and the government, but certainly also to the Manitoban at large.

I think my honourable friend will remember also that both he and I have expressed, on a number of occasions, how great it would be if we had a Chair of Gerontology at the university. This is not as easily done as I thought maybe it would do, but we are discussing

that with the President now, who was previously the Dean of Medicine, and the present Dean of Medicine so that has not been forgotten, although it's not that easily done in these days where there seems to be a shortage of money especially.

I think that some people have different ideas. What is the gerontologist? Should it have to be a medical person? The feeling is, not necessarily. In fact, there might be advantage of maybe having a gerontologist, not a geriatrician, more a gerontologist. But that is still under consideration.

MR. L. SHERMAN: That was going to be my next question, Mr. Chairman, the question of establishment of a Chair of Gerontology at the Manitoba Medical College. I'm pleased to hear the Minister say that interest in establishing such continues, remains high and efforts and discussions are continuing in that direction.

What is the current situation with respect to supply of gerontologists or geriatricians in Manitoba? Would the Minister prefer to deal with that when we come to the Commission, or can he offer some overview under this appropriation, Services to Seniors? Perhaps we shouldn't be looking at geriatricians, at the moment, as clinical, professional, medical specialists, but gerontologists and people capable of working in the community as gerontologists seems to be a subject that we could address under this appropriation. Are we reaping the benefits of that program Centre that's now in place at the University of Manitoba? Are we producing gerontologists? Are we short of gerontologists? What is the current situation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I don't believe that the centre has been in there long enough that we can really tell at this time, but we seem to be encouraged.

For instance a new gerontologist - I have trouble with that - a doctor in charge of the St. Boniface hospital who's very very good, we're very pleased to have him here. He has also done something that hadn't been done in the past. He has organized all the doctors in this field, those that have shown some interest pretty well all across Manitoba, with Dr. Hampton from Brandon and others, and they are meeting - it was something they never did before - they're meeting occasionally so it seems to be progressing quite well. We're happy with the result so far but there's still a long way to go I'm sure.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is the activity and thrust that's under way in gerontology at the present time, Mr. Chairman, directed in substantial part to the development of greater plans, wider plans for extended care beds and extended care facilities for concepts like the day hospital such as the one that's in place at St. Boniface to which the Minister has just referred? To the Adult Day Care Program, the extensions and expansions of that adult day care concept to a more sophisticated, more highly refined home care system and range of home care programs and other services of that kind that are geared to keeping people in their homes and out of conventional hospital beds? Is the effort that's being made in gerontology focusing on any or all of those specific aspects of programming at the present time?

In particular I'd be interest in hearing from the Minister where we stand in terms of developing extended care facilities. I know a great deal of attention has been focused on utilizing Deer Lodge Hospital and the facilities there for general community extended care. There's certainly been ongoing discussions about utilizing the municipal hospitals for that type of thing under possible provincial ownership and operation; and certainly there's a great interest on my part and I expect on his, in expansion of Adult Day Care attached to personal care homes. Could the Minister comment on those aspects of programming for the elderly and gerontology in general?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I would think that Provincial Gerontologist is looking exactly at those programs and many others.

I guess first of all they start to keep as many people out of institutions as we mentioned earlier. That's not only in psychiatry, that is in personal care homes and other hospitals so therefore that's in prevention, in fitness, in recreation, even in sports. That is something that we're looking with the department also of fitness and recreation. That's one of the areas that we want to do and let the seniors help themselves an awful lot more than they've done in the past such as the Society for Seniors that are quite militant and they are quite effectively representing the senior people in our province. That is one of the areas.

Then of course that is in the housing and I was going to say enriched but the Support Services also in housing. That'll be one of areas where these people will certainly be helpful.

Then of course in the Home Care and the Day Care for the elderly also, Meals on Wheels and the respite care. These are the programs and I would say even the last one probably is important, you don't hear too much about it, but I would hope that we can improve the situation in palliative care also. I think it's very important that these people can die in dignity and not afraid and alone in some room somewhere. So that is something that is done. We hope that it's going to be done in more hospitals and at times you send the people back. But it's working not only with the patient but with the family to make sure that they know what to expect and they can help their loved one die with piece of mind. I think that all these programs from the fit to the dying, I think has to be covered in that.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is Adult Day Care being added progressively to personal care homes throughout the province?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, and in fact nearly every personal care home that we build this is something that we try to discuss with them to see if that could be done.

There was a concern in Brandon that we don't share. They felt that the day care for the elderly should not be in a personal care home. They wanted an individual thing but that would be much more costly. There wouldn't be probably the same service and the meals and all that so nobody is convinced, either staff of myself that it would be going in the wrong direction and we're pursuing this to try to have it mostly in the personal care home.

It doesn't mean that there could never be another service but whenever there's a new personal care home built we try to have them work with a community through those programs also and maybe Meals on Wheels can provide meals and that kind of thing.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Where does the Minister stand with respect to the concept of the day hospital, Mr. Chairman? Would the Minister agree with me that that is a route and a direction in which hospital care, medical care has to be moving in Canada in the 1980's and 1990's and if so, what can we look forward to in terms of development of the day hospital, and the day hospital concept over and above the excellent prototype that already exists at St. Boniface Hospital?

I would ask him if he could make reference in particular to Deer Lodge and to the municipal hospitals. Are we contemplating moving into development of the true day hospital operation and concept at either Deer Lodge or the municipal hospitals?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, we've been fairly lax I think and I wonder if we could not agree to discuss that when we come to the Commission. We're pretty well all over the place so I wonder if the Member for Fort Garry would go along with this suggestion because that's a topic that is far-reaching. I think that's the planning in the field of probably the most important part of planning in the health field and I think we share the same ideas, or some of the same ideas, and I would welcome discussing it when we get to the hospital and the Commission.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Okay. Sure, that's fine. I just have one other question in this area, Mr. Chairman, and it has to do with the principle to which Manitoba governments have generally subscribed in this field of Continuing Care and Home Care and Services to Seniors and that is that we should not be paying relatives of persons requiring Home Care Services for looking after their own family members, and I appreciate fully the basic rationale for that principle and the reason why, in general, that principle has to be in place.

But there are individual cases in which certain persons could look after relatives in their homes for some reasonable remuneration from the government which would constitute, I think, a saving overall to the taxpayer and to the Directorate, which we are discussing here, to the Department of Health. In other words, instead of having home care provided, six, eight or 10 ours a day to a particular individual, a relative of that individual could with perhaps three or four hours of home care, could take care of their family member's needs the rest of the time. If there were some minor degree of remuneration available, it would mean that they could do that and not have to perhaps go out and seek another job or a part-time job, which would by its very nature require their absence from the house and thus more home-care attention.

So, in other words, there are individual situations, it seems to me, where individual family members could save the program and the Directorate money, if they were allowed to provide some Home Care to their relatives and receive some compensation and remuneration for it.

Now, I may be wrong, it may already be possible for the Continuing Care Services Directorate to pay individuals for looking after their relatives in their homes, rather than bringing homemakers in on lengthy extended periods of the day to provide that service, but it seems to me that there is a constraint against that kind of thing and certainly it shouldn't be adopted as a general principle. But I'd ask the Minister whether there are exceptions where there are situations in which individuals can be remunerated in this way and if not, whether any consideration is being given in his office to a review or re-evaluation of that practice?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I sympathize with the concern of the honourable member. I, personally, don't like the idea at all, and I say personally because it's possible that some of my colleagues don't share my concern. I think this would lead to abuse, there is no doubt in my mind. We were talking before the dinner hour the problems that we've had, the criticism we have in Home Care because people want more and more all the time. Well, Home Care was brought in to do exactly that, to take care of the people when the family, the relatives and friends or whoever, couldn't do it any more.

Now, I know what the next statement will be - that fine, that's right, but these people then could stay away from work and they'd have to be paid. Now, to be very very frank with the members of the committee, I didn't even think about it at this time, but it was something that was brought in a few years back and we might be able to achieve that without creating a precedent, without paying people to take care of their own family which to me is repulsive, just the thought of it. You know, it's bad enough that things have changed, that we have a responsibility, but it might be that we could offer and this is something that we certainly will look at. We could offer an option to some of these people who might need a little less and allow a grant to the patient himself, providing that we're sure that the standard will be there, that it won't be just welfare and to save other money instead of sending our people there and saying, okay, fine, this is an option that we'll allow you for so many hours on your own and you're responsible for your service and we might be able to get around on that.

I know what my honourable friend is getting at, there is no doubt in some area. It sounds so stupid and the people could make a good point. They say it's nothing or everything and I guess we can say that about all programs of government when you have a universal program. But I'd like to see if there is a way that we can arrive at something like this by saying, okay, you're entitled to home care after being paneled; you're at this level. That, of course, would be for people that need less care, maybe a few hours a day, but it might be that the relatives would have to stay away from work or take a part-time job or something. We might say, fine, you provide your service, here is the money. But I hope I never see the day where we send a cheque to a relative to take care of their mother or father or somebody like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(d)(4)—pass; 4.(e)(1) Dental Services: Salaries - the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the increased appropriation being sought here by the Minister of

Health is not great, and certainly would represent little more than just sufficient to keep up with past price escalation, if that. We're looking at \$2,159,000 as against \$1,912,000 and so I would ask the Minister where are we headed with Dental Services and with the Children's Dental Health Program. We haven't come to (e)(2) Other Expenditures yet, but even there, Sir, we're looking at a hold-the-line budget.

I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not asking this government to go out and spend millions more dollars, but there are increased expenditures in the Department of Health and in various other departments, in various individual appropriations through the book and here in Children's Dental Health Services there is really nothing except sufficient to take care of inflation. It would seem to me that when we're looking at basic thrusts in health care, preventive health, general well-being of the community, that there are enormous efforts that still have to be pursued in the field of dental health and particularly children's dental health and particularly the dental health of children in rural and remote parts of the province.

Further to that, the government, since its election a year-and-a-half ago, has from time to time professed great interest in and intention for expanding the Children's Dental Health Program. There is no expansion in this budget as it appears before us, Mr. Chairman, unless the Minister can explain it in some other way. So I would ask him at this juncture, are we looking at a stand-pat, hold-the-line posture on the part of the government in Children's Dental Health Services for 1983-84?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the answer is a bit of everything on this program. First of all, it was underspent before, so there is actually \$550,000 for new programs, taking care of the ordinary increase in cost. The situation is this, that since there has been a change in government - and I think we remember the battles that we've had in this House before on the program, the one that was called the government program delivered mostly with, of course, dentists working for the government and dental nurses, and the one that was started by my honourable friend where the Dental Association delivered the services.

I might say that we have been discussing with the - it was an election promise that we would keep on, try to have it universal to cover all the children in the province. That is still the intention of this government.

Now we've had problems. The economic situation is one of them. We certainly wouldn't have gone too fast. We could have done something. Besides the economic situation, there is a little more than that. There's the situation that we have been discussing with the dental profession. We have had a very good rapport. We are getting down now to the nitty-gritty and we are giving the Dental Association a chance. They say that they can do things - the criteria, we've told them, is utilization, standards and cost. They feel that for a number of reasons the dentists are not quite as busy as they used to be for one thing; that they can deliver the service.

We have facts and figures. We've had studies made and we have accepted their offer and they're accepting our challenge. There is ongoing discussion going on with them. That is part of it.

This 550, that is earmarked for expanded programs. It might be that we will go - we're trying to see what we'll have with the staff where we go. It is not very much money. We can have the choice now, but what we are looking at that and discussing with them is the possibility of going in the same schools one year or more, or to really start on a modified or on a small scale on a new section of the province.

There are other concerns besides that. We have not made a decision. We are being very honest with the Dental Association. They are with us also. There's a situation, until we know where we're going, we don't even know if we will go back with the dental nurses. We have asked Saskatchewan and they wanted us, and the decision has to be made fairly soon. We don't want to cut all our bridges behind us before we finish the negotiating. That was right on the table; the Dental Association understands that. The situation is that we would have to sign an agreement for five years with Saskatchewan to have 30 every year. Before we do that, we want to see what the dental profession has to offer.

So right now the situation is that money was not spent last year; that's why it was underspent. We intend to spend this additional .5 million. That will mean more service. We are covering more children all the time, so we are progressing. Even if we had the money, the economic situation is certainly a concern, but if we . . .

MR. W. MCKENZIE: You're just borrowing the money anyway.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I don't get your point at all. I am not the Minister of Finance and, if you want to discuss that, I - what is it that you want? Do you think we're doing too much or what? Tell me. I'll sit down and you tell me — (Interjection) — Well, don't yell from your seat when I don't know what the hell you are talking about then. — (Interjection) —

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please.
The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the situation is that even if we had all the money in the world, we would still want to be as careful. That is a commitment we made to the Dental Association that we will give them a chance to see what they can deliver and to satisfy us that it will be the same utilization or better, and also that the cost will be comparable. So that's about all I can say on this.

We are not standing pat, we're progressing all the time, as I say, not in big strides, but we should decide fairly soon how we'll spend this \$550,000.00. It could be that we stay in the same districts, the same school divisions that are serviced now, or that we can go with other areas. It might be that we'll see what we can do with the present staff, or see if we have to recruit more dental nurses, or that the dental profession will accept to deliver the standard service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. W. MCKENZIE: On a point of order, I regret very much the Minister is tackling me, because of the fact

that he's a third of the Budget of this province. He's spending a billion dollars and I asked him where he's getting the money from and I suggested he raise it, and he gave me some snide remark which I think is uncalled for in this committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if I offended the member, I don't mind withdrawing the remarks. I think that is the concern that we have when somebody talks from their seat, that maybe you misunderstand.

I was answering a question of the Member for Fort Garry, and I thought it was a sarcastic remark and saying, well, you're just borrowing money anyway, so what do you care? That's the way I understood it. So I think, if we are going to discuss this in a worthwhile manner and try to help and try to look at it seriously, I think that people should stand on their feet and make their remarks. If I took it as a sarcastic remark and it wasn't meant to be, then I apologize and I withdraw my statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, of the 47 school divisions in Manitoba and then some unorganized school territory, there are approximately 30 that are covered now by the Children's Dental Health Program. I believe that the government program, the Dental Health Services Program, delivered by the province and utilizing the dental nurse serves some 15 of those school divisions and the Manitoba Dental Association serves the other 15, in approximation. Is that roughly correct? Could the Minister please bring me and the committee up-to-date on the total number of divisions served, and the breakdown between forms of delivery as it exists between the government program and the Manitoba Dental Association program.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I'd like to bring the members of the committee up-to-date. That was pretty well true in '81-82. The school division covered 17.33 by the Dental Health Services and 12.66 by the Manitoba Dental Association and that was the number of the age groups. There were seven under the Dental Health Services and six under the Manitoba Dental Association. The numbers under the Dental Health Services, number of eligible children were 15,000 and the Dental Association 17,000 for a total of 32,000. That was in '81-82.

Last year, the division stayed the same but we increased the age and that covered 18 by the Dental Health Services, an increase of 3,000 and also 20 for the Manitoba Dental Association, so that was an increase of 6,000 to a full 38,000. Now this year we expect that it'll be a total of 20 under the Dental Health Services, 20,750; 22,750 under the Manitoba Dental Association for an increase to 43,500. So that would be another 5,500 children in both programs that were born in 1969 and became eligible for dental treatment after December 31st, 1983.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has provided the committee with figures of children being

served in the program, but does that represent any increase in the number of school divisions served?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The school divisions are the same except that there was a grade going up all the time and now the option that I mentioned earlier is to keep on doing the same thing, or go and cover other school divisions, that is something that we're trying to work out with the Dental Association. We haven't made a decision as yet, but this extra \$550,000 would be to have this modest expansion, that's the way we're going now.

I might say also, that I had money last year that is not in the Estimates, but we decided if we had to go to Wascana to train some nurses, it would be understood that I would go back to Cabinet. This is something that I'm not asking for at this time, but with the understanding that I have with the Cabinet, we might have to have a supplementary to get another \$300,000 or \$400,000.00.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So, Mr. Chairman, I just want to get this picture straight. We're still looking at 30 school divisions being served by the Children's Dental Health Program and approximately 17 are served by the government program and approximately 13, 12.66 by the professional dentists through their association, or have those two figures changed a little bit?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, the 30 are the same and were the same in '81-82, '82-83, '83-84, but where we started at seven and six, the number of age groups, we are now on eight and eight. Then as I say we might even go further in the same school with this 550, or the possibility is to take another school division or another, not necessarily a school division, another region or part of the - as we know Winnipeg is not covered at all - it's a possibility of Winnipeg, Brandon, or maybe rural, or the North, that's still a possibility. But the member is absolutely right, there are the same number of divisions so far.

MR. L. SHERMAN: And there's been no change in the relationship between the government program and the Manitoba Dental Association - MDA Program. The MDA has not taken over more school divisions from the government program in the last year, is that correct?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The last takeover was when my honourable friend was Minister of Health, that was the Pellytrail boundary, Sprague Creek School Division and School District of Sprague were turned over to the MDA, that was in '81.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Okay. So, Mr. Chairman, we're now looking at 43,500 children who are enrolled in the program. I beg your pardon?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Eligible, there might be some that are not taking advantage of it.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Oh, so they're eligible, they're not necessarily receiving the service yet, but most of them would be.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Approximately 85.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Approximately 85 percent of that 43,500 would be actually enrolled in the program. Yes. Okay. What is it the Minister was saying with respect to the extension of the number of years? When the program first came into effect it was designed to cover children from age six to age 12. As the school divisions were brought into the program, as the classes and groups of children came in, they were admitted according to a birth date in a certain year, so that brought them in at the age of six and they remained in until the age of 12.

Then in a joint extension that was originally initiated by our government and completed and approved by the new government, the New Democratic Government, the presence and continuation of children in the plan was extended beyond age 12, beyond their 12th birthday to age 13, so that they wouldn't be cut off in the middle of a school year. Has there been a further extension of that provision and is the government planning to extend coverage all the way up, for example, to age 15 or 16 or even beyond that? What's the present thinking in that area?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: In '81-82, it covered the years '69-75 for the Dental Health Services, the same thing last year, and this year it's going from '69-76 on the Dental Health Services. The Manitoba Dental Association in '81-82 it was '70-75, then '69-75 last year, now '69-76 and the options that we have that go down the one year, also if we get the earlier one, or just keep on, not ensure those that are starting. We've gone so far to have the last years because that's not the costly part, every time you go another year, once they've been on. So far, we felt that, okay, we'll finish until they reach 18. But now they say that the option is that we stop at a certain age and say, fine, if we can't cover anybody. I'm not saying that this is what we're going to do, but that's an option, or that we stop the new ones, or that we go in another school division. Those are options that are being discussed with the Dental Association, but we have that extra money to do that. The decision has been made so far that the last year in the Manitoba Dental Association was '69-75 and this year it's '69-76.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is everything synchronized now between the government plan and the MDA plan? Because of the way that school divisions were brought into the program and because of the mixed involvement of the government and the Manitoba Dental Association, we had some parts of the program that covered groups of children for a three year or four year period, and another part of the program covered them for a four year or a five year period, and there was no synchronization between the two. Is everybody now covered from the year 1969 on or the year 1970 on, so that the two components of the program are dealing with the same age groups?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It was synchronized last year. The year before that was '69 to '75 for dental service and '70 to '75 for the Manitoba Dental Association. Last year it was '69 to '75 in both, and this year it is '69 to '70, to '76 in both.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is any thought being given that while the spectrum of school children extends at one

end from age 11 to 12 to 13 to 14, potentially beyond that, has any thought being given to bringing the age of admission down so that children come in, not at age 6, but at age 5 and 4 and ultimately age 3?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: One of the options that I said we had would be to leave it at six and try to cover another school division.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Many professionals suggest, Mr. Chairman, that that is where proper dental health begins, and must begin, if any Dental Health Program is to be truly effective, at a very early age, and at age 3 or 4 in preference to age 6 or 7. Would the Minister enlighten the committee as to his thinking on that point. He says this is an option that's being considered. I have to conclude in all fairness that then he's looking at a number of possibilities and he hasn't made his mind up yet. But I would like to know what his thinking is with respect to the lowering of the age of admission. Does he believe, given the necessary resources, if he could do it, would he opt for bringing the admission age down or raising the continuation age, so that the young people stayed in the program through their early teens rather than graduating from it at age 12 or 13. Which would be his preference? Does he believe that in order to have an effective Children's Dental Health Program, we do ultimately someday have to find the resources to get kids into it at age 3?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Certainly I'm not an expert in this. The best expert advice that I've been able to get was, with the understanding of course, which certainly is not the case, but if money was no object, I believe those that advised me have said that about 5 years would be the best, that you want to start fairly early because the main component of that is probably education. Once you've had people, I don't think it matters that much if you stop at 17 instead of 18. You've got to stop somewhere, except that it's not as costly the last year when all the work is done, because if the people - if they are listening - and have had 5 or 6 years of proper education and teaching them the dental hygiene and so on, I think that probably it would better to start at 5 than at 6. But there's a concern - as I said, it's not just the economic situation, that's certainly a factor, or would have been a factor, but even if that had not been a factor, it is the ongoing discussion that is taking place now with the dental profession because we are not - it's not an ideological thing. We'll see what is the best way.

We're still skeptical in certain areas, that they can do it for the same cost, but they want to prove that they can do it. It's going to be tough. You know, we've had a very good rapport, the tough negotiation is going to start fairly soon and especially if we can have - I hope if we can develop something, we're both looking at the attitude to see if there could be a formula that we don't have this fee negotiation the same as we have the MMA every year, because there is no doubt that once we have nothing to deal with and they know that - as I said that was placed on the table - well then we've got nothing to bargain with. That is why the possibility that we haven't been recruiting dental nurses, because they say they don't need them, they could take care of that themselves.

So this year we are not putting a hold on it and say with the economic situation we can't do it, so let's not worry about it. It's been quite the opposite. We've had some difficult time, as my honourable friend knows, Dr. McCormack was sick for a while and then with the negotiating that we've done, but now we're meeting quite regularly with the Dental Association to negotiate, so we can have a recommendation to work together and see what happens.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Am I correct, Mr. Chairman, in assuming that we still in fact have two programs in the area of dental health - one is the Public Health Preventive Program, Fluoridation and Preventive Program and the other, of course, is the Children's Dental Health Program that we've been discussing - is that still the situation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes it is.

MR. L. SHERMAN: The Public Health Preventive Program extends how far, Mr. Chairman? Could the Minister remind me and advise us just how extensive that Public Health Preventive Program is? Is it in every school division in the province, or how many of them?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It would be the same school divisions that are covered by both programs.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So, it's the same 30 school divisions that get the Children's Dental Health Program also have the Public Health Preventive Program, is that right?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's right.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, what is the situation with the dental nurses who are in the system, in the program? There was a total of some 90 dental nurses who graduated from the course at Wascana Collegiate in Regina and came into the Manitoba Program following its inception. Not all of them remained in the program in Manitoba. Where are those dental nurses now? What is the extent of the supply and continuing act of participation of dental nurses in the Children's Dental Health Program in Manitoba, as we head into fiscal '83-84?

I ask this question because I think at one time there was a significant amount of equipment for the Children's Dental Health Program consisting of dentist chairs, drills, and other technical equipment that was in storage, I believe, in Portage La Prairie, and was not being utilized, either physically or financially.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, that's correct, Mr. Chairman. There are six complete sets that are in storage.

Now it wouldn't be too helpful for graduating dentists because it's mostly portable equipment and it'll stay in storage until a decision is made to see who'll deliver the service. Then, of course, if the decision is that the Dental Association will do it we would have to discuss with them, them taking over that equipment.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Is the Dental Association anxious to take over more school divisions, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I think my honourable friend knows that answer as well as I do. Yes, they are. I think they would love to be able to cover all the children in the province, and they're working very hard to convince us that is the best way that they compete with us as far as costs, standards. Also they know that we would insist on the utilization rate. Everything else being equal, we would go along with an understanding that we could even use their clinics, not the schools, providing they assure us of a certain percentage of utilization.

If that isn't met, the understanding, there is no agreement signed of course, the agreement was, as I say everything else being equal, if that isn't met, if they don't meet that utilization rate, that percentage, then they would agree, they would still deliver it but in the schools. If they would fail that would be one of the understanding, that's No. 1. The standards would be, you know, we can always argue about standards, and when you're talking about the profession they'll always argue that their standards are better. We're not guaranteeing necessarily a Cadillac to everybody, we're guaranteeing a certain service so that has to be understood.

Now the cost is the big thing, and not only the costs for this year. And then when we have no more equipment, when we have no more dental nurses and so on, that we have an ongoing battle like we had with the MMA. We've talked about everything else being equal again, and I certainly don't speak without prejudice tonight, then we would try to get some kind of a formula that would be accepted by government, and that could be the legacy that we would leave instead of these yearly battles that we have with the MMA.

MR. L. SHERMAN: What is the level of acceptability out there in the total program area now, Mr. Chairman?

In the Minister's view, does he feel that he can report to the committee that in general in those school divisions where the Manitoba Dental Association has been integrated into the program, to deliver the program in place of the government component, that there is now a thoroughgoing and sincere acceptance of the involvement of the profession in the profession's manner of delivering the service, or is there still some difficulty? Does the Minister still have difficulty in confrontation and some debate between the two factions in the program as to whether the school divisions that are recipients to the program are happier with one form of delivery than the other?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's hard to tell, because remember the last few years, it was quite obvious that everything was being done to, it seems to me anyway to indicate that everything was being done, that eventually the Dental Association would deliver their service.

I have no problem, because it's not a question of ideology with me. My problem is I want to be shown that they can compete and I'm not concerned at all with the paramedical or people delivering certain services in the health field. I think we'll have to come to that. I don't think that we can go to the top.

The impression, for instance, that doctors will deliver all the services. We know that the nursing profession

are now saying that they can do certain things, maybe even better, certain things that they're trained for, educated for, that's a possibility.

I think that if we're going to look at keeping the high degree of health care and dental care that we have in this province, we have to look at that. You don't have to train people for all kinds of things to do a certain thing well. It's been done in the past.

Now the Dental Association know this, but they say that because they're established and because of number and the new system that they have, they still feel that they can compete and it's going to come down to that.

I'm satisfied that both can deliver the service. I think that is the thing. The utilization, they're ready to say okay we'll try this way, give us a chance, if it doesn't work, we'll go your way and without fighting and taking our bat and ball and going home, we'll say, okay, you gave us a chance and it didn't work.

Now it comes down to the cost to see if they can compete; if it's much more we can't go with the Dental Association. We'll go to the other program considering everything. There could be the possibility that the two will - it is still something that is being considered - the possibility that the dental nurses will do part of the work and then the Dental Association or the dentist will do something else.

It could be that the educating part of it could be removed from that program and introduced in the schools and not necessarily by the members of the dental profession, so there's quite a few options and as I say we're down to the nitty gritty now. I'm not meeting with the staff. People are looking at the cost factors and so on, and then we'll have to sit down with them and see what is there. But I can assure you that with myself, and I say with most of, if not all the members of our caucus, it's not a question of ideology, it's a question of utilization, education, cost, and standards of course.

MR. L. SHERMAN: There was always considerable hope, Mr. Chairman, that by including the Manitoba Dental Association into the program and integrating the profession into the delivery of this service that new incentives and horizons and challenges would thus be created for the practise of dentistry in Manitoba, and that that kind of integration and opportunity would enable the profession to encourage many of its newcomers, its new graduates to establish rural practices.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My information is that we had 87 dental nurses who did graduate from Wascana. Out of those there are five working outside the province; one is in private practice; nine working as dental assistants or hygienists; 31 unemployed, including housewives - some by choice do not want to work; one now is a graduate dentist; one a dental student and 29 working for the province plan. Do you want me to repeat that? There were 87, five working outside the province - that leaves 82. One is in private practice; nine working as dental assistants or hygienists; 31 who are unemployed, not working at their profession; one is a graduate dentist now; one is a dental student and there are still 29 working for the province.

I'm told - I might as well give you this information - that there will be 37 new graduating dentists, if they all graduate.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thirty-seven new graduating dentists.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: And 27 graduating hygienists, if they all graduate.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I want to thank the Minister for those figures and that very helpful information. Let me ask him about the 31 unemployed dental nurses. Does the program have continuing contact with those 31 unemployed dental nurses? Are those dental nurses anxious to get into the program? Is the program anxious to create situations where it can utilize them, or have they just sort of moved into other areas of activity and employment and separated themselves from the field altogether?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Those 37 are unemployed; they're not working. That could be by choice. It could be that they are not satisfied with the situation. We have tried to identify to find out where they were in case we need them, but there has been no approach and no intent to recruit any of them or any others until we finish our discussions with the dentists. Some of these people were burnt before. There is no point in trying to get them all involved, especially if we decide to go with the Dental Association delivering the program.

Before I forget, if I may, I would like to say for this committee, that tomorrow we will keep on in committee on Tuesday. The House Leader has agreed that Thursday afternoon probably, we will not be in committee; we'll be on bills. But I would imagine that Thursday evening, we'll be back in committee. In other words, we are changing. What was supposed to be done tomorrow will be on Thursday.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you for that information, Mr. Chairman. I wish to thank the Minister, through you, for that information.

These unemployed dental nurses we're talking about, if there was an intention to expand in the conventional way, where dental nurses were being employed in the government component of the program, presumably before the government would consider signing up with Wascana College for the training of new candidates at a rate of 30 students a year for five years, they would be looking to these unemployed dental nurses who are available and trained. Since there is that resource of unemployed but already trained dental nurses, that would be a further discouragement to signing up with a new contractual arrangement at Wascana Collegiate, is that correct?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We couldn't gamble too long. We would have to find out fast, but there might be another point also. It might be, with the direction that the programs might be taking in Saskatchewan, we might be recruiting Saskatchewan nurses that were working in the plan in Saskatchewan. They have 19 graduating in Saskatchewan this year.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the 29 dental nurses working for the province at the present time as dental nurses and the other numbers that the Minister provided, such as those working as dental assistants and hygienists, would only constitute a part of the clinical staff based in the regions providing public health services and clinical services to Manitoba children under the Manitoba Children's Dental Program. I wonder if the Minister could give the committee a breakdown of the total clinical staff that is based in the regions to deliver these services.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The Salaries includes funds for 81 field staff based in the regions to provide . . .

MR. L. SHERMAN: I'm sorry. Excuse me. Includes how many field staff, did you say?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It includes funds for 81 field staff based in the regions to provide dental public health services, in general, and dental clinical services to the Manitoba Children's Dental Program. These number 32 dental nurses; 33 dental assistants; eight dentists; a dental hygienist and eight support staff to provide equipment repair and clerical services. The central office staff is composed of nine staff-years to provide for planning, development and promotion of preventative dental programs and involvement with the general public, community officials, government agencies, and effective liaison with the dental profession and the Faculty of Dentistry.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you. Is there any equipment purchased by the province made available to the Children's Dental Health Program now in storage or inventoried somewhere or stored somewhere - Portage la Prairie or elsewhere - that is not being used in the Children's Dental Health Program and that could be of some value, either monetary value for direct resale or some value from that point of view of being used in the program somewhere or made available to the Manitoba Dental Association for its component of the program, or made available for reasonable purchase to graduating dentists in our province, coming out of dental college, seeking to establish rural practices.

In other words, one of the rationales, one of the arguments certainly that was discussed when I was Minister for involving Manitoba Dental Association in delivery of this program was the argument that it was good for the profession, good for the integrity of the profession and the morale of the profession. It demonstrated that there was a major role for the profession, as there should be in my view, in our Manitoba society in delivering this kind of program, and it would be an encouragement to many of our young graduates to go out and establish practises in rural areas.

We suffer, as most jurisdictions in North America do, Mr. Chairman, from an undersupply of professionals in rural communities and remote areas of our province, as against what would be and could be described as a relative oversupply in the major urban centres. Manitoba is, by no means, the only jurisdiction that suffers from that kind of situation. It's typical in urbanized and industrialized countries throughout the

world today and it is certainly general in North America. It's as general in the United States as it is in Canada. There are as many difficulties in staffing rural communities in virtually all the states of the United States with professionals in medicine and dentistry and health care fields as there are difficulties in staffing rural communities in the Canadian provinces. So I do not raise this point from the perspective of citing Manitoba as representing a unique experience or a unique situation. It is not unique. It's common to the continent, but that is no consolation for our communities in rural Manitoba and Northern Manitoba who are underserved by professionals.

One of the great thrusts that we have attempted to make through the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower on the medical side and the Standing Committee on Nursing Manpower on the nursing side and through the incorporation and integration of the Manitoba Dental Association into the Children's Dental Health Program has been that thrust and effort and attempt at encouraging our young people, our young men and women graduating as doctors, nurses, and dentists, to go out and establish practises in the rural areas. Has the incorporation and integration of the MDA into this program produced any significant results in that respect? — (Interjection) —

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We got to borrow the money, Wally. Mr. Chairman, I know that this is one of the things that is mentioned. We are told that is one of the reasons why they could do it at that cost, because they would probably need that extra - I'm just repeating now what I'm told by the Dental Association - that some people in the rural area, they would need to pretty well be sure of that added work. Then they might be induced to go and establish their practise in that rural area.

In the city, they say they can compete because of the lab and I've visited - well, the past President of the Dental Association has the Assiniboine Clinic and I'm sure you are familiar with that clinic - they also use many assistants and hygienists and so on, and I think that's how they feel that they can compete with the program delivered by dental nurses. That is one of the factors they do mention, if they can guarantee they get that help that they will be able to provide, they feel that more of the young dentists might want to set up a practise in the rural area.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister have available for the committee figures on the graduation totals of dentists and hygienists in Manitoba last year and, perhaps, the year before? He has said that the new graduating class coming out of Manitoba Dental College this spring will include 37 dentists and 27 hygienists. Does he have available the figures for 1982's graduating class and 1981?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: As I stated, there will be 37 if they all graduate this year; last year there were 27. The information that I'm given is that fluctuates one or two in the rural area. It hasn't changed over a number of years. There has been no real improvement there.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So last year, the graduating class for dentists was 27. Is that what the Minister is saying?

How many of those graduates from last year would be practising dentistry in Manitoba this year, now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'll have to get that information for the member. I don't have it.

MR. L. SHERMAN: What would the outlook be, Mr. Chairman, for the 37 graduates coming out of Dental College this spring and the 27 hygienists coming out this spring? Can they all be absorbed in practise in Manitoba?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm sorry. Would the honourable member repeat the question?

MR. L. SHERMAN: Yes. I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could give us an idea of what the outlook would be for the 37 dentists graduating from the Manitoba Dental College this spring and the 27 hygienists who will be graduating and coming out of Dental College this spring. That is 64 professionals in dentistry; 37 dentists, 27 hygienists. Will they all be able to find gainful professional employment in the dental field in Manitoba?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is no problem if they want to establish in the rural area. In the city, the competition is a little tougher. There's quite a bit of competition, and the department is looking for two dentists. We're looking for two dentists ourselves, so we'll have room for two.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Are there any special encouragements, inducements, incentives, etc., that are being offered to graduating dentists and hygienists to go out into the rural communities and into the northern and remote parts of the province and establish their practises there?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This is something, Mr. Chairman, that is being looked at. That, in itself - the program, if it is delivered by the Dental Association - we are told that would be a factor and we are taking that into consideration.

MR. L. SHERMAN: But, if it's all based on the Manitoba Dental Association part of this Children's Dental Health Program, then we are looking at - what? - 13 school divisions at the present time. What I really want to know from the Minister is what kind of incentives are being pursued or contemplated by his office and by his department to get these people into rural practice, short of expanding the Children's Dental Health Program into every school division in the province? If he's prepared and can find the funding to expand the program into every school division in the province, then I suppose going hand-in-hand with that would be opportunities for these new graduates to establish rural practices. But he has said he's considering options with respect to the expansion of the program.

At the present time we're looking at only 30 school divisions that are covered; 17 of those are covered by the government plan, so we're looking at 13 or 12 2/3 covered by the Manitoba Dental Association. What other incentives are being considered by the province

in order to get these graduating dentists and hygienists out into the rural communities to establish their practices, or is the only incentive an expansion and extension of the Children's Dental Health Program into those rural communities and rural school divisions?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: All right, there's the city but the honourable member is wanting to know the incentive in the rural area. Well, there are still, besides those 17 1/3 that are now delivered by the Dental Health Service, there are another six rural school divisions that are not covered at all. So that would be added to it.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Well, is the Minister going to cover those rural school divisions that are now not covered at all sometime in 1983-84, as a means of trying to persuade these graduates to stay in Manitoba and establish rural practices?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I don't think there's any possibility that we'll cover all these six, but it is an option. Part of those could be covered, yes.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Can the Minister offer the committee his Estimate as to whether we have an oversupply or an undersupply of dentists in Manitoba at the present time, and whether we have an oversupply or an undersupply of hygienists at the present time, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I wouldn't know about hygienists. I guess they're all working for dentists now, but I guess the same answer would be valid in the same answer as how many doctors.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I'm sorry?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I say that the same answer would be correct if you were asking me about doctors. There's probably an oversupply of them in the city and an undersupply in the rural area and in the North.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there are, in addition to the salaries and program delivery costs in this item, the appropriations and amounts that are voted and provided for different groups and tribal councils and individual health facilities in the province that are served by the Children's Dental Health Program. I wonder if the Minister could provide the committee with a breakdown of the financial appropriation we see in front of us, so as to give us the information on the grants, the Other Expenditures and grants that are included under Dental Services, in addition to the Salaries of those people who work in delivery of the program. There's the Swamp Creek Tribal Council grant and I think the Churchill Health Centre still receives a grant under Dental Services and a range of expenditures of that kind. Could the Minister provide the committee with that information for 1983-84, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: \$71,2000 to the Churchill Health Centre for the dental service to the residents of Churchill and surrounding area; \$71.2 Swamp Creek Tribal Council - that's for the Reserve, The Pas, Moose Lake, Pelican Rapids, Grand Rapids and Easterville.

There's also the St. Amant Centre for the dental care provided for the residents of St. Amant and I believe that they have some . . . yes, there are some people, it's mostly for the residents, for the patients at St. Amant Centre, but there's also difficult cases and the people that have problems, mentally retarded, that are accommodated. That was \$18,000; \$10,000 for the continuation of the capital incentive grants for fluoridation equipment; \$27,300 for the Manitoba Dental College to operate a high-risk dental clinic providing dental service to hepatitis B patients.

MR. L. SHERMAN: How much, Mr. Chairman, was that figure for the high-risk clinic for hepatitis B?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: \$27,300.00.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Thank you. That was one other question that I wanted to ask the Minister on this item, Mr. Chairman, a question having to do with the hepatitis B clinic being operated by the Dental College. What has been the record of performance and success there? Has that initiative worked out in the way in which it was designed to and has there been a significant volume of persons in Winnipeg taking advantage of the service provided there?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, they seem to be very pleased with what's going on there. They've seen 52 patients and the appointments were for dentures complete, 15; partial 13; crown, bridge 2; operative 86; extraction 23; periodontics 5, and that operates three and one-half days per week.

MR. L. SHERMAN: This is still dealing specifically with hepatitis B carriers, is that correct? It's a clinic that's specifically and almost exclusively designed to deal with that particular health threat?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That was the initial reason why it was established but now it is considered a high-risk clinic and there could be other cases considered high risk, not necessarily just for hepatitis B but mostly for that . . .

MR. L. SHERMAN: So there are other health risks borne by patients of that clinic. There are other patients now, other than the hepatitis B carriers availing themselves of the services of that clinic, is that correct?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's right.

MR. L. SHERMAN: Has there been any change in the approach of the Manitoba Dental Association towards the question of professional services in dentists to be made available to health risks such as hepatitis B carriers? I know there was some discussion as to the degree of education and familiarity with hepatitis B and with risks and protection against those risks that could be undertaken by dentists in their offices. There was considerable reluctance, I think, on the part of the profession to have dentists handling hepatitis B cases in their offices, even though the argument was advanced that certain clinical measures could be taken to guarantee the protection of the dentist in question and

his other patients. Has that situation changed at all, or is the profession still of the view that it is better to have high-risk patients of this kind treated at a separate clinic and that it's not very sensible to have dentists attempt to treat them in their offices even though those dentists may take special precautions against infection, either of themselves or their equipment by those high-risk patients?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My understanding is that there is still a bit of reluctance, but it hasn't really been an issue. Probably, I have no doubt that if we asked them to look at it, if there was a need, they might come up with something, but with this high-risk clinic it seems that all the demands are met, so there's not really any reason to worry about it at this time.

MR. L. SHERMAN: So, there's no backlog of high-risk patients requiring care, who are not getting the care because of the reluctance of dentists to handle them in their offices, is that correct?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: That's correct.

MR. L. SHERMAN: I think that's the extent of the examination of the Dental Services programming spectrum that I wanted to make with the Minister at this time, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to make the point for the record that we will be watching with interest the Minister's assessment and study of the various program options and program expansion options to which he has referred. He has made reference to the \$550,000 additional funding for additional program expenditure and stressed the fact that he and his officials are looking at any one of two or three or four different ways that they can go in expanding dental services, particularly to children.

Again, I would emphasize that I am not urging the government to spend more and more thousands and millions of dollars. There is a considerable commitment, obviously, already being made in this department. But, there is the matter of priorities. There are areas of health care that, I think, are fundamental in guaranteeing or at least going a long distance towards guaranteeing the general health and well-being of the community and good dental health care, particularly beginning at an early age, and particularly in those areas where children have less access to the kinds of health services that perhaps are available to urban residents, are vital in maintaining good general health and well-being and so I wouldn't want to see the government opting for cutbacks in the Dental Services field. I would hope that the Minister will be looking at some pretty worthwhile initiatives with that additional funding that he says is available to him in his 1983-84 budget and we'll be watching with interest to see whether those options include the scaling down of the age so that children are brought in to the Children's Dental Health Program at an earlier age, or whether they include an expansion of the number of school divisions and areas of the province served.

Obviously, a question that he has to face fairly soon is the question of those school divisions in the southern part of the province which are not covered under the program at the present time.

Another question is the urban centres which represent, obviously, a significant expenditure, a significant commitment in terms of government funding should they be brought into the program, but I think it's inevitable that he will face continuing pressure for expansion of this service into urban areas.

So, we will be awaiting the Minister's decisions in those areas with keen interest through the remainder of this Session, Mr. Chairman. Presumably, he'll be making some announcements and some decisions during the lifetime of this Session so that we'll know what his additional 1983-84 funds are going to be expended upon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(e)(1)—pass; 4.(e)(2)—pass. Resolution No. 91, Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$31,939,000 for Health, Community Health Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1984—pass.

The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I believe this might be a good time to call it a day. We can start with the Provincial Psychiatrist tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.