



**Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

---

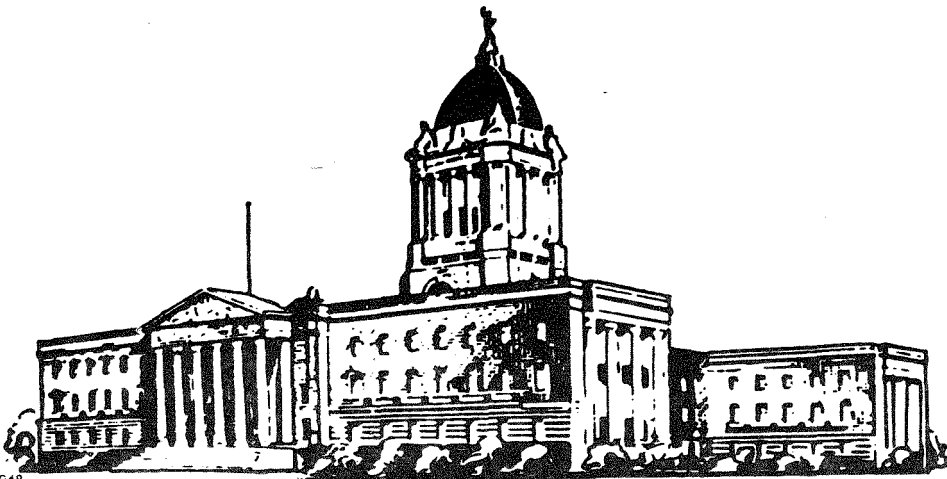
**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

---

31-32 Elizabeth II

---

*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable D. James Walding  
Speaker*



MG-8048

**VOL. XXXI No. 63A - 2:00 p.m., MONDAY, 9 MAY, 1983.**

**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY****Thirty-Second Legislature****Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

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

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 9 May, 1983.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

## OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports By Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before we reach Oral Questions may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery. We have 75 students of Grade 5 standing from the Edward Schreyer School under the direction of Mrs. Kozussek. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation.

There are 6 students of various grades from the Hugh John MacDonald School. They are under the direction of Mr. Devine and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Education.

There are 11 students of Grades 4, 5 and 6 from the Prince Edward School under the direction of Mrs. Botting. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Finance.

In the loge to my left is a former member of this House, Mr. Morris McGregor.

On behalf of all of the members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### MPIC - car insurance & claims

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** My question is to the Honourable — (Interjection) — I see the members opposite have recognized my clean, neat and tidy appearance now, Mr. Speaker.

In preamble to my question, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome back the Member for Springfield and the Member for Wolseley, glad to see them back with us from their little holiday in B.C. — "where they were able to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory."

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Corporate and Consumer Affairs, the Minister responsible for Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation. I wonder if the Minister could tell the House if it's a policy of the corporation to indicate on the approval of claim forms where the claimant should make the replacement purchase for parts or whatever it may be, on automobiles.

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

**HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of that having taken place. I'll certainly

make some inquiries and I'll report back on that. I would appreciate some specifics though, if the member can provide me with those.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, apparently it is taking place. I am aware of one particular case that happened awhile back on a replacement of jewellery. It was indicated at what jeweller the replacement jewellery should be purchased at - it was one in Winnipeg. Also it appears now as happening in the case of hub caps, and as the Minister may well know that if you were to phone a particular supplier for four particular type of very expensive hub caps he may not have them in stock, but he'll say I'll have them for you tomorrow. You can maybe surmise where they may come from.

My point in making the question, Mr. Speaker, is that if this is a policy, and it appears to be, that it's a very very unsatisfactory one because it leaves the corporation and the adjusters or those involved very very open to charges of kickbacks or favouritism or whatever - if the Minister would look into that immediately and let us know probably tomorrow what the policy is.

## Minimum Wage Board

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Labour. Has she received a report and recommendations from the Minimum Wage Board on any changes for this year?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Labour.

**HON. M.B. DOLIN:** Yes, various groups that deal with our wages, whether it's with construction wages or minimum wages, are doing that presently and those things are proceeding to government at this time.

## Government Employees - Brandon by-election

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting First Minister. My question is, can the Acting First Minister indicate how many employees of the government, on employee salaries, are currently working in the Brandon by-election on behalf of the New Democratic candidate out there?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll have to take that as notice, but I can tell the members of the House and the member that asked the question, the policy is that no one will be during working hours now,

if they are taking holidays on their own. I think we have had legislation here a number of years ago that this is allowed. This is recognized as being permissible of course. But I will take it as notice, that is, how many are there while they should be working and they are getting paid for it. I will take that as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Yes, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs, but at the outset I would like to welcome the Minister back to the House. I understand that he has been off sick for a number of days, and we are all very pleased to welcome him.

### Main Street Manitoba Program

I would like to ask the Minister if he can advise whether or not his department has received an application under the Main Street Manitoba Program, from the town of Swan River? If so, when can the Town of Swan River expect a reply to their application?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the honourable member for his kind expression of well-being for myself. I have been away sick for a week, yes. I would also like to thank my colleagues who enquired and dropped in at the office and phoned to see how I was doing as well.

I would advise honourable members if they want to leave this Assembly, not to leave for the same reason that I left, because I had a very rough week. Nevertheless, in regard to the question: yes, there has been, it is my understanding, more than a week ago, the Town of Swan River has made a formal application for the Main Street Project. It is a very substantial project, Mr. Speaker. It's the second one. The first one of course was rejected because there was only one storefront in the original proposal. The second proposal, while I haven't seen the application, I have been informed by staff that there is approximately 40 storefront people. These are people who are involved in this second submission. Staff will certainly be reviewing this and looking at it very closely and I am hopeful that it will be accepted in due course.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I thank the Minister for his answer. I would like to point out though that this is the Town of Swan River's 75th Anniversary. They are anxious to proceed with the project, including the 42 applications from private businesses, so they certainly would appreciate an early reply to their application so that they can hopefully proceed this year with that improvement to Main Street.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that if the application meets the guidelines, and I believe it does, it will certainly receive favourable review from our staff.

### Dangerous Chemicals - transportation of

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

**MR. H. CARROLL:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Highways. Yesterday in Brandon there was a truck turned over with a load of anhydrous ammonia. Again, this morning there was another accident involving anhydrous ammonia in Ninette. Can the Minister tell this House what specific regulations there are for the transporting on our highways of dangerous chemicals of this nature?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know that I can be that precise without having been given notice of the question. Aside from the rules that apply, I presume that Manitoba's statute law, I think the member is aware that we are introducing very shortly a bill with respect to the transportation of dangerous goods which will be a measure that will bring us into conformity with the rest of Canada under national legislation and provincial legislation across the country. That is something that is yet to happen. Regulations will be followed before the end of the year, hopefully, but we're not certain as to their timing. So this is relatively a new venture for the department as far as the whole business of transportation of dangerous goods is concerned, but I will take the matter under advisement as to what now is in existence as to what our rules are.

### Manitoba Cattle Producers Act

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister of Agriculture advise the House if he intends to make any changes to The Manitoba Cattle Producers Association Act this Session?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will know that any changes would be a matter of policy, and when that is decided upon all members will be informed.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture then. Has he been discussing the possibility of changes to the Act with the Cattle Producers Association?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I should advise the honourable member that I did have discussions last year about possible changes to legislation, amongst other matters, and those discussions were done last year. We've had a number of meetings with cattle producers this year and we will be having further meetings I believe either today or tomorrow with them on matters pertaining to a bonding manifest and legislation may be amongst some of those items discussed.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** A further supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the Cattle Producers

Association asked for any changes in their Act with respect to the check-off provision?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should be made aware that we've had many calls from producers in this province including petitions and individual letters asking this government to remove the compulsory aspect of the checkoff in legislation and make it a truly voluntary plan for the checkoff under the present legislation as it is now in place.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** A further supplementary to the Minister then. Is he planning on taking action on those requests which he's received?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I answered that question earlier in terms of policy. The honourable member will be advised if there will be a change and if that change will occur, he will know fairly shortly.

### Major Rating House - Moody's

**MR. B. RANSOM:** I have a question to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister of Finance or his department been contacted within the last week by the other major rating house, Moody's?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. V. SCHROEDER:** No, Mr. Speaker, we have not. We've of course been in contact with them on several occasions this year.

### Small Schools Funding

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Education.

Has the Minister received any indication from the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration that he will be providing funds to assist in keeping open all small schools in the province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Education.

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** No, Mr. Speaker.

### Robert H. Smith School - financing

**MR. G. FILMON:** There was a report over the weekend, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Minister has come up with some funds to keep open one particular school and I'm wondering whether or not the Minister of Education feels that he might be approached for funds to keep open the Robert H. Smith School, for instance, which is currently before the Public Schools Finance Board?

**HON. M. HEMPHILL:** Mr. Speaker, I don't have any direct information about what Mr. Axworthy is or is not considering doing in terms of providing funds. I suppose that he will be communicating, whatever that is, to the school division, but I have had no contact or no communication with them on that.

### Earl Grey School - financing

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Urban Affairs, I wonder if either the Minister of Education or his backup could answer whether or not the funds that Mr. Axworthy has promised for the Earl Grey School will be coming out of the Core Area Initiatives or the North of Portage Redevelopment Fund.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Health.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, we'll have to take this as notice. The Minister of Urban Affairs is attending a meeting now on the core area. We will have more information after that.

### Manitoba Assessment Review Commission - submissions

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Emerson.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. It has been months since the Municipal Committee was touring the province and listening to petitions by the municipal people regarding the Manitoba Assessment Review Commission. Can the Minister indicate when he plans to call the Municipal Committee to deal with these submissions?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't give him an exact date, but we will have to work the date in, perhaps before the end of May or certainly the beginning of June. I am hopeful that we will have all the information. We have to work it in with the other committees that are taking place so that it doesn't conflict with other dates, but most of the work has been completed. There is still some work being done by staff, but I will be in a position I believe to present a paper, at least a working paper, to the committee based on all the briefs that have been received. Things are falling into place very nicely, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** A further question to the same Minister then. Has that working paper been prepared already at this time?

**HON. A. ADAM:** No, Mr. Speaker.

### Crow rate

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Highways. In view of the fact that the Federal Minister Jean-Luc Pepin has shifted his position in dealing with the Crownsnest rate, I am wondering if the Minister has had any communication with the Federal Minister to see if he has included the Port of Churchill in any changes they may have made.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the member is aware that there is a committee of this Legislature that is dealing with that question in a very comprehensive manner. It is my expectation that the report from this committee will deal with that question.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Would the Minister responsible be prepared to put a Manitoba position forward which would include Churchill as being a part of any grain transportation movement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Mr. Speaker, the Government of Manitoba is on record expressing concern about the fact that the Churchill line and the Port of Churchill has not been included in the package of upgrading proposals that the Government of Canada has introduced, so it's a matter of record. We now have to await the decision of the committee, after which a further communique will be undertaken with the Government of Canada.

### Loan Guarantee Program

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Pembina.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Under his announced \$100 million Loan Guarantee Program, could the Minister indicate how many applications he has received to date, or MACC has received to date, under that program and how many of those applications have been approved to date?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I'm advised that under the Loan Guarantee Program, 63 approvals have been given, totalling over \$4.3 million under the program and an additional 29 are in process. There have been 10 declines totalling \$590,000, and reasons for those declines would have been a combination of equity and viability. In addition to the 10 that I said, there's 39 more applications in process totalling approximately \$2.5 million and that was as of May 5th, Mr. Speaker, the information that I have.

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that given a total approval of the remaining 39, the Minister may use less than \$7 million of his \$100 million announced program, is the Minister now considering changing some of the criteria to open the program and make it available to more farmers who obviously could use the assistance of a guarantee under their operating loan for this year?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to get a further update, but my advice from staff is that the program is being taken up. In fact, what we have found on the other side of the question where farmers are and had been having difficulties in arranging credit and have difficulties with their financial institutions, the requests for review panels and requests for staff

assistance is continuing, but the request for review panels is actually not as great as we had anticipated, that there are eight — (Interjection) — Well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain says, "What do you expect?"

The honourable member should be aware that we have been involved in the past year, through the Interest Rate Relief Program, in assisting farmers in putting together financial packages, re-evaluating their financial position and assisting them in obtaining additional credit. But there is approximately eight applications in various stages to go to review panels at the present time.

In terms of the Loan Guarantee Program, our advice is that the 20 percent equity provision, using viability as the overall guiding criteria, is not an unusually difficult measure to have in place at this point in time.

### MACC - Loan Guarantee Program

**MR. D. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, when the program was announced, the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation indicated that they would process applications with approximately a three-day turnaround time. Could the Minister indicate what particular reasons there are for up to two weeks being required to process applications, and because of this length of time farmers are now waiting to go to the field and commence their farming operations but cannot do so, or are reluctant to do so because of lack of approval by MACC?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, any reason that there would be a delay would be a matter of two areas. First, a non-completed application form from the financial institutions. There have been some institutions that have forwarded applications even though they did not wish to make the decision themselves, that they would not recommend forwarding on an application form to MACC for approval; they have taken the applications notwithstanding that they would not provide the credit to see whether MACC would, in fact, actually turn down those applications.

There have been some of those applications and they have been dealt with by MACC in discussions with the financial institutions, but I'm not aware of any long pending delay in terms of many of the applications that have been received. I should indicate to the honourable member that on a note that was provided to me, there are approximately 15 applications coming in daily as at the reporting time of May 5th, Mr. Speaker.

### MACC - Loan Guarantee Program

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, another question to the same Minister. Can the Minister advise the House how he's dealing with those applicants from the farm community who are renting land and renting equipment who have made application? As recently as a week ago, one in the gallery had said that he was not able to gain financing.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, viability is the key question and equity is the key question in dealing with any application. The case that the honourable member alluded to, I should mention to him that this instance was not a case of the total farming operation being handled on the basis of lease. There was a lot of owned land. Although all the circumstances were not known to us, I encouraged that producer to put his case, through our staff, through a review panel if there was a great difficulty between himself and the financial institution.

### **Interest Rate Relief Program re farmers**

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, while I'm on my feet, I should answer a couple of questions that were posed of me earlier. The Honourable Member for Arthur raised a question dealing with the Interest Rate Relief Program, as to the number of farmers who are on the program who were no longer operating. I'm advised that as of April 21st, there were 808 farmers approved for Interest Rate Relief and three had ceased farming. These three who have ceased farming voluntarily, there were no foreclosures or declared bankruptcies, they sold their operations out.

### **MACC - Loan Guarantee Program**

**HON. B. URUSKI:** As well, Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Pembina asked earlier about the Loan Guarantee Program, as to how the method by which the Loan Guarantee Program will be used by lending institutions and who may have to collect on the 12.5 percent guaranteed by the government. Will banks be allowed to collect only a prorated base on an individually failed loan or will the entire loan value be covered by the 12.5 percent guarantee? Mr. Speaker, MACC guarantees 12.5 percent of the aggregate total of all loans approved under the guaranteed program. This 12.5 percent is applied after the banks have realized on the securities they have taken.

### **Rail-bus transportation - re Northern areas**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I have a question to the Minister of Highways and Transportation. We've all read with interest the experiment to have a rail-bus service to provide service to remote communities in the North. I wonder if the Minister could indicate today as to when he would see this rail-bus making its maiden run in Northern Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**HON. S. USKIW:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would have to assume that the member is aware that we're dealing with a proposal that is yet to be decided upon by the Government of Canada with respect to support of it

and financing of the same. We understand that there may be money available for that particular project on a pilot basis, and that it would probably take somewhere in the order of several months before we could indicate very positively one way or the other.

Our impression is that there is a tremendous amount of interest by federal authorities in this concept of transportation for Northern communities, remote communities throughout Canada, and it is very likely that they will proceed with at least one rail-bus. I think the thought was that we would have about three, but that may be something that we will have to wait for. But our understanding is that there is probably a good chance of having acceptance of at least one such unit for a trial period, and we would have to then make a new determination from that point on based on the experience.

### **Task Force Reviews**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Community Services and Corrections. I wonder if he can advise the House on the status of three investigations, task force reviews, that are taking place under his authority: (1) the Kimelman Review of out of province adoptions, Native and extra Native adoptions, (2) the Kimelman Review of community group homes in the province, (3) the task force that was established to look into conditions at Headingley Jail and the province's correctional institutions in general.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. L. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the commission looking into the question of Indian international adoptions by Judge Kimelman, I can advise that we expect a report in a matter of weeks. We've had discussions with Judge Kimelman and we do expect something on that aspect in a matter of weeks, late May perhaps, early June. With regard to the other element that he is studying, that is, the question of group homes, this will take a bit longer. I'm not quite sure when he will give us a paper on that. With regard to the corrections study, the targeted date for a report is September.

### **Headingley Jail - study re conditions**

**HON. L. SHERMAN:** I thank the Minister for that information, Mr. Speaker. I would ask him a supplementary question to determine the terms of reference of the Correctional Institution Review, the Headingley Jail Study, can he confirm that the terms of reference for the study go beyond overcrowding and inmate activities?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we can certainly confirm that. As a matter of fact the terms of reference were outlined in the News Release at the time we appointed the Garson Committee.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary, it's in view of the Minister's last comment that I asked the question, do I believe, Sir, that the terms of reference at that time, as reported, were relatively limited? I would ask the Minister if he can confirm further to discussions and debates that he and I have had in this Chamber in the past year that the terms of reference include looking at the administrative structure, disciplinary authority structure and the morale situation among staff at Headingley Jail?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member continues to refer to Headingley Jail. I would remind him that it relates to all adult correctional institutions within the Province of Manitoba, not just Headingley Jail. Indeed, we are concerned about staff-management relations; we are concerned about administrative matters generally.

I would say that the committee has a fairly broad mandate to review the system as it now exists. As a matter of fact I believe I've been advised that this is the first time such a comprehensive organizational type review has been done of the correction system in Manitoba I think since the inception of the province.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister just assure the House that the study will not be so broad that he loses sight of the specific problems at Headingley Jail?

**HON. L. EVANS:** Mr. Speaker, I would only hope that we will have a good report. I know the committee is hard at work and they're interviewing people at Headingley, as well as other parts of the province. I am hopeful that we will have a meaningful productive report that will be of guidance to this government and to this Legislature.

### **Crop Insurance Office - re Minnedosa location**

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture took as notice a question the other day on the relocation of the Crop Insurance Office at Minnedosa. I just wondered if he had been able to get an answer on that for me.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I advised the honourable member that I had enquired of the board as to whether they have finalized their decision following the presentations that were made. I have not received that reply as yet.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Yes, just for the Minister's information, the rumoured date was the 15th of May and it's becoming close to that date. It would be of some comfort, although cold comfort, to the staff to know whether they will be required to move to Neepawa or whether they'll be remaining in the present location.

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the honourable member, the board is reviewing all the information and they will be finalizing their decision. As soon as I have it, I will advise the honourable member.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** I might ask the Minister, will the Minister be abiding by the decision of the board in this instance?

**HON. B. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I would expect so, unless there was some new evidence that would be induced at some later date that one could reconsider it. I reconsidered the decision. Mr. Speaker, the decision is a Board of Directors' decision. That is one reason why Boards of Directors are appointed in places of managing policy of a corporation.

### **Number of Bills this Session**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General in his capacity as House leader. Can the Attorney-General tell the House how many more bills he expects to see introduced in the House this Session?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**HON. R. PENNER:** I'll take that as notice, Mr. Speaker.

### **Order for Return - Lionel Orlikow**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney-General as well and it has to do with the Order for Return that I placed some time ago regarding the employment of Lionel Orlikow with the government and I'm wondering when I can expect a response on that.

**HON. R. PENNER:** I'll take that as notice as well, Mr. Speaker.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY COMMITTEE CHANGE**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Riel.

**MRS. D. DODICK:** Mr. Speaker, I have a committee change on Law Amendments for May 10th. The Member for St. Johns will be substituting for the Member for Elmwood.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**HON. R. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, with respect to committee meetings I'd like to announce the following:

On Tuesday, May 24, the meeting of Public Utilities to further consider Manitoba Telephone System.

On Tuesday, May 31, a further meeting of Public Utilities to further consider Manitoba Hydro.

On Tuesday, June 7, Public Utilities to further consider Manitoba Hydro as required.

On Thursday, June 9, Law Amendments, holding June 2 open for a possible further meeting on Public Accounts.



I should have announced, I'm sorry:

On Thursday, May 19, Manitoba Mineral Resources; that's Economic Development.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. R. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to consider of the supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Northern Affairs and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** Committee, please come to order. We have now reached Item 9.(a)(1) Wildlife, Administration, Salaries - Mr. Minister.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think I will take the time of the committee to deal at any length with the generality of the work of this section or the issues that we are faced with. I would like to introduce to the committee, the Director, Rich Golden, I think who is known to most members of this committee.

I might say that this section of the department has been a very busy one. We are faced with decisions about the reduction in habitat for wildlife facing that issue, facing the concerns about the continuance of hunting seasons and fishing seasons for, in some instances, a resource that can be under pressure, so we have to adjust seasons and limits accordingly. I might say that Mr. Golden and I were on Friday afternoon involved in, what to me, was a very very happy occasion. I must say that the The Member for Inkster was with us. That was the presentation of the first Natural Resources Conservation Award, a new award in the province, given to Alexander McPhail, the son of John McPhail, of Vista, Manitoba. Mr. Alexander McPhail has dedicated 160 acres, or a quarter section, of excellent wildlife habitat land to the province and to the people of Manitoba for use as a wildlife refuge.

We had the privilege of tramping around on the quarter section. It was a delight to see that it not only has adequate water, several good-size potholes, it has good stands of aspen bluff and some other mixed species. I really didn't stop to identify them closely, but it had natural hayland and some hayland that has never been touched by the plough. It was of course a delight to see, when we have a diminishing number of sharptail grouse, that there was almost a dozen sharptail grouse on that quarter; a couple of ducks in one of the potholes, too, at some distance.

Mr. McPhail gave this quarter section to the people of Manitoba in tribute and in honour to his father who

homesteaded in that area in 1882. He indicated in his remarks that his rationale for the dedication to the people of this land for a wildlife refuge was that he and his father and their families had enjoyed the benefit of wildlife and knew of that benefit, valued that benefit and wanted to see a continuance of wildlife for a long time to come. One of the ways that they knew that they could do that was by making a gift of land to the province for a wildlife refuge. A sign has been erected on the quarter section right off the road. It's an excellent sign; it's a big wooden sign. It's one of the newer ones we've got.

It was a very great pleasure for me, for Mr. Scott and Mr. Golden to be there. I indicated my pleasure for the donation to Mr. McPhail and to his friends who were gathered there. It's one of the things that we want to encourage more of, the conservation awards that we have instituted, will reflect that kind of concern.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that the members have questions. I don't know whether it may be particularly on this item, but in the balance of the items under this section.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** On that subject, Mr. Chairman, I would like very much to have had an invitation to attend that. I never knew a thing about it. I don't know whether the gentleman is actually in my constituency; it must be right on the border.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** I don't know why.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** I learned about it on Friday in the paper that it was being held and I couldn't change my plans, but I certainly join with the sentiments of the Minister in what has happened. The Village of Vista is part of Roblin-Russell now, but I think this is a little bit south of the village. I would have liked very much to be present, but I didn't know a thing about it until Friday.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, as we were driving from Strathclair to the site, I was wondering whose constituency it was in. There was some doubt as to whose constituency, and whether it was in yours or Harry Graham's, I'm not sure. But I think the point is well taken. Regardless of which political party it is, I think it's important that we, as legislators, recognize the commitment that is involved in this sort of thing and encourage it. I recognize the honourable member's concern. I apologize, I only had the concern after I was on my way there, but apparently there was some doubt as to whose constituency it was.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just concerning this wildlife award, that's an award I assume that follows on an initiative that was undertaken some time ago to develop this type of thing. I'm wondering if the Minister would give some consideration to naming that award after the former long-time Director of Wildlife, Mr. Gerald Malagher. It certainly had been our intention, when we were in government, to consider

that possibility of a person who has over the years made an outstanding contribution to the management of wildlife in Manitoba. I'm just wondering if the Minister has given that any consideration or would give it any consideration.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I quite frankly hadn't given consideration to using a name in connection with the award. I want to associate the province with this and not an individual. I would think that in light of the significant contribution that Gerry Malagher has made to the conservation of natural resources in this province during his lifetime that certainly we could give consideration. I will ask my staff to do that to highlight that, give consideration to the presentation of an award to Gerry Malagher, one of these awards.

It is our intention, Mr. Chairman, that this award is the highest conservation award that can be granted in the province. It will be recorded; they will be numbered. We want this award to be the most prestigious natural resources' award and highlight the kind of contribution of a dedication of land like this. I might say that Mr. McPhail is a real enthusiast about wildlife and it's reflected in his dedication.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister about the Annual Report which is now required by The Wildlife Act. Last year, the Minister tabled a separate report which gave a considerable amount of detail, substantially different from the normal type of, what I might generally call, PR sort of annual reporting that the department does. This year, the Minister has reverted back to the old standard kind of reporting and has simply made the report on the wildlife resources part of the report of the Department of Natural Resources. I must say that it is not as illuminating as the information filed last year. I, especially, find very little reference to any type of allocation of the resources which a specific reference is called for in The Wildlife Act. I would like to ask the Minister whether it's his intention to go back to the type of report which was done last year, whether this year's report had reverted to the old style because it happened to coincide with the Five-Year Report, or just how he intends to handle the requirement that exists in The Wildlife Act?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, this being the year in which a Five-Year Report was being tabled, it was considered by the branch to be adequate to provide the Wildlife Branch Report with the departmental report. It's planned that in the off years, in the other four years, that the other fuller type of report would be presented.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** I'm pleased to hear that, Mr. Chairman, because I think that it is more useful if that's done. I would ask the Minister and his staff to pay special attention to the wording of the section of the Act which makes reference to allocation of resources and just how these resources are being used.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question about the Five-Year Report to the Legislature on Wildlife, which of course also is required by the Act and which many of us have awaited with considerable anticipation and which we find to be very interesting. It is normally the situation

in the department whereby reports that are put forward by the department under the Minister's name are reviewed by the Minister and occasionally questions are asked in terms of whether or not statements that appear within the report are totally substantiated by the information that's available; whether they can be backed up or not; and, in some cases, statements have been changed in the past on that basis, as well as, of course, there might be editing changes or there might be changes in statements concerning government policy. My question to the Minister, specifically with respect to this report, is were there changes made in this report by the Minister himself?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I perused the draft report, made some observations in connection with some of the sections, and I haven't re-read the report since I read the draft, but believe that some adjustments were made to some of the commentary, reflecting some of the concerns I did have.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Could the Minister give us some indication, then, of some of the concerns that he had and the sort of changes that were made? I think it would be of considerable relevance to the committee and to the public to know whether this report is really an accurate reflection of the technical information and the recommendations, the conclusions of the professional wildlife managers; or whether it reflects some changes that the Minister might have seen fit to make, so I would appreciate any indication from the Minister as to what areas he had asked for changes to be made.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, of course, I believe that this is a report to the Legislature and should not be a report that only the Minister approves. I don't believe that this Minister, or any other Minister, should vary fact; the presentation of the report should be factual. Where there is wording which is used to interpret the facts, and the statistics can be interpreted many ways, then I think it's open to the Minister, or anyone else who is drafting or involved in the preparation of the report, to recommend stylistic changes and, as I recall, those were the only areas where I indicated some concern, that perhaps the interpretation that was being drawn on some facts that were presented, may be overstated, understated or otherwise. I couldn't give the member exact reference to where I had some concerns, but so far as the presentation of fact, of course as I've indicated, I don't think in any way anyone should change that.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Then I'll ask the Minister, specifically, Mr. Chairman, since we have had some fairly extensive discussion in the House concerning a Private Members' Resolution dealing with methods and equipment that are used by Treaty Indians in their pursuit of hunting, I note that some of the wording, such as, on Page 6, in Point No. 1 of Page 6, is very similar to wording that was used in the debate before the report came out. Specifically, there is a sentence, I think the third sentence in Point No. 1 on Page 6, "legislative changes to assist in the conservation of these big games species may be required should other initiatives fail." I am,

specifically, wondering in this case, whether or not the Minister had any hand in changing the drafting of this section, specifically, or others dealing with that subject which was under discussion at the time.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that I recommended specific wording at all in any of the observations that I had about the language of the report.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I have got a suggestion, or a request, to make of the Minister which is quite unusual, I guess. This is a report, of course, as I have said many times, that is of great interest to the people of Manitoba. It could take up a very considerable amount of time in giving it the kind of scrutiny and review that it should have really in order to fully understand what's happening; the implications of it and where we're going with the management of the resource.

I would like to ask the Minister, whether he would consider having this report referred to the Standing Committee on Utilities and Natural Resources, in order that we might be able to give it very thorough review? It only comes out once every five years, it isn't the sort of thing which is done on an annual basis. I think if that were done, that it would contribute greatly to an understanding of our wildlife resources and the problems associated with their management, and where we might expect management to be going. In fact, it would seem to fit, perhaps, with some of the indications from the government side as to the desirability of having discussion concerning management of resources, involving everyone who is interested in the resources, before the government moves in any area to make specific legislative changes.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would have to give some thought into that recommendation. I would have to take into consideration the concerns, the views, of my colleagues, including the views of the honourable member. However, I think that this committee does give all members an opportunity to, at any length they determine, to review the policy decisions involved in each of the specific funding requirements of the department. I have no reservations, Mr. Chairman, of spending whatever time the members want discussing, and I will take part in discussion, about those policy issues.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Mr. Chairman, I expect that this is the heading and I just have a very short question. The Minister might possibly think it may come under (b) under Grant Assistance, or Other Expenditures, but it'll be a short question anyway, and this looks like the heading it would be under.

Mr. Chairman, I have a constituent that's extremely interested in ranching or raising elk and doing some experimental work in cross-breeding. This is being carried out in other provinces and he's done considerable research on it. Now, I don't know whether he's got to the point of submitting a formal request or not, but he's interested in some rather unproductive

Crown land, probably up around Riding Mountain National Park. He's very excited about it and feels there are great prospects in doing some cross-breeding with elk in view of their conversion rate of low-quality feed and various other things. Outside of that, of course, he is even interested in raising elk by themselves and I just wondered if the Minister had been in consultation with this chap - it's Ed Shamray from Oak River - and what his views were on allowing someone or providing, not so much assistance, as he's willing to spend a considerable amount of his own money as long as he can get some leased land. Naturally he would have to fence it and you don't fence land to keep elk in very cheaply nowadays, so there is going to be a considerable expense to him. He's prepared to expend that kind of money to experiment with in an endeavour such as this, and I just wondered what the Minister's feelings were on a type of venture like this or if he has had some discussions with Mr. Shamray.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, that name is not recalled by me as someone who we have been in touch with. Mr. Golden is shaking his head too. But while we're there, I suppose I might as well confirm to honourable members that there have been a number of concerns brought to me in connection with proposals for not domestication per se, but the raising of wild species in captivity for meat and some for antler velvet and so on. I'm saying that, quite frankly, I approach this in a small conservative way. I know that there are strong feelings in respect to any proliferation of this activity, strong feelings on the part not only of hunters, naturalists, but I think there's a large body of public opinion that is relatively negative towards some people's wish to convert wildlife for domestic purposes. I think that if we move at all in that way it does significantly compound the problem we have in respect to enforcement of our game laws. That is one of the major things that would occur.

We also, of course, are subject to criticism that we are removing from the community-at-large the opportunity to enjoy recreation involved in hunting, photography, or otherwise, of wild species. So I have not given a green light - even an amber light - to those who want to expand in this area. I have signaled that we . . .

**MR. H. ENNS:** That being your favourite color.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** . . . Yes, the honourable member says red being my favourite colour. The honourable member will note that from time-to-time I have a propensity for blue, but that's not political, it's purely the colour blue; like your eyes, Harry, most of the time.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Great color.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** I'd better pass from that one now before I get too far astray.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Minnedosa.

**MR. D. BLAKE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can see the Minister's concern with maybe domesticating or semi-domesticating wild animals, but I would refer him back

a couple of thousand years, if it hadn't been for someone domesticating wild animals, we wouldn't have too many domestic animals with us today.

There's a promising possibility here, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, I just would encourage the Minister, if he gets a proposal from this particular individual, because he has done a lot of research on it, is quite excited about it and, as I say, is willing to expend a considerable amount of his own funds to try it out. He's certainly willing to comply with government regulations and inspections and whatnot; he's not going to be slaughtering and wholesaling wild game; there's no question about that. It will be done under very controlled circumstances to see if the experiment does have merit or whether a lot of it has been projections that could never be fulfilled. I just wanted to get that on the record. I felt this was the right time to bring it up.

It is being carried in other provinces without a great deal of red tape, I understand. In view of the election promises by the existing government of a year or so ago, they were going to listen to the man-on-the-street sort of thing and cut red tape where at all possible and allow for a free flow of information, open-government type of policy. I hope that the Minister will receive this gentleman when he does get his proposal together and give him a good hearing.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Portage la Prairie.

**MR. L. HYDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. I believe that it is a regulation laid down by your department, Mr. Minister, that no illegal hunting on private land will be permitted. It's been brought to my attention that north and east of Portage la Prairie, in a heavy area that is traveled by hunters in the fall of the year, they disrespect very much that law as laid down.

**MR. H. ENNS:** That's those city hunters, not us country boys.

**MR. L. HYDE:** I know that, on occasion, the landowners have reported this to the conservation officers and very little, if anything, has been done toward correcting the problem there. I'm wondering if you, as the Minister, would like to expand on that?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that some hunters disobey the laws, and they have done that and will, I suppose, unfortunately, some will still continue to do that no matter how reasonable those laws are.

I think that the provisions of requiring consent or permission to go on private land to hunt are reasonable. It is true that there are people that do not comply with that; we have prosecuted a number. I think I could probably refer to some statistics somewhere to confirm the numbers, but I don't think it'll ever be possible, of course, to eliminate this. We couldn't have the number of conservation officers to be available at the many, many places throughout the province where people can go on private land without consent. I think we try in our educational programming, in our enforcement, to get a firm message across that it is illegal to hunt on

private land without consent. I don't know whether we can ever eliminate it.

**MR. L. HYDE:** Mr. Minister, the complaint that has been brought to me is that the landowners have reported that the incidence from time to time and, as I say, little, if anything has been done on behalf of their complaint. I'm wondering, Sir, if you could step that up but bring this to the attention of your conservation officers in the area in the height of the hunting season to patrol that particular area with a little more vigorous steps.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, certainly staff are here from the department and have taken note of that. I might say that we will be under Regional Services somewhat later in the Estimates, but nevertheless, Mr. Golden is here, Mr. Stewart is here and others in the department will take note of that concern.

**MR. L. HYDE:** I thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to support and add to the requests made by the Member for Turtle Mountain about seriously considering the presenting of this Five-Year Report and future Five-Year Reports to the Standing Committee of Natural Resources and Public Utilities.

Mr. Chairman, I read to put on the record your final paragraph of the report which indicates that, "For a variety of reasons those who use and cherish wildlife, the most have not been particular adamant in its defence. If wildlife is to survive, this must change. An awakened public awareness is the best and perhaps only security wildlife resources have. No significant protective effort can be sustained without public backing. Attempts to rebuild the devastated resource will be expensive and largely unsuccessful."

Mr. Chairman, those are the words that are used to conclude this first Five-Year Report that we have before us. I remind honourable members and this Minister, that it's, in my judgment, particularly appropriate that that committee be considered to review it. It's the same kind of committee that we have over which we make the important decisions when we dedicate the use of some of our resources, such as some of our river systems; whether or not a portion of the Nelson River system should be dedicated for hydro-electric power production always at some cost, always at some inconvenience or indeed loss temporarily or permanently of other resources, in this instance, wildlife resources. That's the kind of committee that we've had; some very wide-ranging, full debates on whether or not the people of Manitoba are best served to so dedicate a particular resource.

I can't see anything but good coming from having that same committee play the role of creating a public awareness that this report refers to as being so important if we wish to preserve and enhance our wildlife resources. It's a committee, Mr. Chairman, that of course would enable us to hear directly from experts within the department.

I appreciate that the Minister has indicated to us that he's prepared to sit in this committee on this item as

long as we wish to pursue it, but it is not the committee where we can call upon outside groups; whether it is interested spokespeople for the Federation of Wildlife or interested people from the Native community who are concerned about the regulations and legislative changes that might be contemplated from time to time.

But all in all, it is precisely the kind of committee and the kind of committee structure, that would enable us to, in a serious way, take stock of our resources, of this particular resource, the wildlife resources of the province and to be able to measure our successes and our failures in five-year intervals as the situation improves or deteriorates, and then take the kind of corrective action, the kind of action that would have the broader support of the community, that this report recognizes as important other than just a hardworking department or, indeed, a dedicated Minister. It needs to have that kind of more widening circle of support than obviously is currently being brought to bear on the resources.

Mr. Chairman, that is what my colleague, the Member for Turtle Mountain, was asking this Minister to consider. We ask that very seriously, in the recognition that it may well be another government, another Minister that will be charged with the responsibility of carrying out that hearing five years hence. But, I would ask the Minister to take a second look at that suggestion that was put forward. It was put forward in a very serious manner.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, and colleagues, I will indicate that I will personally consider it in a serious manner. I think any question as to the husbandry of resources in the province is something that has to be given thoughtful consideration. However, one would have to determine where we would be going if each section of the department will be subject to review by Standing Committee when we will call people before us, and I don't know how the legislative process will be affected.

It is not traditional for departments to have their husbandry or their management of the departments reviewed by a different forum. It has been traditional parliamentary practice for departments, line departments, to have their spending Estimates analyzed, criticized, dissected by this committee. I don't know whether reference to a different committee would be in anyway taking away from the parliamentary tradition of accountability. It's true that it may be argued that that forum would be dealing, not with spending, but overall management program - but it does involve spending.

I know the review that presently takes place by the Public Utilities and Natural Resources Standing Committee is one involving Crown corporations where their line budgets are not reviewed by another committee of the House. I think we would be duplicating committee efforts if we have one review here and a second review by another committee, and I would want to know what we're doing with the parliamentary process in the whole. I think there is an obligation on this committee when reviewing the Estimates of each department that comes before it, to spend whatever time is necessary to demand what further reports to make whatever requests members feel is appropriate

to justify what the department is doing or is not doing in respect to its program. But I can't readily accept the suggestion that, notwithstanding the tradition of this committee or a Committee of the Legislature's review of the spending Estimates, and therefore of the program of this department, that we will have an additional review of the department and its management and programming.

I would want to think very carefully about that before I agreed in principle or otherwise in respect to that.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to think the Minister is not willfully confusing the facts. We're not suggesting that the line-by-line, or indeed the Directorate of Wildlife be subjected to that other committee. We are not talking about something that is traditional; this report isn't traditional. This is a first-time report; the new legislation was called upon to present a five-year review which will be coming up next in 1987, according to the existing legislation. Under those circumstances, I submit that you can treat that quite differently. It would not be a duplication of reviewing part of the Department of Natural Resources in front of yet another committee.

However, Mr. Chairman, it wouldn't be the first time this government chose not to accept good advice. I just want to assure the Honourable Minister, it is good advice.

Mr. Chairman, just one other item before I leave that report. It has already been mentioned, but the report also in its last-page conclusion, draws out that nightlighting, night hunting among others, the illegal sale of wildlife, the illegal hunting, etc., but night hunting is specifically identified as a very serious problem. It is difficult for us to understand the Minister's continued obfuscation. The Member for Fort Garry needs to be around to help me with these words.

On the question of really coming to grips with the question of nightlighting, it is one that has virtually universal support to do something about. The Federation of Wildlife, recently meeting again, makes that very clear to this government, to this Minister and everybody, even people like Frank Johnston who doesn't hunt, knows that nightlighting is abhorrent. Your experts can tell you that it is taking a terrible toll in terms of game. It is an indiscriminate, cowardly way of taking game, with no opportunity for any selectivity in terms of the kind of game that ought to be taken at a given time, a given season. I can't understand and I can't let this part of the Estimates get past the Minister without registering the strongest protest possible about the Minister's lack of willingness to acknowledge that problem and to do something about it.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I must vigorously deny the suggestion that I am trying in any way to pull a cloud or pull a blanket or sweep something under the rug which the word "obfuscation" implies. The problem is there; night hunting is a problem. We have ample record of the problem and when I spoke in the House on a resolution dealing with, focused on this question alone, I made it clear, I believe I did, that I do not approve of night hunting.

We prosecute people for night hunting. We prosecute people who are not Treaty Indians for night hunting

because we think it is undesirable. Because of the interpretation by the courts of rights which Treaty Indian people hold, we are constrained not to prosecute Treaty Indian people who are hunting at night, safely. Now the interpretation of hunting at night, safely, has been one that gives us difficulties because there are times when hunting at night can be dangerous, and when we believe it's dangerous we lay a charge and they're prosecuted.

Mr. Chairman, we have made it clear that we think the practice is not a good one. It's my concern to get the Native people, who have a vested interest in a continuance of the game, to be those who are in the leadership of the concern to conserve the resource; to be part of the concern in respect to the diminution of the resource, and to be actively involved in promoting conservation.

We believe that it is possible for the department, working with Native people, to convince those who have been night hunting within the Indian communities, to eliminate that practice. We believe that discussion consultation is the most effective way. It's not open to us, short of an application to the Federal Government, to make any change. We don't think that if we change the law that it would be a simple matter of enforcement, if the law were changed. It's a very complex area, and particularly, when you're dealing with hunting that takes places in remote areas. We don't want to have to have thousands of Conservation officers everywhere enforcing laws; we want people everywhere in Manitoba to recognize the laws as reasonable and necessary for the continuance of the resource; that's the attitude we want. We don't think we bludgeon people into a conservation attitude; we think we build that attitude. That's why I warmly endorsed the thinking that, not only our government had, but previous governments had, in connection with - maybe it's not an atypical example - but the Barren Ground caribou herds, the Beverley and Kaminuriak herds, faced with the tremendous hunting pressure that was occurring there - and the hunting pressure was primarily Native hunters - did come together. The governments came together with the Native people and adopted a strategy for long-term conservation, and that approach is the right one, I'm convinced, Mr. Chairman, because no way could we enforce ourselves with a cadre or cadres of Conservation officers, that kind of conservation of those animals.

The Native people, most dependent, most concerned about those animals, have to be involved in the conservation practices and knowledgeable about them. That's why I feel, and I hope I can speak for all members of the Legislature, we must get Native people in Manitoba very much onside in connection with conservation practices and I think that we are making significant progress in respect to that. The department, not under my direction, but under direction from past Ministers - and it certainly is continued under myself - has been consulting with Native Indian people, with Indian Bands, about resource conservation and I think is making some significant progress, and we hope to do much more of that.

I don't think that hunting animals at night is desirable. I don't say it's necessarily a cowardly act; I think it's a wasteful act. I think that it's something that adds nothing to the stature of the hunter; that's not hunting. As the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek has

indicated, there's no sport involved in it. I am very, very anxious that we build a framework of trust and responsibility because, Mr. Chairman, not just our government, this present New Democratic Party Government of this time; not merely the government that was in office before us; but governments for some decades - I don't know how long this policy existed - has established, in connection with the use of wildlife, the first priority is the domestic use of Treaty Indian people, and I assume, Mr. Chairman, that commitment was made, that policy direction was given to the Wildlife Branch because of the historic Treaty rights that pre-existed the transfer of Natural Resources, including wildlife, to the province in 1930.

So, Mr. Chairman, while I, and my colleagues, are very, very much concerned with the waste, with the terrible - I shouldn't use the word "terrible" - but certainly the serious concerns we have about night hunting of any kind. We believe that we must get the Native people involved in answering that question themselves, and I think we will do that. So far, despite the night hunting, our deer populations are holding reasonably well; it's variable in accordance with the weather, but our deer are holding out reasonably well.

Where we have - and this Wildlife Report indicates it - a significant concern is in respect to moose. While there is a downturn in the moose herd, in some areas, I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that our proposed hunting regulations for this year will not dramatically reflect any critical reduction of the moose herds. There are some changes proposed in the regulations, but I can tell you there is one area that's being opened for moose hunting that did not exist before because there is a herd there that can stand some hunting pressure.

I want again to indicate that I'm prepared to debate at length if the committee wants to, this issue, but I will try as carefully as I can to indicate my concern that we get Native people involved in conservation, rather than having confrontations with Native people about our desire, and I'm sure their desire, to make sure that the resource is continued for generations to come.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. H. ENNS:** The Minister can wax eloquent but the fact remains, it seems to me, that if we dedicated our efforts to making nightlighting a dangerous and unsafe hunting manner, and if we had to, if the department would advise the Minister what had to be done to do so, what particular court case, what kind of regulation or legislative change would be required to make nightlighting an unsafe hunting practice, it would seem to me that would be a step that then takes away the ambiguity as to when the night hunting is safe and when it is not safe.

I'm aware of the fact that the province can enact such legislation. can enforce it with respect to our Treaty Indians, if it can be demonstrated it's an unsafe practice, and I'm suggesting that's the direction, perhaps, the Minister ought to go.

Mr. Chairman, on another matter, can the Minister confirm that our duck population, waterfowl population is approaching an all time low?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** First of all, in respect to specifics, I'm not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether we can do more

than what has already been done. I'm grateful that we do have provisions in The Wildlife Act that make it an offence to hunt in a dangerous manner and we're able to prosecute, and I indicated that I could probably give you statistics in respect to that. I had them here a moment ago and I've set them aside somewhere, or maybe Rich has. But we have continued to prosecute those who have been hunting in a manner which, pursuant to the provisions of the present Wildlife Act, make it an offence.

Total occurrences in the season '82-83 were 8,520; total occurrences in the period April 1st to May 4th, 354. Of the totals that I've referred to, the total number that involved a problem or nuisance wildlife were 2,861. I guess it's skunks and all sorts of things, problem wildlife, racoons, too, they get down chimneys and what have you, Mr. Chairman. Total prosecutions in that period, 2,289; total prosecutions in the period April 1st to May 4th - that's very current, 101. Of the total prosecutions, that is 2,289, the number that involved Treaty Indians was 252, so we had over 2,000 prosecutions that did not involve Treaty Indians. Of the prosecutions, the nightlighting prosecutions, Indians were 91, as they were considered to be hunting unsafely, but we had 79 non-Indians hunting at night.

Mr. Chairman, I've indicated we've had consultations, perhaps I should give more specificity to that. We've had discussion with Treaty Indians and Treaty Indian Bands at the Big Eddy and Moose Lake Reserves, the Western Region Tribal Council which composes the Crane River, the Ebb and Flow, the Gamblers, Kee-See-Koowenin, Pine Creek, Rolling River, Waterhen, Way-Way-See Kappo, the Valley River, and we've had individual meetings at Pine Creek and Valley River; a number of meetings, again, with the Waterhen and meetings with Fort Alexander, Little Black River, Hollow Water, and Brokenhead. We are continuing in our follow-up in respect to meetings with Treaty Indian people in connection with these issues.

In respect to the waterfowl, we do have an indicated reduction in the population. One of the problems we have, Mr. Chairman, is that we are involved in a five-year - this is the last of the five years - Waterfowl Hunting Agreement in which there is a recognition that we will not manipulate the regulations and therefore skew the balancing or the research that all of the governments want to see involved in longer programming of resource management.

I have had representation to me and the department that because of the decline in certain species of ducks, mallard, pintail, redhead, canvasback - the puddling ducks, that's an appropriate description - that these ducks have been under more pressure, that there be sharp reductions in the bag limit of these species. While our bag limit has been decreasing, however, pursuant to the management understandings involved, the U.S. harvest in the Mississippi flyaway has been increasing. So while people urge upon myself, as Minister, and the department that we ought to restrict bag limits in Manitoba, it really is to me somewhat unfair that we do that and yet there is no reduction in the take or the bag limit of those same species south of the border.

Now, I'm given to understand that the mallard population index in Manitoba, that is the nesting numbers, actually increased last year compared to previous years. That's a good sign. I think that, although

I haven't asked them specifically for it, my observation is that we've got a pretty good nesting season thus far, and the signs are very hopeful that we are moving into a fairly good production this spring. Of course, a lot of things can change that, a severe late frost or anything like that.

What we are planning to do is to consult with western Manitobans, for example, southwestern Manitoba, concerned about the hunting pressure of some species there. We're concerned that it have much more consultation in connection with seasons during the course of this year. Now, maybe I'm answering at some length but the other thing, Mr. Chairman, that we want to do is at the conclusion of this season be able to review with other signatories to that waterfowl convention changes in seasons and bag limits reflecting the five-year history.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Emerson.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a comment regarding the Five-Year Reports and register some reservation in regard to the Minister's position regarding the night hunting by Native people for the simple reason we had a resolution in the Legislature which was basically requesting that the nightlighting be negotiated to be changed. The Minister and his colleagues saw fit to amend it which basically makes it almost meaningless or certainly takes away all of what the intent of that resolution was. If the Minister was very sincere about this nightlighting problem, I think the members of the government had decided to support that, I think it would have gone a long way because that in itself by supporting it would not necessarily make it so anyway. It would still have to be negotiated, so the negotiation aspect of it could have continued. I hold the Minister a little suspect as to how sincere he is. But to pursue that further, and the conclusion of that Five-Year Report, it indicates some concern about certain species being on the decline and this possibly could continue for the next five or 10 years. I'm wondering if the Minister has any specific programs that he is working on in terms of trying to resolve that long-range planning, or what specifically is the Minister doing in regard to the decline of some of the wildlife populations.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, as I've indicated earlier, and I don't want to speak at any length on that, the one species identified in the Five-Year Report that is in a state of decline, particularly in some areas, is the moose species and we are involved in consultation programs, particularly with Treaty Indian Bands. We have effected some measure of agreement already in respect to some areas; we have reflected the decline in the moose population in our hunting regulations.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Is the Minister indicating that there's going to be more restrictive hunting coming out regarding the moose for the next season?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I don't have the specifics of the recommendations before me, but there is not a great deal of change. I do recall that non-

residents of Canada will be permitted a smaller take of moose this year.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** There's a comment there might be less of them coming through for certain reasons. I just want to repeat, aside from the consultation that is taking place with the Native people, are there any other programs, besides the reduction of possible harvest for sport hunters? A concern I have is, even if that reduction takes place and there's less of a harvest for the sportsman, if the other area is not addressed and resolved, to some degree, there's going to be more pressure again on the Minister, because the sports hunter is going to then feel even more concerned if the avenue of nightlighting is still allowed to be continued and the harvest for sportsmen is going to be restricted even more. So that, in my mind, will not necessarily resolve it, it will probably create bigger problems.

Is there any other areas where the Minister is concentrating on in terms of any programs that he has in place, not just for moose but maybe for some of the others that are on the decline or where some concern is expressed? For example, let's say, are there areas designated where people maybe, a thought that has been coming to mind is, for example, the habitat aspect of it, where farmers possibly get some compensation program worked out for retaining of habitat for wildlife of all species. I think this is part of the thing, that the conclusion here indicates is that the lack of habitat for wildlife generally is going to be creating a long-term problem. Maybe now is the time to address it where we make some provision for the farmers, that we retain some of the habitat that they cannot necessarily make good use of, in terms of cultivated acreage, but somehow try anyway. If there was some incentive, either through a tax incentive or monetary incentive, to try and encourage farmers to retain some of the habitat.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his observation. Certainly, as I indicated in my opening remarks in respect to the dedication of the quarter section for a wildlife refuge, we are most anxious to protect a wildlife habitat, and encourage those who are concerned about conservation of the resource. We are looking at moose habitat; we hope that we will be able to reflect our concerns, in respect to habit, into practical program. We have been studying moose, particularly on Hecla Island; it's a small herd of animals and we are going to hopefully enhance our information about moose habits by studies we've been carrying out about the relatively small herd of moose on Hecla Island.

In respect to the broader consideration the gentleman is referring to, encouraging individual farmers to maintain habitat, I agree with him wholeheartedly. Many people in the past have, quite properly, identified the concern that farm folk who own land have to have some incentive, some encouragement, not to drain their wetland and not to clear the marginal land of the bush cover, because it is important that our wildlife species have this essential habitat. One of the ways, of course, is to eliminate taxation on such property; that's one of the recommendations that the Assessment Review

Committee, I believe, made in their report, and I think that's one that we all certainly want to give very serious consideration to.

At the present time, assessment on wetland and assessment on marginal bush land is very low, but there's still, as I understand it, some degree of taxation on those lands. It would be very helpful, I think, as an incentive to people who own such land if, providing they're left in their natural state, there is no taxation. We are certainly looking, as a department, at ways in which we can enhance wildlife habitat, existing wetlands; we're looking at ways in which we can get a heavier propagation of ducks by such things as nesting islands in our marshes; some ways in which we can maintain habitat that otherwise would be destroyed.

We have, of course, proposals to enlarge wildlife habitat in various areas, and I hesitate however to take too long in giving detail on this, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** I have a few questions specifically regarding the proposed wildlife management area that I think three or four of the clubs have been working with, and I wonder if the Minister could indicate the position where it's at right now. I'm referring, specifically, to the St. Malo Wildlife Association that went ahead and proceeded to buy certain lands so that a designated block could be worked on. I wonder if the Minister can indicate where it's at with that proposal right now?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I would rather not give all of the details at this stage, because I would rather give recognition to the efforts of all of the people that have been involved in the proposals for enlargement of wildlife habitat in their region, southeastern part of Manitoba that's commonly the Ile de Pilote area.

There have been extensive efforts. I have met on a number of occasions with representatives from that area, including representatives of the LGD of Stuartburn; the Wildlife Association down there. We are close to having a position where we'll make a formal announcement of a dedication of some land there in respect to the wildlife development. I would rather that I share that announcement with those folks.

**MR. H. ENNS:** Why should he share it with you, you're only a member, Albert?

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** I can accept that, I suppose, I'll have to. The thing that I would like to know, when the Minister says a proposed announcement coming in the near future, how near is that future time-frame wise?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, certainly before the summer is out.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We really haven't been getting a great deal from the Minister here beyond generalities. I'd like to get some specific answers from the Minister and some firm positions from him.

For instance, this is a pretty fundamental question. Can the Minister tell us whether any big game population can sustain unlimited harvest?



**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think any big game population, in any part of the world, can sustain unlimited harvest.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Well, then, Mr. Chairman, what limitations are there on the harvest by Treaty Indian people?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member knows that Treaty Indian people have recognized that in order to sustain the use of the resource they do not hunt indiscriminately. They hunt for food. When they need animals for food, and if the animals are available and can be obtained, they have done so in the past and have continued to do that successfully without eliminating the herds thus far.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, that's nonsense. It is absolute patent nonsense that we're hearing from the Minister now. There are Indian people who hunt just as indiscriminately as there are non-Indian people who hunt indiscriminately. There are Indian people who have a great regard for conservation, the same as there are non-Indian people who have a great regard for it.

The truth of the matter is that when it was necessary to undertake conservation measures on behalf of non-Indian people, it has always been necessary for the government to move in and pass some laws. Because human nature, being what it is, people simply don't agree to go along with what is in the public interest. The Minister doesn't simply ask the rest of the population to agree to conservation measures and not have any laws involved. The truth of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, there are many situations where hunting by Treaty Indian people has virtually wiped out the big game populations. To the best of my knowledge, across Canada, of all the hundreds of reserves there are, there are only two cases where the Indian people themselves have moved to pass by-laws governing conservation on the lands over which they have direct control.

I suggest that what you really have is that the Indian people are no different than anybody else, is that they are basically no more inclined towards conservation of the resource than any other group of people is inclined to it. They happen to have a right under the Treaties, which was given to them at a time when all of the rest of the people had the same right. When those Treaties were signed in 1871, in 1873, in 1874, everybody had the right to hunt unlimited, without limitation. At the time that the Treaties were signed, the game populations had already been decimated to the point where the Indian people were largely starving.

Now, since that time, there have been a lot of changes take place. The application of the laws have varied over the years. In the 1920s and 1930s, the moose population, for instance, had declined to the point where there was almost no hunting available for anybody. Because of application of laws in the '30s, '40s and '50s, which perhaps was not technically defensible and has since been shown not to be technically defensible, at least lead to the recovery of moose populations specifically, so that both the Indian people and the non-Indian people have been able to benefit from that.

We now have a situation where we're going back to where we were in the 1920s, in the 1930s. There are

situations where 20 years ago, 15 years ago, moose populations were abundant - I am speaking of the North Interlake, for instance. Today, there are very few there; the sport hunting in much of the area is not allowed. It is strictly a take by Native people under the rights that they have through the Treaties. There are a number of quotations through this Five-Year Report, just for example, Page 21, I quote, "Even complete closure to licenced hunting will not reverse the decline in the provincial herd because of Treaty Indian harvest of cows and calves." There is another place, I can't lay my hand on it just immediately but there is a quotation here. Well, no, it's on Page 16 with reference to moose, "At present, habitat is not a limiting factor in moose populations." What do we have from the Minister a few minutes ago is a wishy-washy statement that he's looking at moose habitat when this report says habitat is not the problem. It has to do with population, management, Mr. Chairman. It goes on to the conclusion where it says on Page 149, "Treaty Indian use of wildlife has increased significantly and at current rates will necessitate further curtailment and in some cases, cessation of licenced recreational and tourist use. In extreme cases, the viability of some wildlife populations could be jeopardized."

Mr. Chairman, why can't the Minister face up to the fact that there is a problem? A set of circumstances prevail whereby the Indian people have rights under the Treaties, but there also were provisions in the Treaties which allowed for the Federal Government to apply regulations concerning conservation. The one area more than anything else which is causing problems is that it has to do with the hunting methods and the equipment that the people are able to use under the Treaties. I have to tell you these are not illegal activities, that debate before has always centered around the so-called illegal activities of Indians and saying that other people have undertaken illegal activities, too. These activities haven't been illegal for Indian people because the courts have said they had the right under the Treaty to use lights at night to hunt providing it couldn't be proven that in that particular case it was dangerous.

Now, why can't the Minister simply face up to the fact that there is a very serious problem out there and try and move in that one small area that does not infringe upon the basic Treaty rights that the Indian people have? But it would move to remove one of the serious points of contention that exists; it would move to make some improvement in the management of the population. And I suspect, Mr. Chairman, that there would be a great many people and a great many Indian people individually who would agree that type of hunting should not be carried on. I am sure the Minister isn't going to extend those privileges to non-Indian people. If it isn't a very serious problem that we have here, then presumably those same hunting privileges could be extended to everybody else and then we would all be equal. We wouldn't have any wildlife left.

So, Mr. Chairman, we've got to see some action on the part of the Minister when he says that this has been going on for decades. I would point out to him that it hasn't been going on for decades, that the populations have been suffering to the extent that they have. Ten years ago this province still had rather abundant moose populations. I would suggest that the hunting opportunity for moose probably was somewhere

near the peak around 1970 or thereabouts, so that this situation that we have now has only come about lately, Mr. Chairman. Something is going to have to be done.

On specifics in some other areas then, Mr. Chairman, talking about the necessity for habitat programs, and again I hear the same kinds of discussion that we've heard for a number of years about things that could be done, but can the Minister give us an indication of how many acres or square miles of deer habitat have been lost in the province during the past year or the past five years, whatever period he'd like to use?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I'll see if I can give answer to the specific question that the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain has addressed to me. Let me very briefly respond to the patent nonsense that I've heard from The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

Mr. Chairman, he suggests that Treaty Indian people have been eliminating, obviously, critical wildlife species in this province. I would like him - of course, I really don't expect him to answer - to indicate what particular wildlife species Treaty Indian hunting has eliminated from this province. I know that in the early days we had the buffalo and the passenger pigeon; we had game hunters who hunted for food; we had thousands of animals and birds slaughtered on a commercial basis, not primarily by Treaty Indian people — (Interjection)

**MR. J. DOWNEY:** Now we've got turkeys like you.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I will accept the cackling of the bird that just came in as somewhat unusual to the work of this committee. Mr. Chairman, we know that wildlife species have been eliminated but I don't believe they've been eliminated from the face of Manitoba as a result of Treaty Indian hunting. That's not to say that there isn't a problem, and for the honourable member to suggest that somehow I'm dodging it, and the The Honourable Member for Lakeside at least used a more decent expression; he suggested I was obfuscating. The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain thinks that I'm talking patent nonsense.

Mr. Chairman, we know that there are many people in Manitoba, not Treaty Indian people, who have been breaking the law. I read the statistics about night hunting by non-Indians. Mr. Chairman, breaches of the law are not exclusive to any one group of people. We know, for example - and other jurisdictions have faced this difficulty - about the number of trophy hunters who have flown in and shot animals, wasted animals, because they wanted a nice rack, and all they took was the rack. Well there's a time and a place for program, but to suggest that the real and only problem is Treaty Indian hunting is painting too dark a picture one way. Let's be fair.

Yes, there is a problem and I've indicated there is a problem in connection with night hunting. I don't like it; I believe it has to be changed, but it has to be changed with the consultative efforts that we think are possible with Treaty Indian people.

The honourable member says we have to do something decisive, we have to change a law. The

opportunity, Mr. Chairman, was his, as Minister of Natural Resources. It was his government that could have insisted, they could have made application to the Federal Government to change the law. Here we had, in parts of Manitoba, two herds of very precious animals, the Kaminuriak and Beverley herds, that were under pressure - and under pressure for what reason? Mr. Chairman, because of the changes in hunting techniques; snowmobiles, capable of driving down the herds, automatic guns, telescopic sights. Now did the honourable member, who was Minister of Natural Resources, or his government, suggest that the law had to be changed? No, Mr. Chairman, because that wasn't the route to go to get Native people co-operative and working for conservation of the resource, didn't go at it from a confrontationist point of view to change the law arbitrarily; no, get the co-operation of Native people and that was the initiative. I, Mr. Chairman, as a succeeding Minister was happy with that kind of precedent. That's the kind of initiative that will restore and maintain critical herds.

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems we have today in respect to our moose resource in particular, is that we've been building more and more roads in the North to extract resources. We have many more miles of resource access roads and that has a detrimental effect on the wildlife species, because now hunters are able to get access to resources that were otherwise very difficult and they have now been able to harvest or take a great many more animals.

Mr. Chairman, I was asked a specific about the number of acres of deer habitat that have been lost. I refer to Page 31 in the report, the penultimate paragraph, "Deer in Manitoba are facing a steady decrease in habitat because of clearing of woodland for agriculture and urban development. Habitat scarcity will become even more serious during the next decade when a further 20 percent loss is expected to occur."

The actual habitat loss apparently is referred on Page 98 of the report when an estimated 51,800 hectares - pardon me, I'll have to convert that, Mr. Chairman - of upland cover and 12,000 hectares of wetlands are bulldozed and drained for conversion to cropland each year. Agricultural practices such as burning, cropping to the edge of marshes and intensive livestock grazing further reduce the capability of thousands of hectares of habitat to support wildlife.

Those are the specifics that I'm able to provide from the report, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** First of all, let me say to the Minister and correct the record that I didn't, anywhere, say that the Treaty Indian people had been responsible for the elimination of any species from the province. I'm quoting to the Minister from the Five-Year Report, on Page 149, it says that, in extreme cases, the viability of some wildlife populations could be jeopardized. That's where I'm quoting from, Mr. Chairman. That wasn't a statement that I had put together on my own and statements such as the one on Page 21 where, even complete closure to licensed hunting will not reverse the decline in the provincial herd because of Treaty Indian harvest of cows and calves, indicates that there is an extremely serious problem, and it is one, by the way, which we were in the process of putting together recommendations for

Cabinet in terms of dealing with this and dealing with it differently than the question of the Kaminuriak caribou herd was dealt with because the two situations are entirely different.

What one has with the caribou herd is a situation where the Native people are the only people who have direct involvement with that herd of animals, and if the herd is eliminated, they are going to be the people who are going to suffer the most. There isn't another group of people that's involved to the extent that is the case with the moose population, Mr. Chairman. It's entirely different. In respect to moose, there are thousands of other people who have a direct interest involved as well. Furthermore, the same basics apply, in terms of trying to optimize the production. Why is it that the Minister says that in terms of applying restrictions on the hunting methods that are used by Indian people - and I stress again, this is not a call to limit the numbers that they could take or the time of year that they could take them, but only the methods. Why does the Minister insist that that has to be done with the consent of the Indian people any more than the other people who use our wildlife resource could only be asked to conform to the general provisions of The Wildlife Act with their consent?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain wants me, and obviously my colleagues, to develop a confrontationist attitude in respect to Treaty Indian people in respect to changes in the manner in which they conceive is in their interest to hunt. I'm not prepared to adopt a confrontationist attitude. I have earlier indicated and I don't know why the honourable member has difficulty and wants to distinguish between the Treaty Indian Bands at Lac Brochet in respect to the barren-ground caribou. I earlier indicated that it is not this government's adoption, it has been governments for years and years, have adopted as a priority usage of wildlife, that domestic use, that is, Treaty Indian use of wildlife was the priority over recreational use of wildlife. It wasn't the priority I established, Mr. Chairman, since our government came to office. I found that there; I found that implemented by the previous administration and presumably the administration before.

So the people who are most affected have the prior right above the recreational hunters from United States or from other parts of Canada or from Manitoba. The prior right is that of the Treaty Indian and he or she has a vested interest in that resource, in the moose resource, and they are as much affected by any diminution of that resource where they have relied upon it traditionally for part of their food, as those communities that were relying on food from the barren-ground caribou herds. The principle is the same because of the adoption of the priority that governments have given over the years not just recent years, many, many years in respect to the domestic use of wildlife by Treaty Indian people.

So, Mr. Chairman, I say that we are involved in a consultative process. We want the people who have most at stake in connection with the resource, who have the priority in use of that resource to be involved, actively involved in promoting conservation. I think, Mr. Chairman, we will get that kind of commitment; we are

getting it now in some areas in respect to some Treaty Indian Bands where they have seen a diminution of the resource and they are anxious about it. We need co-operation, we need their assistance to go otherwise and try and force people to try and exhibit conservation is very difficult and the rewards may be very, very slight. That's not to say that we're not concerned to make every effort to encourage people to conserve but to try and force conservation on people who have great sensitivity at this point about their rights is, I think, the wrong way to go.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, how does the Minister see this approach working? How will it be applied in the field? He's going to talk to the Indian people, that's fine. But how does he actually see it working?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, staff have had conversations with bands, in particular, band councils have indicated a concern about this, a concern to monitor any hunting to try to ensure that certain types of animals are not harvested. For example, the concern in the report is that Treaty Indian hunting has, in some areas, had a significant effect on moose because of hunting of cows and calves. We have, I believe, established a considerable measure of agreement in respect to some areas in respect to that form of hunting and that is significant.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Well, how is this respect evidenced, Mr. Chairman? What can we expect to see? Are we going to see the Indian people voluntarily agreeing to comply with laws that everyone else has, or is it going to be on the system where it's simply up to the individual to decide whether they comply? How is it going to work?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, the band and council of Treaty Indian Band in an area where it is, from our analysis, an area where moose are in decline because of the nature of the kill, we are seeking their co-operation to hunt certain species only, to limit the number of their kills. We have an indication from at least some bands, that they are prepared to do that. It's too early to say to you today, yes, we have this formal or informal agreement with this band and there has been a reduction. We are actively working at that; we expect that there will be in the statistics file because we do get a return on kills by Treaty Indian people - that there will be a change in hunting pattern.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, I'm talking primarily about the hunting methods. Has the Minister even talked to Indian Bands about placing restrictions on hunting methods and equipment, as separate from any type of limitation as to season and bag limits?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I won't elaborate at any length. I have had some discussion personally, I say some, I haven't engaged in extensive discussion. I know the department has had discussion; we have ongoing discussions at the present time with Treaty Indian Bands on these questions.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Does the Minister agree that it would be possible to amend The Natural Resources Transfer

Act in order to make it possible to carry out those provisions in the treaties that said that the government could, in fact, apply laws governing hunting of game - I forget the exact wording - from time to time?

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I would hesitate to give an answer to that question because I haven't really weighed the difficulties. I know that it would involve considerable controversy. I would assume that because of the sensitivity about rights that now exist by virtue of the concerns about entrenchment of rights in the Charter, that the process would not be an easy one if it were decided to be embarked upon.

I think that, Mr. Chairman, we are facing up to the fact that there is no quick, simple way to answer the concerns; that it's an involved process, one that will work if there is goodwill, consultation and a dedicated purpose of conservation on the part of all people concerned.

**MR. B. RANSOM:** Mr. Chairman, there's goodwill and dedication on the part of all people about conservation, whether they're Indians or whether they're not Indians, but governments have found it necessary to legislate conservation and to legislate controls over the harvest of game. I know of no situation where it has ever worked, that it could be done on a voluntary basis when you have public ownership of the resource, such as, we do in our country.

The Minister continues to talk about rights. Our position is, Mr. Chairman, that we are not talking about a right when we talk about the hunting methods; we're talking about a right when we talk about hunting, generally, but not with respect to the hunting methods that are involved. You will find, if one looks at what is going on in the country, that the Federal Government has always had, and has always practiced, the right that was given to them under the Treaties to place restrictions, not only on the methods of equipment to be used in hunting, but also to limit the Indian people to seasons and bag limits; the Federal Government is able to do that under the Treaties.

What the problem has been was that when the responsibility for the resources was transferred to the provinces, that right was not fully transferred to the provinces. The courts have since determined that the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement doesn't give that right to the province, to place restrictions on the Native people.

For the Minister to conclude that we're dealing here with a question of rights, when it hasn't been tested to that point, I think is an abrogation of his responsibility. Surely everyone wants to see people getting along and avoiding a confrontation, if possible, but one should not be attempting to avoid confrontation with one group by abrogating responsibilities to another group, Mr. Chairman. I'm afraid that if the Minister simply takes the position that it is a right of the Treaty Indian people to hunt by whatever means they wish, then I think that the Minister is incorrect in taking that position, and that he should be examining that position to determine whether or not it could, in all likelihood, succeed; and then if he wishes to go to the Treaty Indian people and say, look we've got a problem and it's getting more serious, and we have the right to make changes in the

legislation; we would like your support for doing it, but we recognize that in the end we're going to have to act because it's in the overall public interest to do so.

Mr. Chairman, that's the kind of approach that I would hope that the Minister would be willing to undertake, because this problem is very very serious. One can try and make it seem as though it isn't as serious as it really is and you can go back and talk about what the United States Army did to the buffalo, or whatever you want, but the fact of the matter is that there is a very serious problem, both in terms of the status of some wildlife populations, as well as the social tensions that have been created. I know some members didn't like to talk about that when we were debating the resolution. The fact of the matter is there are social tensions that exist because of this because most people don't fully understand the kinds of rights that were given to the Native people under the Treaties.

We have had situations, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure the Attorney-General is aware of it, where a person's life was lost as a consequence of an incident relating to night hunting. So it is not just a hypothetical issue that we're dealing with here, it's a very real issue when one gets out in the field and talks to people who feel threatened, both in terms of their own physical safety, by the kind of activities that are going on out there by a small minority of the people who have the right - I would want to stress that. There are a lot of other people who feel threatened by that; there are a lot of other people out there who feel threatened because their access to the resource is disappearing. I acknowledge that the Native people have the first call on it; I think we were probably the first government to set that down in writing, that we acknowledged that they had the first call of it, but there are things that can be done that will protect both the basic rights that the Treaty Indian people have, as well as provide some access for other people to the resource as well. Unless we can accomplish that, Mr. Chairman, then this is going to be a problem that will be much more serious next year and the year after when we're back before this committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Hour being 4:30 we are interrupting the proceedings of this committee for Private Members' Hour.

## SUPPLY - NORTHERN AFFAIRS

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs. Does the Minister have an introductory statement to make?

**HON. J. COWAN:** I do, thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

It's a pleasure and a privilege to be able to introduce the Northern Affairs Estimates for the upcoming fiscal year, that of 1983-1984. I'd like to precede the line-by-line in detailed review of those Estimates with a few opening remarks which I believe will provide an overview for the members opposite, and through them to others of the activities of the department of the past year. I'll also spend a few moments addressing some of the anticipated actions which we believe may be of more significance for the upcoming year. However, I hasten to add that I will not cover all of them at this time, but

will use much of the debate on the line-by-line part of the Estimates to go into more detail on them.

Mr. Chairperson, these are not easy times for any level of government. As you are aware difficult economic circumstances confront each and every elected body and elected official as we seek to meet increased demands for programs and services within the context of limited resources. These are times that challenge us all to work together to meet those needs in a creative, compassionate and co-operative fashion.

Nowhere is that more true than in the Department of Northern Affairs or in the Northern Affairs communities, where even in the best of times there have never been enough resources to meet longstanding and historical inadequacies in a totally comprehensive manner. So this year in that regard is little different. For the scores of communities that are Northern Affairs communities, times have always been hard. In spite of that history and the present day circumstances of the economy, I would suggest that we have managed to make some progress in many important years over the past number of months.

We have had to chart our course with care and with caution to ensure that wherever possible we were able to use the lowest possible cost solution to meet existing problems and that's what we mean by creativity. We've had to test new ideas, new programs, new policies and new projects against their cost efficiencies and their anticipated benefits in order to maximize the value of our very limited dollars. This has not always been an easy task.

Certainly there have been many disagreements on what provided for the appropriate course of action. There have been disagreements as to what might be the most cost-efficient way to solve a problem. There have been disagreements about the timing by which we would address those problems. There have been differences of opinions about the relative value judgments on programs and projects and policies of all sorts and that was to be anticipated when we knew right from the start that we would be unable to accomplish all that we felt needed to be accomplished.

Our departmental staff knew well from their own experiences over a number of years that these differences when they did exist, that these disagreements when they did arise could best be resolved through co-operation and flexibility. It is exactly that approach that allow for the effective resolution of many difficult situations. Staff were prepared to work with, and indeed they did work with the elected officials at all levels to identify both problems and solutions. In this way we were able to resolve difficulties in a manner that proved acceptable in most instances to all the involved and affected individuals. As a department I believe we learned many important lessons from the past years of difficult economic times.

In some sense the approach of creative co-operation is as much a product of our times today as it is a part of any philosophy which we carry with us as a political party or a movement. It arises out of a need which we all share to make the most of what we have. It is also true in these days that we all have to accept less than we would under other circumstances. It's a reality that we don't wish to see carry on any longer than necessary but we know that under the circumstances of the day, it is indeed something which we must face up at this

time. So we have to be prepared to accept less than we would under other times.

Having said that I want to talk briefly about the Northern Development Agreement because I believe this is one of those areas; that the Northern Development Agreement is a recent example of a government that accepted less than it would have under different circumstances.

After a number of years of both negotiations and extensions, a New Northern Development Agreement was finally signed on November 29, 1982. I for one have been quick to agree with those that suggest that this new federal-provincial initiative is not a perfect agreement, nor is it all that we would wish to see, and certainly it is a product of negotiations. If it were up to the province alone - certainly that's not the case when we're dealing with federal-provincial agreements - but had that been the case, had it been up to us to shape that multimillion dollar agreement, I can assure you that it would take on a somewhat different form than it now has.

As a province we were prepared to commit more dollars to many parts of the agreement. As a province, we felt that there should be more money provided for infrastructure in the agreement. As a province, we felt that there was a need for more cost-sharing of economic delivery and development monies. We would have preferred a much stronger provincial input into certain delivery mechanisms that are a part of the agreement.

Those are the types of positions that we laid on the table and we negotiated with the Federal Government. The agreement that we got back, as a result of those negotiations in difficult times, is not perfect and we did not sign it because it was perfect. We signed it because it was needed and it was workable, that it provided for something by way of economic development, social development and the development of human resources in those difficult times.

It must also be said that even with all its limitations, this new agreement has much to offer in regard to the development of the North. It provides for the continuation and enhancement of existing programming, a policy that has proved successful in the past. Programs, such as BUNTEP, are continued. Expansions of programs based on that format such as ACCESS are being included in the agreement, and we are building upon their successful format of previous programs.

The agreement also calls for a significant inflow of federal money into Northern Manitoba through direct delivery programs on the part of the Federal Government. This aspect of the agreement has been criticized by many and, in fact, as I indicated earlier, were it up to the Provincial Government alone, we certainly would have had it a different way.

The agreement, however, does commit the Federal Government to spending tens of millions of dollars in the North over the next number of years. It also provides for that money to be spent on programs that are developed in consultation with both the Provincial Government and the communities they are intended to serve.

Of course, the same can also be said for the direct delivery provincial programming that is included in the agreement. So while we would have had it differently had we been able to do so, we do believe that in these

difficult times to get the Federal Government to commit that sort of money to the North, even if they're going to deliver it in a direct way, is an accomplishment in itself.

It must also be said that to my knowledge no other province has been able to negotiate even that with the Federal Government over the past number of years in respect to Northern Development Agreements, that we stood alone in that area. I think we have to take some pleasure in the fact that we did accomplish even that. Another important initiative that is contained in the agreement is a provision that has been made for client and target groups to be involved in decision-making at all levels of implementation.

I just returned from an Agreement Advisory Committee meeting in Thompson last week at which we had representatives of the various groups which are represented on the Advisory Committee. We talked about the agreement in general terms. We talked about where we had been able to go in four months; we talked about where we wanted to go over the next period of time; we talked about some of the problems that we're having in getting the agreement up and running, up into speed. We talked about how we wanted to solve those problems. We talked about how we wanted to expand the knowledge about the agreement and bring more people into the decision-making process. That, to me, is one of the key parts of this new agreement. Not the money, that's important; not the provision for infrastructure development, that's important; not the provision for the development of economic opportunities and human resources, that too is important, but the opportunity for those who are going to be most affected by the programs to be able to involve themselves in a meaningful way in shaking that program and making it work. That is somewhat new, something we had to argue for when we were discussing what final shape that program would take. It is something which we accomplished.

I look forward to talking about that part of the program, as well as the monies, with the members opposite because I think it is in fact an example which can be and should be used by other jurisdictions and by ourselves in other instances to develop more meaningful participation by client and target groups in programs which affect them. This expanded process for reviewing progress, developing the general thrust of the agreement, will allow for a more responsive program that can meet the needs of those and the needs that are thought by those that are most affected to be most important.

So there we have it, a New Northern Development Agreement, a total of \$186.2 million of which probably only a \$100 million to \$105 million is money that is directly related to the agreement. However, we put it together in a package, and we believe that package in the final result has benefits which outweigh any disadvantages of it. Most assuredly, it is not all that it could be, and probably is not all that it could nor should be, but an agreement that does provide for continued and expanded programming and for meaningful involvement by northerners in the development of the North is before you. For those reasons, I am pleased to commend it to you.

The past year we've also seen the publication of the report of the Treaty Land Entitlement Commission. At

the same time we've undertaken the discussion of its recommendations with the Federal Government, with the Treaty Land Entitlement Chiefs, and of course we've been represented as a Provincial Government in those discussions.

The report itself and the recommendations contained therein have provided a productive and a positive focus for the discussions which are still ongoing. As I have indicated earlier in this House, in response to questions from the Member for Turtle Mountain, it will still be several months before those discussions are completed. However, I can sincerely state at this time that the meetings that we have had to date have been both productive and positive. I am optimistic that through that sort of dialogue, which started with the public hearings, we will be able to resolve this longstanding issue.

As a Provincial Government, we recognize and acknowledge that Treaty Land Entitlement matters are largely matters between the Federal Government and the Treaty Land Entitlement Chiefs. We also acknowledged that many decisions in this regard are by history and necessity bilateral in nature. At the same time, and this is why we embarked upon the commission, public hearings and the discussions which are ongoing, we also believe that history shows that this matter is one of some importance to the province, that this matter is of importance to all of us. For that reason we want to be a part of those discussions, while at the same time acknowledging that there are traditional and historical mechanisms which have been developed between the two major parties to work on this issue. That is why, as well, we open the entire matter to public discussion by all parties. We did that so we can work together in a co-operative fashion to form a workable solution to this longstanding and historical debt.

The public dialogue which has been generated by the commission hearings in the publication of the report and the sending of the report to individuals has been a great assistance towards developing a better awareness as to the nature of the entitlement owing and the ways by which it can be satisfied.

I would like to take this opportunity, if I may, congratulate all those who participated in the development of that report. I want to congratulate them for their honest and their sincere efforts to involve themselves in such a way in building a consensus through which this sometimes emotional but always important issue can best be addressed. It would be unfair, as well as difficult, at this time to single out any one particular group for a specific mention for the role they have played throughout this process, so it shall have to suffice to thank them all equally for their assistance and for their participation.

At the time of the opening remarks for this department last year I spoke to the development of Northern Affairs communities in both economic and social terms. I am pleased to be able to advise you that, during the past year, what I hope you will agree to be, considerable and significant progress has been accomplished towards that end. For example, since that time about a year ago a total of 11 new communities have been added or returned to a self-administering or self-governing status. That is a significant accomplishment that brings the total to 33 communities,

I believe. Now, I mention that to you, not because we wish to take credit for it, because the credit for that rightly belongs to the communities, to the local elected officials and community residents who have worked long, hard difficult hours to provide both leadership and direction to those they serve and, if anyone on government side or involved in the government should take credit for it, it would have to be the staff in the field who are out there on a day-by-day basis working with the communities to assist them.

So, as a Minister standing before you in the Estimates, I can tell you I take great pleasure in what has happened, but I take very little credit for the elevation of these communities to that sought-after status. It's difficult for them; I talked about difficult economic times for all of us before, well it's especially difficult for communities in the North. They face, not only the current problems that we all face in an industrial society at this time, but as well they have to work in a local economy and under conditions that places unusual demands on them, demands to which we are not all subject. They have to attain that status of self-administration and take on self-governing aspects in communities that traditionally suffer from economic underdevelopment, and where unemployment rates range from 55 percent to 95 percent, and I've heard more and I've heard less, but let us agree that the unemployment rates there are unacceptable.

They have to do this in a context of communities where the loss of even one job, one single solitary job, can be damaging beyond all proportions or expectations. In many ways those traditional economies in which they work and in which they seek to attain this self-governing and self-administering status are like bare nerves where even the slightest change would create difficulties way out of proportion to what similar actions would create under other circumstances.

They are ultra-sensitive to the trends which we all face. We stand in this House and we talk about 12 percent, 6 percent, 5 percent, depending on the time, sometimes even 3 percent and 4 percent unemployment rates throughout the province, throughout the country, as being unacceptable, as being tragedies, as being crisis; and they are, for where there is one worker who wishes to work and cannot work we have a tragedy. That tragedy is pale besides the communities in the North where you have, historically, had such underdevelopment to allow for unemployment rates of tragic proportions on an ongoing and consistent basis. It's in that environment that they work towards and gain self-administering status.

I've talked about a political mechanism, self-administering status, in the context of economics, and I've done that purposely because I believe the two go hand-in-hand. I also believe that the work we have taken towards developing the North is just one more example where the approach of creative, co-operative and compassionate activity is working; hasn't solved all the problems, perhaps you or I never will see all the problems solved, but I believe it has taken us closer to a goal which I know we both share and, that is, a better Northern community in all ways.

We all seek local autonomy for local governments. When the Minister of Northern Affairs was with the previous administration, now the Member for Swan River, and his colleagues, talked about the Northe,

whether it was the previous Minister of Northern Affairs, the Member for Thompson, we all agreed on one thing, that's unusual in this business, but we all agreed that local autonomy was a goal to which we all should strive. There was no difference of opinion that that was a goal; there were some heated differences of opinion as to how we were to accomplish that and what we should do to make it a reality but it, in fact, was a goal to which we all aspired.

At the same, I think it's necessary that we all recognize that such autonomy will not develop where basic services and infrastructure is either lacking or inadequate. More importantly, it will not develop where there is no economic autonomy - remember I said that those two go hand-in-hand and I believe, in fact, that is the case.

As a government we've tried to acknowledge, and we have sought to honour those basic principles. Our strategy for assisting in the development of local government in Northern Affairs communities is, therefore, and will continue to be, multifaceted.

Firstly, we must provide training and support to individuals who seek to serve their communities at the local level; that's a fact. Where you don't have a long history of that sort of government; where you don't have experiences in the development of local autonomy and self-government, you then need to provide training programs, support services, to accelerate those individuals who wish to participate in their community in that way. So we provide them training and support, and this year we have training officers in place to provide that assistance in each of our operating regions - it's a bit of a new format and I'm certain the Member for Swan River will want to discuss that in more detail when we get into that section.

I highlight it in the opening remarks because I think it's important, I think it's indicative of the approach we're taking. In addition, we are trying to provide those individuals, their communities, with greater resources to undertake training programs on their own, again, we believe that is important. This is a priority program of the government, for that reason I have identified it here. We hope, we go beyond that, we anticipate that significant progress will continue to be made in this area over the next number of years. At the same time, the department is working with the communities and other government departments and other governments, in fact, to provide a basic level of infrastructure to Northern Affairs communities. This work is ongoing, the members across the way know of it and have participated in it in the past. It includes water and sewer programs; it includes a continuation of fire control and prevention programs which they had a large in developing and implementing in a positive way; it includes the construction of community buildings, administration buildings, the construction of recreation facilities; it includes the development of internal roads and docks and transportation systems and other capital works - and we'll discuss that, I'm certain, in the Capital Works portion of the Estimates.

We're doing that, not only to build structures and infrastructure, we are undertaking those efforts with several goals in mind. Firstly, we believe that different communities are in different stages of development, therefore, this infrastructure process and these programs must acknowledge those differences and

meet those needs in the most appropriate manner. We see our role, as a government and as a department, to provide the resources for these basic levels of infrastructure and to provide assistance to communities that wish to go beyond this basic level of service.

When reviewing the construction of Capital projects it has been our practice to place a strong emphasis on ensuring the greatest local participation in all aspects of that development. We seek to ensure the greatest participation of individuals in the community from the design stage, right through the actual construction. If we do that right we don't have to encourage them to use the facilities afterward, because the facilities will meet their needs, and for that reason will be a productive asset for the community. But what does that mean?

It means that designs should be developed in consultation and co-operation with the local community through the elected officials and other bodies which may wish to make comment upon it because we know that designs that we think are good designs are not always appropriate for circumstances in the North. There is a traditional way of doing things that must be addressed; our climatic conditions which must be addressed. There are styles that have to be acknowledged, and they have to be acknowledged in such a way to provide for the design of that facility to meet all those different styles, traditions and climatic demands.

It also means the use of local materials. We should be using local materials as much as we can, wherever we can. This is one area that I wish I could say we've made greater progress in. It's one that's perplexed me, because when you start to talk about the use of local materials, you start to talk about locally sawn lumber. Then you start to talk about all the restrictions and the building codes, and the different impositions on the construction styles and the use of that material, which are developed down here and not there.

Through the Minister of Housing, I think we've started to address that problem in a significant way through the Northern Housing Conference which was held in Thompson a couple of months ago but we have a long road to travel in that regard and it's one where I look forward to assistance, and suggestions, and criticism to enable us to move a bit faster if possible, because it is an area where there are many needs which are yet unmet.

Local labour is also a major objective of construction plans and activities. I don't need to comment much on that as we have in the past. I do need to point out that it is an objective to which we all strive. You want to make certain that you're getting the best value for that building during all phases of the construction use. One of the ways by which you can get that value is to provide for the greatest possible participation by local residents in the construction phase.

It's not enough to pick up a hammer and pound a nail, or pick up a saw and cut a log, or to put a window in, or lay carpet, we have to go beyond that. We have to talk about the plumbing; we have to talk about the electrical; we have to talk about even development architectural skills for design in the first instance, therefore it is our hope and is our objective to make certain that these projects contain, again where possible, ways by which new skills can be learned and

developed in the communities. These skills can be learned by those working on the projects. This will include both training and on-the-job opportunities for skilled development; it's another component.

Finally, where possible again, these projects can be contracted by community development appropriations and/or local entrepreneurs. We believe that's important. It's not enough just to be part of the labour component, but if there are going to be profits that accrue through the construction - if there's going to be long-term monies which accrue through the construction - then we believe that local residents whether they be working through a community organization such as a community development appropriation or through local entrepreneurs, should have an opportunity to participate at that level as well.

One highlight, one specific instance, because I was just recently there and because I believe it provides a concrete example of how this process works, and that's the administration building at Cross Lake. I've just had the pleasure to travel up there to participate in the opening of that building. It's gorgeous; it's a beautiful building. It has things that my office doesn't have like air conditioning - there's things to which we all aspire like air conditioning - but beyond that it is a well constructed building that suits the needs of the local community; that was designed in conjunction with the local community and was constructed using local labour entirely except for the plumbing, and I believe some of the concrete and design work.

The member opposite asks what building. That's the administration building in Cross Lake and it was just completed this year; a lovely example of what we seek in respect to making these buildings serve the community in every way possible.

Having said all that about the handsome work that had been done there, about the local involvement, I have to throw in the clincher because it's something over which I had no control or even my department had no control, therefore we take little credit for it, but it's something again which pleases us. That building was constructed under Budget and that's a rarity in the North as the members know. Far too often we are unable to come even close to Budget, but this building was done locally in that way, and was constructed under Budget. So I think it is an example of what can be accomplished if we set our minds to it.

Having said all that, let the record be clear that there will be failures as well. We have to be just as open and honest in discussing those failures in a positive and constructive way as we do in discussing the successes. To ignore the failures would be to lose the opportunity to benefit by the experience that they provide for us.

There have been discouragements from time-to-time. But generally through this strategy of maximizing opportunities for local development and benefits through these projects, we hope to increase their impact on the communities in which they're located.

As well we are presently reviewing our options in regard to our special employment programs and their incorporation into the development of long-term assets for Northern Affairs communities. As you are aware last year this government had a \$1.1 million employment program which was administered through the Department of Northern Affairs. It was designed to go into Northern communities. As well the Department of



Labour had an additional \$1.9 million Northern Job Creation Program designed to go into the communities which was developed and administered by that department.

These programs were designed first and foremost to provide jobs because we know the value of a job. We know the need and the desire for jobs. We know the long-term value of employment opportunities and skill development. So that was their main goal; jobs today; jobs for people who need jobs. At the same time we wanted as much as possible to use those programs to develop long-term infrastructure. We attempted to do that and we succeeded in a large number of cases. We have fishing stations in the North that weren't there before because of those job creation programs. We have buildings; we have houses; we have other projects which are of long-term benefits to the communities which were not there before, because of those programs.

We didn't succeed in every instance, not because the communities themselves didn't want us to do that, not because they didn't ask for that, but we were trapped in our own internal processes and our own program delivery strategies which didn't enable us to make the most effective use of those monies and there were some problems there. So we reviewed those problems with the communities; we reviewed them with others and we're now working on developing mechanisms by which we can increase long-term asset development through those programs. I look forward to the discussions that we're going to have in regard to those over the next number of days.

We are also committed to the continued use of programs such as CEDF, the Communities Economic Development Fund and Special ARDA, to assist those participating in traditional employment opportunities in the North, such as fishing and trapping. I don't believe that I have to go into great detail about those particular programs except to say that we have changed some of the policies of CEDF through consultation with the new board. We have a new board in place and we are hopefully, in a successful way, implementing Special ARDA Programs on an ongoing basis. We'll be discussing some of that in the committee hearings outside of this Chamber on Thursday of this week, I believe, and perhaps another meeting as well, when we discuss CEDF, Moose Lake Loggers and Channel Area Loggers, so I won't go in great detail at this time but I do think it's important to note that those programs are still providing the service for which they were designed.

It's also important to note that CEDF is involved in providing assistance and capital for local entrepreneurs and community development organizations to take advantage of some of the projects about which we just spoke.

It should be obvious from my opening remarks that the past year has been most productive for the Department of Northern Affairs. It has not been without its disappointments and at the same time, we have all suffered discouragements from time to time, but by and large it has been a positive and fulfilling time as we move together towards, I believe, a better Northern Manitoba. I've been honoured to be a part of that work. It's been difficult at times, but it's always been rewarding and fulfilling. I'm looking forward to the discussions

that we're going to have over the next number of days to talk about what we have done and to talk about that which we hope to do.

I know there'll be criticisms and there'll be suggestions, but I also know from the past, both when I have had this role and when I've had the role of a critic, that they are intended to be constructive and positive wherever that is possible, and for that reason I hope we can work together to develop better programs and policies.

In closing, I would like to note two things. One, because I had not spoken to an issue during these opening remarks, I mean it no disservice; I would not suggest that it is of any lesser importance to us, but rather it is because time is limited and I see the members opposite would like to involve themselves in this part of the debate. Secondly, I want to sincerely thank staff for the work that they have done over the past year in assisting this government to accomplish some of the goals which are common to all of us. It's been a learning experience for me, how to work with them and I admire their patience, from time to time, with my approach; they have been faced with difficult circumstances, as I indicated earlier. For the most part, they have performed admirably; they have sought the same goals through commitment and dedication. For that reason, I hope they take great pleasure, and even more pride than I, in my being able to stand here and say we have accomplished some things; we have gone some distance; we have made some progress. I know they do and I hope they will continue to do so.

I'd also like to single out one individual in my caucus in a special way because he is special to this department, and that is the Member for Rupertsland, my Legislative Assistant.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, H. Harapiak:** Point of order.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. Could you tell me how long the Minister has been speaking?

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Minister started speaking at 2:40 p.m.  
Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. COWAN:** I am concluding my remarks, if that's of any satisfaction to the member. Well, he says I'm overtime, but a lot has happened and I hope I haven't bored you. I've been somewhat self-indulgent, but at the same time I've attempted to give credit where credit is due.

In closing, I'll give credit, I think, to the Member for Rupertsland for that work which he has done on behalf of the department as my Legislative Assistant over the past year. He has been a valuable asset to the department and to the community and has provided insights in the workings of the department and the programs such as he's provided in this House, in his speeches to issues of concern to all of us. So the record should be clear that we rely upon him in many ways, and value his judgment and his input.

Having said that, I can tell you there'll be more to say throughout the Estimates, but I look forward to hearing the comments from the members opposite in

response to this and to the debate as we continue throughout the Estimates for the Department of Northern Affairs for the year 1983-84.

Thank you very much.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What a difference a year-and-a-half makes, I guess, is an appropriate statement in rebuttal to the Minister's comments. I did enjoy the remarks by the Minister because of his realistic approach today that I didn't think that he had when he was in opposition.

I know that the Minister, when he was the opposition critic, I think we on this side felt that he had all the answers and all the solutions to the problems in Northern Manitoba and that we as a Government of the Day were not fulfilling those problems and not dealing with the situations in a manner that met with his approval. But I think, certainly, the Minister today in his comments, took a more realistic approach to the situation as they do exist in the North, and certainly I'd be the first to admit that we did not accomplish all of the things that we would like to have accomplished as government for the four years that I sat on that side of the House, but we were working on programs that had long-term, meaningful effects for the people of the North.

We had to take some - I guess you'd call it drastic - actions with a lot of projects that had been started under the Schreyer Administration. For a period of years, many projects were started to provide employment opportunities for Northerners but they were projects that were make-work kind of projects that had no meaningful, self-sustaining objectives. They were government-funded for the most part and they were an expensive drain on the economy of the province and not projects that would, as I say, provide the long-term, meaningful jobs that the people wanted in the North. So many of those projects had to be curtailed because the province could not afford it.

Under the Schreyer Administration, we all know that the Hydro development continued to exist to provide economic spinoff for the province and at the same time, the projects, the hydro that was being developed from those projects, there was no firm market for it and so we are all faced with the problem of paying that bill today, the bill that was providing jobs to many communities, make-work jobs in one respect, and developing hydro plants at another, that you were able to use, of course, but certainly we don't have firm markets for that power that was developed.

I think, just briefly looking back to our administration, we were trying to develop long-term meaningful jobs with the Northern communities in the various resource areas to provide employment, economic development and to involve, indeed, local people through training programs and through career resource centres that were established to provide valuable information to people that wanted to seek out and obtain the necessary training for jobs that would be available in the North.

I think that some of the projects the Minister mentioned that are still ongoing and are providing meaningful work to the communities does include the Communities Economic Development Fund. I think, it's

fair to say, during our administration that CDF was continued and did provide a record number of jobs created or retained during our term in office, as well as, the Channel Area Loggers had its difficulties over the years, but I think there was good reason for the debt that that project did incur, but certainly there was light at the end of the channel, to put it in a pun, and certainly the long-term approach with Channel Area Loggers, I think, still provides the employment opportunities for a long time. Moose Lake Loggers, of course, was retained and has turned out quite successfully, in spite of, some difficult times again in the last couple of years, particularly with the marketing of the product.

For sure Limestone hydro development under our administration would have been well under way at this time to serve the Western Power Grid, and this would have provided many job opportunities for people of the North, as well as all of Manitoba.

What has been happening in the Department of Northern Affairs during the past year-and-a-half? Well the Minister says that it's been a very productive year and many things have gone on in the North, but I'm just wondering where these activities have gone on, and with whom. It would appear that the Department of Northern Affairs personnel have been busy but I fail to see where there has been much developed in the way of job opportunities for many of the people in the various Northern communities. We can refer to the commitment that was made by this administration, a commitment to people of the North if they were elected, it was entitled "The North, A New Tomorrow", and just briefly to refer to this document, the promises that were made back in 1977. Manitoba's North is rich in mineral resources, timber, hydro and power and people. Many Northern people live in communities blighted by unemployment, and that statement is true, but I don't see where much has happened to improve the situation with many Northern people and communities in the last year-and-a-half.

The Manitoba New Democrats believe the people of the North should benefit from the wealth that surrounds them. Northerners should decide on how their community is developed, I think that's a fair enough statement. An NDP Government would adopt a community development strategy for the North that would work with Northerners to provide long-term economic activity suitable to Northern communities providing job creation, job training and improved public services; this NDP strategy would include Northern jobs for Northerners. The NDP would encourage the processing of Manitoba resources; this would produce more jobs and opportunities for Northern people.

Well, we haven't seen much progress in those comments in the last year-and-a-half. Cheap regular power, the NDP would link communities by hydro lines to the Manitoba Power Grid, and I know there has been some talk that Churchill would be included. I know in a number of communities it has been an ongoing program to connect the communities with hydro lines and I think this is a good undertaking, and I just hope that it would move along a little more quickly.

Northlands Canada, the Minister mentioned about renegotiating the Manitoba Northlands Agreement, and I'd have some more comments in a few moments on that, but in this booklet, too, it mentions that there

would be an immediate start-up of the hydro development at Limestone, and we know that it — (Interjection) — Maybe the Minister didn't say that today, but in this promises by his party in the 1977 election campaign, orderly development of hydro power. It goes on to say orderly development of Northern generating stations would commence immediately. Well, we all know that this hasn't happened and certainly, I think, there was the opportunity for it to happen, but this government has not seen fit to proceed on that project because they bungled the Western Power Grid which would have been the necessary market in order to get that plant under way.

The Minister made reference to the Northern Development Agreement and I have a copy of the 5-year Northern pact that was signed back in November of 1982. It's a news release that was put out, I guess, in co-operation with the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba, and it goes through listing some 18 programs under the new pact. However, when you examine each one of them there is very little in the way of new programs. I think the total works out to something like - of the \$182 million, there's something like \$19.9 million which is identified as new programming, and out of that there's \$2.4 million that is used solely for federal training programs, leaving something like \$17.5 million over a five-year period, which works out to something like \$3.5 million. The Minister agrees it's not enough money.

I think that we were criticized because we didn't get the agreement signed and I would agree that it was disappointing for us not to get the agreement in place, it wasn't because we didn't try, we worked hard, staff worked hard with the federal staff, and certainly the consulting program process that we used identified certain economic strategies that the local people would like to see, particularly in construction of roads to open up more of the North for resource development, or what have you. The agreement that was eventually signed did not really address a lot of the major requests that came from the consultation process.

Well, just to go through briefly the Northern Development Agreement, I mentioned there were something like 18 programs in the agreement. The Government of Canada is responsible for the delivery of 10 of these programs, I believe, at a total cost of \$86 million including \$1.4 million of Manitoba funds. The province is responsible for the other eight programs at a total cost of \$100 million including \$31 million of Canada funds.

It is interesting to note that for the first time in this type of agreement the Federal Government is delivering programs - and I think the Minister identified that - that are cost-shared by the province. The programs involved are: Program No. 1, which is the Community Regional Economic Development Planning; and No 17, the Evaluation and Consultation. Both of these programs are highly visible activities, and one would wonder why the Province of Manitoba is not assuming the responsibility for the Community Regional Economic Development Planning, as well as the Evaluation and Consultation.

Perhaps the province doesn't have any definite plans for Northern Manitoba, or perhaps it is a display of the federal intrusion - if you want to put it in those terms - interprovincial areas of responsibility for purposes of

getting the political identity that they so often cried about.

There is another area that I would like to comment on, too, is the establishment of the Canada-Northern Development Office in Thompson to manage and co-ordinate the delivery of programs designated the responsibility of the Government of Canada. I think there are concerns by people I have talked to about the effectiveness of this major office located in Thompson when we have most of the head offices of the NACC, the MMF, the FNC, the various Indian tribal councils that have their head offices located here in Winnipeg. So there will be a lot of one-way travel involved to Thompson to meet with the Canada-Northern Development Office located there.

I think that there may have been some merit in having the major office located here in the city with branch offices located in various communities in Northern Manitoba, for instance, a branch office in Thompson, one in The Pas, another in Selkirk or Lac du Bonnet, and perhaps one in Dauphin, and have it distributed, because certainly I know that many of the people involved in these various organizations feel that the travel bill is going to be considerably higher and to meet the DREE people in Thompson where they could have covered many offices here in the city, but still could have retained an identity in many of the Northern communities.

I have mentioned the funding for Northern Transportation linkages that has been reduced under the agreement, but we'll be getting into the new Northern Development Agreement in more detail in the various line-by-line review of the Estimates.

The Minister only made brief reference to Special ARDA, and I was quite interested and will be discussing this further, but it was our recommendation prior to leaving office that there should be some injection of provincial funds into the Special ARDA Program, particularly in the area of upgrading some of the fish stations. I know that the Minister, when he was the critic, highly criticized myself and the Government of the Day because - to be specific - the Savage Islands Plant was needing much in the way of repairs. I believe there was some problem with the transportation subsidy as well, that the Minister appealed to the Government of the Day to seriously look at the upgrading of the fish plant at Savage Islands. As I understand it, that plant did close about two years ago. It hasn't reopened and there are no plans on reopening that plant as I understand it. However, there is some upgrading going on in other plants in that general area.

So I would be interested in knowing just what the policy changes are, if any, in the Special ARDA Program, comparing the old program that expired and looking at the new program that's now in place. Certainly, Special ARDA has been a good program. I believe it is fair to say there was some reluctance to perhaps getting provincial dollars into an area of responsibility that should be 100 percent looked at by the Federal Government.

In the case of the fish stations, I was certainly recommending that to our government, and I think it was sympathy to sort of co-operate with the feds on upgrading some of the fish stations and fish plants that needed it throughout the North.

I was interested in the Minister's comments about the 11 additional communities that have attained self-

administrating status in the province and I think that is very commendable. As the Minister indicated, all members of this House certainly have the same objective in mind and that is to see local autonomy grow and prosper in all of the Northern communities. There has been certainly ups and downs with this as would be expected. However, we are particularly pleased to see that this has now grown to 33 and we will be discussing this in more detail, of course. I am interested in knowing just how many communities might be in the process of becoming incorporated; I know that this has been certainly worked on. However, in view of the economic downturn that we have experienced for some time, it may set the stage back somewhat before many of these communities would be in a position to have the economic base to become completely incorporated.

The Fire Control Program certainly is one that had a lot of appeal and the people involved in the communities took this program very seriously, and certainly provided excellent protection to the communities. I'm pleased to see that this is still progressing, although I have not read much in the way of publicity about this fire program recently; hopefully, everything is working well in that area.

During the Schreyer Administration, we had some of the well-known arena disasters that took place at Norway House and Wabowden. Now it looks like we're getting back into the grandiose arena situation that was announced during the Hydro Standing Committee with respect to the flood agreement, and that a some \$3.5-million arena was going to be established at Cross Lake. I don't know just what the role of the Department of Northern Affairs will be in this arena, however I hope that the Minister will certainly look at the serious problems that were encountered in that process back a few years ago at Norway House and Wabowden, and certainly, hopefully, that everyone agrees that Cross Lake needs an arena. It does seem a bit luxurious to be spending \$3.5 million in that one project for one community.

Well, looking at the current Operating Expenditures, just going through the Estimates briefly, I would be somewhat critical of the Estimates in that the biggest increase appears to be for general salary increases. A reduction in Other Expenditures seems to be common throughout the whole various branches and divisions of the Department of Northern Affairs. This particular area has been cut back anywhere from 4 percent to 13 percent. These Other Expenditure items certainly are areas that provide direct assistance to many of the communities and these have all been cut back with the exception of the agreement's management which has increased, I believe, accordingly to my figures about 63 percent in the Other Expenditure column.

There appears to be an indication of hand-holding process continuing to dominate this administration's input toward the Northern Affairs portfolio. Hopefully, we can get more answers with respect to going through the Estimates line-by-line.

So I think that concludes the remarks I have to make at this time. I look forward to having more discussion as we go through the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, G. Lecuyer:** Item 1.(b)

The Member for Swan River.

**HON. J. COWAN:** I'll indicate that we're ready for them now.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could provide us with a correct chart of the Department of Northern Affairs indicating the various responsibilities of the staff members.

**HON. J. COWAN:** That's being delivered now.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could comment with respect to the areas of responsibility of the Assistant Deputy Minister. I believe there's one located in Thompson, and another one located in Winnipeg.

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. Eyler:** Mr. Minister.

**HON. J. COWAN:** Yes, the Assistant Deputy Minister located in Winnipeg is responsible primarily for the Agreements Management, a part of the department, and if you look on the organizational chart which was just presented to you, you'll see that as you're facing on the right-hand side, there's Agreements Management Co-ordination and Administration. On the left-hand side there is Local Government Development. The Assistant Deputy Minister located in Thompson is responsible primarily for the Local Government Development portion of the department.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** This represents no change, is that correct? This is basically the way it is kept. There was no ADM located in Winnipeg. It was under the director. Is that right?

**HON. J. COWAN:** Well, there is an Assistant Deputy Minister here that's responsible for the Agreements Management portion yes. That is not a change in organization structure to my knowledge. The one point that should be made is that the Assistant Deputy Minister for Agreements Management Co-ordination and Administration is now Secretary to the Native Affairs Committee of Cabinet, and that is in addition to her job duties as were presented last year. That's the only change which I believe has been made over the past year.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** What are the changes, if any, with respect to the SMYs in this section?

**HON. J. COWAN:** I'll go through the different sections of the staffing here and give you the 1982-83 adjusted vote and 1983-84 request.

In the Executive there is 8.26 in '82-83 and 7.26 this year. That reduction is the deletion of one position for the Treaty Land Entitlement Commission that was in there.

The Administration portion was 18 last year, is 17 this year, and that's the reduction of one SY which was a transfer to Local Government Development.

The Corporate Projects was three last year and two this year, which is a reduction of one staff year in the position of an analyst.

The Local Government Development is from 74 last year to 66 this year - I'll list out the different components - comprised of one co-ordinator position in Dauphin; one half-time clerk in Dauphin; one half-time clerk in Selkirk; one secretary position in Winnipeg; one clerical position in Thompson; one construction supervisor in Thompson; three term positions which I believe were used in the provision of Construction Services during the construction season.

The Agreements Management Co-ordination was 25, is now 28. Those are three additions: two positions for Native Affairs Committee of Cabinet, and one position which is not filled - these three positions, by the way, are not filled as of yet - for someone to develop a communications strategy to work with the Northern Associations of Community Councils in their development of a newsletter and to work with the staff in the development of communications programs for the communities, and we'll get into that area when we talk about the NACC grant. There's a special provision for communications initiative in that particular section.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Just for clarification, Mr. Chairman, where under the Estimates would we be discussing the Land Entitlement Commission?

**HON. J. COWAN:** We can discuss it, if you wish, under 4.(b) which is Agreements Management and Co-ordination.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** As you know, there's another committee going on at this time, and some of my colleagues were interested in that part - they wish to offer some comments under that area; so that's the 4.(b) you mentioned?

**HON. J. COWAN:** We will attempt to be as accommodating as possible, because we know the effect of two committees running concurrently and the fact that individuals may want to ask questions in one committee and not be available to address the concerns in another committee. So if there is any area where it appears that there is going to be a time conflict, let us know and we will attempt as much as possible to make the necessary arrangements.

I think we can be somewhat flexible in that regard and will get, I think, a better dialogue going in respect to the initiatives and the activities that we've undertaken and plan to undertake, so please don't hesitate to address an issue and indicate that there may be further discussion at a later time, and we'll be as accommodating as we can in that regard.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b) - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I don't have any further questions under 1.(b). You can pass that one if you like.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(h)—pass. 1.(c) Other Expenditures - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I wonder if we could have some information with respect to the obvious cutback on this item, some \$4,000 or so.

**HON. J. COWAN:** We have the detail broken down at this stage into four components. We can certainly break

it down further if you feel that is necessary, but I'll give you the four components at this time.

Fees, which were \$5,000 last year, are zero this year, and I believe that encompasses fees for professional development within the organization. Certainly something to which we ascribe, but given the difficult economic circumstances that confront us, it is an area where we believed we could make cutbacks without having a profound impact on the operation, so we deleted that item in its entirety for this year. Certainly, we don't want to delete it in its entirety on an ongoing basis. Hopefully, this is a one-year deletion but that is how it stands at this time.

Facilities and Equipment went from \$15,000 last year to \$18,100 this year; that of course is an increase of \$3,100.00. Specialized Equipment was \$6,100 last year and is anticipated to be, or budgeted to be \$5,500 this year. Operating Costs were \$42,700 last year and is anticipated to be \$40,600 this year, for a total of \$68,800 last year versus \$64,200 this year, or a 6.7 percent decrease, I believe. Does the member need more detail on the specifics of those components?

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I don't think so.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(c)—pass. 2.(a) Administrative Support Services, Salaries and Wages - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I wonder if we could have a breakdown on any changes under this?

**HON. J. COWAN:** The 1982-83 adjusted vote was \$411,300.00. We are asking for \$470,300 for this year. It's an increase of \$59,000 or 14.3 percent. We've broken that down into a number of components as well and I'll give those figures to the member and, of course, if he wants further detail, please let me know.

Increase in the northern living allowance is \$5,100 or 1.2 percent. Additional pay period, which we are absorbing this year because of the way by which the Civil Service is paid, is \$16,100 or 3.9 percent. The \$9,500 general salary increase for '83-84 is \$41,100 or 10 percent. The merit increases that we are anticipating if staffing stays much the same as it is now for '82-83 is \$45,800 or 11.1 percent.

The 1982-83 general salary increase allocation is down \$20,300, or a decrease of 4.9 percent. Staff turnover allowance decrease is \$2,000 or .5 percent. There has also been a position that has been reattached or reprioritized to the municipal government support in light of our prioritization and some of our activities in that area, and that is a decrease of \$30,800 or a decrease of 7.5 percent. When you take all the additions and subtractions, you end up with a \$59,000 increase or 14.3 percent, made up of the different components which I just read out.

Staffing summary would indicate that there are 17 staff years this year as compared to 18 staff years last year. That decrease, of course, is a reprioritization of one position to municipal support.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, are there any changes in the duties of the Administrative Support Services? Is this basically continuing on the way it was or are there some changes in this area?

**HON. J. COWAN:** Basically, the objectives of the Administrative Support Services in the past has been to assist in obtaining departmental goals and objectives by providing effective administration systems, financial management and personnel services. As well, it administers the Northern Affairs funds as the member is aware and, finally, it provides audit services for departmental and community management. That is what it's doing now; that is my understanding of its primary objectives for the last number of years. Certainly, I've given no direction for any significant changes, nor do I know of any direction for significant changes in the work they do or, in large part, in the way by which they do the work.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Well, this area provides accounting services and the like for a number of the communities and those that don't have self-administering capabilities. You had indicated earlier that there are some 11 communities who have changed their status. Is there a big change as far as the workload in this area with respect to assisting those communities?

**HON. J. COWAN:** I think there's an increase in workload that comes from the policy of having the auditors go out in the communities and do a lot of the audits and that, as you can well appreciate, does take a bit of extra time on their part. We have not seen yet a significant increase in workload on the auditors as a result of the communities coming on to self-administering status. Time will tell whether or not we have an increase in that area but it certainly hasn't been brought to my attention as being a problem as of yet.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** How many communities currently do not administer their own funds, how many communities is this section looking after with respect to Northern communities?

**HON. J. COWAN:** The status of the communities, as you are aware, is broken down into three different groupings: 1. Self administering; 2. Joint Administration; 3. Communities in Trust. If the member wishes I can read out the list of those being jointly administered and in trust or I can give him a global number if that's what he seeks.

There is one community that is in joint administration, 17 communities are in trust at the present time and the 33 communities which I indicated earlier are self-administered.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** How many Northern Affairs communities do we have as such now that - sometimes there is referred to 47 and 50 and 52, I wonder do we have a specific number?

**HON. J. COWAN:** We are now using the number 51 and as the member indicated different numbers are used on different occasions. I've never quite been able to figure out why that is but the official number that we are using at the present time is 51 and that would be the addition since last year of the community of Dawson Bay to Northern Affairs community status.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** How many auditors are there that go out to various communities?

**HON. J. COWAN:** There are presently three auditors involved in that part of the departmental work.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Are there any glaring problems at the present time with respect to the auditor process with the communities? I know that a number of communities have complained in the past over this process, are there any difficulties at the present time that could be noted?

**HON. J. COWAN:** There are always difficulties with regard to audits. As the member is aware, communities approach an audit in a different way, community by community. They have different expectations of what the audit should accomplish and how the auditor should provide the service to them. We've been working with the communities attempting to resolve those issues where they exist. I can certainly get more specific information for the member in regard to what problem exists in what community if that's what he desires but I think for now it would be best to say, yes, there are problems, they are problems that arise out of disagreements about the way the audit should be done, disagreements about what the audit finds and disagreements about the expectations of what an audit is. We attempt to resolve those by going into the community either with the auditor or with other staff sitting down and discussing exactly what the problems are and how we can approach solving them. We try to do that in as flexible a manner as possible.

We have noticed some improvements in the administration of self-administering communities, councils and committees over the past number of years and that's not complying to any one administration, sort of an evolutionary group as the communities become more aware of what is expected of them and what is needed of them through the audit process. They apply themselves to dealing with those problems and as long as you approach it with a flexible and a supportive way then I think you can make some accomplishments. What we've noticed generally though is that there's been an improvement in the handling of council bank accounts. A lot of that is just getting used to how to use a bank account and what are the mechanisms by which one maintains control and retains control over their bank accounts.

We've put some emphasis on receipts and this came as a result of advice from, I think, from the Provincial Auditor, the communities themselves and our own awareness of what the problems were out there. We have a bit of a different approach, a structured approach to receipts here than they would in a Northern Affairs community and therefore the concept needed some development in the communities themselves. We rely very heavily on receipts for an indication of activities that we have undertaken, monies we have spent, funds we have allocated. That has not always been the case in those communities that have a different economic structure. So we've now applied some training and support to that area and I think we're seeing improvement there.

Another area that is one of growing improvement is that of disbursements and supporting documentation for receipts goes hand-in-hand with that. The payroll activities of the communities has shown some

improvement. When I say all these things have shown improvement I don't mean to say that in every instance we've seen marked or vast improvement in every community. But generally overall we're seeing some progress made in those areas. Accounts Receivable and payable provisions of the budget have also been given some attention.

Finally, we're demanding and insisting as did the member opposite when he was in government, on Minutes being more accurate reflections of decisions that are made so that when the audits take place there is an indication right in the Minutes of approval being given for those funds, so Minutes and community resolutions are areas that we've directed some attention to and had some progress.

If the member wants more specific detail I'd be pleased to try to provide it to him.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I notice the Minister of Finance is quite interested in your figures there. I would like to ask the Minister if the communities have been paying the 1.5 percent payroll tax as requested by the Minister of Finance?

**HON. J. COWAN:** I know of no payroll tax but they have been paying the levy for health and education.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** With respect to providing support to the Channel Area Loggers and Moose Lake Loggers I wonder if the Minister could update us on that type of support service?

**HON. J. COWAN:** It's actually in 2.(c) in the vote but I'll answer the question here, if you wish, there is a line for Corporate Projects. I seek some direction, do you want to do that here or do you want to discuss it as a package?

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Wait and do it then.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(a)—pass; 2.(b) Other Expenditures - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I wonder if the Minister can give us a breakdown on the decrease in the amount of expenditures allocated this year as compared to last in this section?

**HON. J. COWAN:** I'll give the 1982-83 adjusted vote first and the 1983-84 requests secondly. For Facilities and Equipment, it was 26,200 is now 25,000; for Specialized Equipment, it was 7,600 is now 1,600; for machine utilization, that's computer use, it was 11,000 and is now 20,600, so you see a significant increase in there as we tend to computerize our activities more and we believe that will gain cost efficiency by that. You will see the opposite side of the equation in the next line which is Operating Expenses, where we go 31,900 to 22,000 for this year. Educational Assistance has remained roughly the same, it being 2,500 for '82-83 and anticipated to be 2,400 for this year. The difference in a global sense is 79,200 for last year and 71,600 for this year, a decrease of 7,600 or 9.6 percent.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Does the department make use of the Municipal Affairs Computer Services for any of this computer work, or is it strictly internal?

**HON. J. COWAN:** It is my understanding that we utilize their facilities for the development of our tax roles at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(b)—pass; 2.(c)(1) Corporate Projects, Salaries and Wages - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I wonder if the Minister might comment with respect to the support services to the Channel Area Loggers and Moose Lake Loggers?

**HON. J. COWAN:** Basically, I'll run through the Salaries and Wages portion of it and then address perhaps the specific questions the member may have.

Last year the adjusted vote called for 80,900, and the request this year is for 70,700, or a decrease of 10,200 or 12.6 percent. There is a reduction of one staff year from three to two. That staff year has been deleted as part of the general overall repriorization of the government. It's not something we wanted to do, but we think that we can provide the support services which we have in the past even with that deletion and so we're proceeding in that way.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps I missed it. You weren't referring to Other Expenditures under the Corporate Projects. Were you making reference to Other Expenditures in this section, (c)(2)?

**HON. J. COWAN:** Yes.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I missed that I wonder if you could just cover that item there.

**HON. J. COWAN:** I'm sorry I didn't run down the detail on it so perhaps I can go through the entire vote and show you where the differences are in respect to this and Other Expenditures as well.

The Corporate Projects adjusted vote for 1982-83 was 194,800, is now 187,200, or a decrease of 7.6 or 3.9 percent.

In respect to Other Expenditures, fees have gone from zero last year to 39,900 this year, which is a timber inventory for Moose Lake and Channel Area Loggers. So we're paying to have that done to get some idea over the long term of what direction we want to chart for the development of those two corporations.

Facilities and Equipment went from 1,800 to 2,500 this year; Specialized Service and Supply stayed at 3,600 for both years; Operating Costs went from 7,400 to 15,300; Education Assistance which was naught last year is now 1,200, and Grants went from 182,000 to 124,700; that is the estimated loss for 1982-83. So that's the reason for the decrease there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 2.(c)(1)—pass; 2.(c)(2), Other Expenditures—pass.

Resolution No. 130: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$799,800 for Northern Affairs, Administrative Support Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1984—pass.

Item 3. Local Government Development, (a) Local Government Services, (1) Northern Development Agreement - the Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Yes, I wonder if the Minister would comment on any changes, or any areas of activity under this section?

**HON. J. COWAN:** For 1982-83, Mr. Chairperson, we had an adjusted vote of \$565,200; for 1983-84 we are requesting \$656,500, which is an increase of 91,300, or 16.2 percent.

I can go through the increases for you. There was an decrease in Northern Living Allowances of 2,800 or .5 percent. There was the additional pay period which we had to absorb as we will throughout each of these departments where salaries are involved, of 22,900 or 4.1 percent. There was a 9.5 percent general salary increase for 1983-84 of 58,800 or 10.4 percent increase.

Merit increases account for \$34,700 more, or 6.1 percent increase. The 1982-83 General Salary Increase allocation calls for a 27,300 decrease, or 4.8 percent. Staff turnover allowance is an increase of 5,000 or almost 1 percent, .9 percent, for a total of \$91,300 more or 16.2 percent increase. There is a decrease in staff years from 23 to 21, and that's one vacant co-ordinating position in Dauphin, and one half-time Clerk in Dauphin, and one half-time Clerk in Selkirk.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I noticed in the recent book that was put out by the department showing the population figures for the various communities and staff that looked after the various communities, there have been some changes in that the Director for Dauphin is now filling in for the Director in The Pas and visa versa. Are there other changes that have taken place since last year in this?

**HON. J. COWAN:** A redirection in the way by which the department operates. Before there was a sort of dual reporting procedure where the co-ordinator reported to the area manager, and the construction component reported to the area manager. That's the way we have it now, excuse me. I got one step ahead of myself. They both reported individually and what we've tried to do is have them report through that one person to provide for a more consistent approach to development of both human resource and a construction type in the communities. That has been a change.

I'm not certain whether the member wanted to know if there had been staff changes as well, because there have been a number of reallocations of staff to meet what we think are different circumstances and new initiatives in the area. I can go through those in detail. He identified one, but if he wishes we can also talk about that at this stage.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd appreciate if you could give me a complete rundown on the changes. I happened to notice those two areas, but I didn't really go through the book to identify any other areas. Could the Minister just briefly indicate the policy changes with respect to how the department functions?

Also, with respect to the areas that the co-ordinators serve within the department - I have not talked to any of the co-ordinators recently, but it was indicated to me that the office in Swan River may be closed down and the co-ordinator relocated to another part of the

province. So could the Minister just give me a breakdown on any proposed changes that he anticipates will happen, or maybe have already happened?

**HON. J. COWAN:** It's my understand that we are currently reviewing the Swan River office at the present time. One co-ordinator, as you are aware works out of Swan River office, serving five communities north of Mafeking. We are considering closing this office. That is under active consideration - I'll not be coy about it - and have the co-ordinator work out of the Provincial Building in Dauphin where we believe that co-ordinator will be able to use the services that we have in that Northern Affairs office more efficiently and in a more comprehensive way.

We've done a cost analysis on the office there. It indicates to us that costs for operating out of Swan River on a per-capita basis were double compared to that operating out of the Provincial Building in Dauphin. Now we want to test that thesis a bit. I think if the member has followed our actions and activities over the last year-and-a-half, we've been very cautious in making changes of that nature. We want to first do the research to see if, in fact, there is a need for change and then go back and test it against different concerns that are expressed to us as we review the change. So any concerns which the member would like to put on the record now would be appreciated, because they will be a part of the consideration that will be undertaken before we make any such change.

We also believe that by taking the person working out of the office now and moving them into Dauphin, that it will allow for better staff development. We all know that if you work alone, you oftentimes miss the opportunity to work with your colleagues and your co-workers on developmental aspects of your job; you lose a bit of contact with them. That's why we have such difficulty in getting doctors and nurses in the North because that same sort of feeling of working alone and losing the ability to stay abreast of new changes and to work with your co-workers and learn from your co-workers on a daily basis. That same sort of principle applies here. So, we believe that is a reason for change. We think it will expedite decision-making to have the groups working closer together and as well provide, as I indicated earlier, for the support services to be more available. Those are the reasons why we're considering the change.

As I indicated earlier, I would like to hear your comments in that regard. We have not finalized a decision to my knowledge, at least I certainly haven't finalized a decision in this regard, and I would want to be a part of that decision-making process. But, we are actively considering that reorganization along with the other items which we have undertaken which the member made reference to earlier.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your comments in that regard. I feel that, you know, there is some merit in retaining the office in Swan River because there are a number of Northern Affairs communities that are sort of on the periphery of the Swan Valley area, and for the most part, maybe not all of those communities, but for the most part, the



Swan River community is their major regional centre and I'm thinking of areas such as Westgate, National Mills, Barrows, the Pelican Rapids and to a lesser extent, the Duck Bay-Camperville areas.

But there is a certain amount of advantage having a centre in Swan River where most of the departments of government are located, whether it be Highways, Resources, the Community Services, Municipal Assessment - not to say anything about the medical centres and the dental and regional hospital and schooling that is located in the Swan River area. So, I would hope that the Minister and his staff would look at this very closely before they decided to do away with the office there.

I think that it perhaps looked convenient for the member who was also the Minister of Northern Affairs to set up an office in Swan River, but it was one that I had wondered about many years before as to why an office hadn't been located there. Many of the people from the various communities complained about the fact that they went to Swan River for other services, and certainly, they were disappointed that the Northern Affairs didn't have contact or an office in that area.

**HON. J. COWAN:** Well, I thank the member for his comments. As I indicated earlier, we want to take a cautious approach to those sorts of changes. I wonder if this assurance would satisfy the member at this time, that it would most likely be midsummer before any change would be made, if a change were to be made. We've had some preliminary discussions, I understand, with some of the communities, but not all the communities.

What we would want to do is have the detailed discussions with those communities prior to making any change and to address the very types of questions that the member has put on the record now to see if, in fact, our perception of the need for that office to be moved or remain there is the same as the community's. I think they have to be instrumental in the decision-making. If they can convince us that even though we gain cost efficiencies by the change that, in fact, we lose the benefits of the office over the long run, then I think we have to take that very seriously.

So what I would suggest is that we will, over the next number of months, be reviewing this in detail with the communities. Staff have made note of the concerns that you have expressed here today. I'm certain they would want to be available to you if you wanted to discuss it in more detail at any time, or myself. We can arrange a meeting to discuss it in more detail and certainly we'll honour your perceptions as elected member for the area as to what should be done there.

When we take all that information together we'll develop our equation to make the decision, and we will then decide accordingly. It may be that there is support in the communities for the move. It may be that there isn't, and that of course will have a profound impact on our decision. It may be that our cost figures are accurate. It may be that we need to add some more into the equation, as the member has indicated might be reviewed, so that we have a fuller picture of the costs of not only moving the office and the co-ordinator, but the people moving into a different region. We'll address all of that and make our decision

accordingly, but certainly the communities have to have a large say in it. I would hope the member for the area, as we go through this process, would involve himself either with myself or with staff to advise us of any ongoing concerns.

If we do make a change, we want to be efficient, we want it to be productive. If we can gain that same efficiency of activity without the change, then one would look to the status quo as being appropriate.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I gathered from the earlier comments of the Minister that there has been some desire to, say, establish a co-ordinator more closely to the communities; for instance, the community of Camperville or the community of Duck Bay or Barrows, where they're fairly large centres and are currently being served from other areas right now. Did I understand the Minister to say that they were looking seriously at establishing the co-ordinator right in those communities?

**HON. J. COWAN:** I didn't say that in my remarks today, but I would bring you up-to-date on the request which has been made by the Mayor of Camperville in regard to a co-ordinator being staffed in that area or located in that community and more or less directly responsible to the community itself. He also indicated in his comments to me that Duck Bay was looking towards a similar circumstance.

I've forwarded that on to staff. I'm not certain whether they have received it as of yet - they indicate they have - because it was a recent development, and asked them to review it; to take a look at the policy implications that would arise out of that sort of a change; to review it from the perspective of providing service to the communities and local autonomy. I have asked them to take that request in a very serious way, but to do a very thorough examination, because it is a departure from existing policy and past practice of a significant nature. That does not mean that it may not be a good departure, but we certainly want to take the time to discuss it, to review it and to test it before we make any such changes.

So that is not something that is as far advanced as is the reviews of the office in Swan River. It is something that has come to our attention recently, something which we want to address in a serious and significant way, but certainly we have made no decisions either at a preliminary basis or on a more advanced level in regard to that change in the way by which co-ordinators report to the department and to the communities. It might be a good idea though, and it's something I want to look at carefully.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I can see, you know, the merit from the point of view of the various communities would certainly want to have the additional family or individual move into the respective communities. I'm just wondering, sometimes this creates a problem though as to where do you locate the co-ordinator. Where you get communities as close as Camperville and Duck Bay, I'm sure they'll have their own views as to where that co-ordinator should be located. Perhaps the problem doesn't exist to the same extent in Barrows, because it's the major centre in that area.

What is the arrangement with respect to the Swan River office facility? Is that just handled through the Government Services and, if there was no need for that office in the Department of Northern Affairs, would this be a problem for the department?

**HON. J. COWAN:** The situation is that we borrow space from the Department of Labour to house that individual. There has been no change, according to my information, in that practice over the last number of years. I guess it would have been the same under the previous administration.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I think the Minister was going to indicate other changes that had taken place within the Department of Northern Affairs, other changes with respect to the personnel serving in communities.

**HON. J. COWAN:** If I understand the question correctly, what you would want to know is the additions of individuals and the individuals who have left the service for other jobs or other departments, or are you talking more or less about the general changes which might have taken place?

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I understood the Minister to say that there had been some policy changes within the department with respect to roles that various individuals were serving in the department, and there had been some changes of personnel in Dauphin, The Pas. I'm just wondering about the overall situation, Selkirk, Thompson offices and so forth.

**HON. J. COWAN:** There are two changes of a general nature. One is that the Community Works individual now reports directly to the area manager, which provides for, I believe, a more efficient operation, although we have yet to give it its severe test through a construction season, but we'll do that this year and find out if we're right in our assumptions.

The other has been the addition of a training officer to each region. I indicated in my opening remarks that we were placing great priority on training, and what we want to do is get a training officer reporting, I guess, to the area manager as well that would work in each region and deal with those communities.

There are staff changes that take place in respect to co-ordinators and transfers from area to area, which are part of the ongoing natural development of the department. There are specifics and individuals would have to be named. I wouldn't mind sharing that information with the member by way of a piece of paper and then if he wants to address specific items he can do that, or I can read the list out of the staff as they stand presently, if that's what the member would require. But I think those are just ongoing changes that take place at all times and don't have any impact on policy or program delivery other than a new individual is in a new job.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The hour is 4:30, time for Private Members' Hour. Committee will reconvene at 8:00 p.m. tonight.

DOCUMENT NO: 0332H

TAPE NO: 2270

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time being 4:30, Private Members' Hour. The first item of business under Private Members' Hour for Monday is Private Members' Resolutions.

### RES. NO. 7 - TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN THE WORKPLACE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Resolution No. 7, the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Wolseley, standing in the name of the Honourable Minister of Economic Development, who has seven minutes remaining.

The Honourable Minister.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, in discussing the topic of industrial peace, I was raising the issue the other day of our common desire to increase productivity if we're going to be able to manage to survive in a tougher competitive climate and if we're going to have benefits to managers, workers and owners alike, we have to find ways to increase our productivity. It's our contention that a better industrial climate, better labour-management relations is a very key way to achieve that along with technological improvement, management improvement, venture capital and so on.

What so often happens now in firms where a polarized or confrontational system has been allowed to develop, is that there's fear and suspicion on both sides. On the part of management, there's often a fear that the workers are going to be greedy when it comes to wage agreements; that they're going to irresponsible when it comes to management decisions; and that they're not going to have the best interest of the company's survival and expansion yet at heart.

On the other hand, there is the fear and suspicion the other way on the part of the workers; not having access often to full information about how well or poorly the company is doing; not being given enough of the background information about what's involved in some of the technological change. What's required in terms of reinvestment or even the decisions of dividends, how much is to go back to shareholders and how much is to get filed back into investment, how much is to go into wages.

Not having access to that type of information, Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult for workers, when they are bargaining, to adopt a position that is realistic and fair. It's our contention that the more open the relationships are between the groups with different interests, the more information that is shared between them, the more likely we are to get decision-making that is mutually satisfactory, that is productive for both sides.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to realize that we have come a long way, historically speaking, in terms of how people relate in their economic activities. I guess you could sort of go back over the move from a hunting society to a farming society to the rise of cities and commercial relationships and then the full industrial society. At each stage, Mr. Speaker, we had relationships between people who did the work and people who

owned the land or controlled the money that was changing.

Mr. Speaker, wherever there was a situation where power and control was centered in too few hands, and the workers were expected to give out their labour without their opinion or their needs being given fair consideration, we had social unrest and forces arising in society that usually led to a breakdown of that system. I think what we're facing today in what we often call the post-industrial system, is that the job world is changing so very quickly.

Looking at labour statistics, we find that the numbers of people employed in agriculture and manufacturing is going steadily down and the numbers employed in the information and service sector is going steadily up. Mr. Speaker, we're getting a situation where we have many smaller firms finding that they can survive. A breakdown of some of the very large multinational corporations - great unrest and concern, and I think there is fear on both sides as to what the future holds. I don't think we can stop the change but I think we can work our way through it better the more we develop methods of sharing information and building up joint decision-making procedures. I think that in my experience, workers are just as capable of arriving at responsible and realistic decisions when they're given a chance to share the information, and whether that is in a workplace committee dealing with health and safety, or whether it's dealing with some of the broader issues that eventually impinge on wage negotiation, I believe that we are not going to come through into this newer post industrial world where we're going to need a great deal of innovation; we're going to need a lot of retraining opportunities; we're going to need willingness to change from all sides; that we're not going to come through it as well as we might if we don't find ways to involve all parties in a more co-operative enterprise.

Mr. Speaker, increasingly, a worker cannot make a contribution in the workplace without access to new skills, without some sense of job satisfaction, without adequate pay to survive in often an urban society, certainly for the manufacturing area and much of the service industry. Mr. Speaker, managers and owners are not going to do well in this period of time without recognizing their dependency on the workers and their dependency on the workers skills.

I've been very heartened by a lot of material I've been reading coming from organizations such as the Canadian Manufacturing Association, because they in their human resource recommendations, I think, recognize this dependency and are urging their members to move on and experiment with improved ways of working as a team. Mr. Speaker, I think if we can learn to find these co-operative solutions here in our industry and in our institutions, that we will also have acquired some of the insights that are going to enable us to deal with some of the global problems, the change of trade pattern, the gap between the northern countries and the southern countries, and we'll be able to work through the structural changes without having terrific unrest and alienation, if you like, Mr. Speaker, by larger and larger groups of society.

I think I referred last day to the experiments that have gone on in West Germany, Scandinavia and the Netherlands in co-operative ways of working at an

industrial democracy. In Canada, as I say, I have been heartened by the CMA, the quality of work-life initiatives and the productivity councils. Mr. Speaker, there's a great deal more to say on the issue but I have used my time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The honourable member's time has expired.

The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

**MR. F. JOHNSTON:** Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be very brief on this resolution because it is motherhood and it has been carried on in this government for many years. It's surprising that the Member for Wolseley didn't take the time to check with the Minister of Economic Development. I think the Minister of Economic Development could have informed her or enlightened her of what actually goes on in this respect in the government at the present time, and I would only comment on the Minister of Economic Development's comments regarding the Canadian Manufacturers Association's efforts in this particular type of resolution to see that the co-ordination with management and employment is carried on in the province in a proper way and is carried on in a way that'll be beneficial to all in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, I would refer to Page 41 of the Estimates that says, "Human Resource Development," and the Human Resource Branch of the Department of Economic Development did move about three or four people over to labour. The Department of Labour does have a group of people that are involved in this type of activity at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, I would just read to you what used to be in the purpose of the Human Resource Management Branch: "The purpose of the Human Resource Management Branch is to improve the capability of enterprise to manage and develop its human resources as well as to assist in general improvement of all management skills. The branch is responsible for performing the following duties: (1) The provision of professional consulting services to industry regarding the management of their human resource; (2) To assist in the development of comprehensive human resource development in training packages in select companies; (3) To assist in better marketing and manufacturing job opportunities to prospective employees; (4) To develop the implementation of a provincial training policy; (5) The provision of assistance to industry in the recruiting of training of special needs persons, as well as co-ordinating departmental activities related to special needs industrial development projects."

Mr. Speaker, when we have a resolution that says that the Government of Manitoba, through the Department of Labour and Employment Services, consider the advisability of assisting those enterprises wishing to establish consultative and participatory mechanisms with their employees and their representatives, we have no problem with that on this side of the House, because it has been done with the previous government and it was done with the government before that, and now we have within our department a Department of Human Resource Development that has been there a long time, doing an excellent job. So we have no problem with the

resolution, and it's something that the Canadian Manufacturers Association has been working on with the Department of Human Development, with the Department of Economic Development, and they have been working with the Department of Labour as well to accomplish the same thing.

I would only finish, Sir, by saying if the Member for Wolseley believes that it's so important, that maybe she should discuss with the Minister of Economic Development why the budget for Human Resource Management was 132,500 last year and 110,300 this year, or maybe the reason is they possibly transferred some of them already to the Department of Labour; but it is being done now, Mr. Speaker, and we agree with it on this side of the House. We wonder why the budget in Economic Development has been cut.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for The Pas.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Mr. Speaker, I also rise to speak and support the resolution put forward by the Member for Wolseley. I would like to congratulate the Member for Wolseley, too, on bringing this resolution forward and giving it the attention and debate that it deserves.

I know that it'll come as no surprise to the members opposite or the members of my own party that I am a supporter of this concept, seeing as I have a labour background. I guess it goes back further than my own work experience. I can recall my father working on the CNR as a section man and coming home very frustrated because of the way that he was treated during his working time on the section. The foreman treated him as though he was a number; worse yet, he was treated as if he were a robot or a slave.

I also recall that as a young man I was employed by International Nickel; I worked as a plate worker helper, and a plate worker tried to convince his foreman that he had a better idea for building a complicated piece of pipe which would be used to capture the sulphur dioxide that was being emitted to the atmosphere in the area of Sudbury, Ontario. He was completely frustrated because his foreman would not believe that a working man from the floor could possibly have a better idea than International Nickel. I am sure that he felt better years later when International Nickel put up a suggestion box and his idea was accepted and was put into practice.

I also recall, while working with the CNR in The Pas, Manitoba, I was working as a yard foreman for a train master called Reg Thomas. Mr. Thomas treated his workers as though they could think and their ideas had some merit, and some of our ideas were actually put into practice. I also recall that I responded to work every time Mr. Thomas called me. Many times there would be a shortage of employees on the weekends but if Mr. Thomas called me, I always responded to his call. I was a productive worker; I felt that my ideas were valued and I was respected because of them.

As the Member for Turtle Mountain has stated in his presentation on this subject, there are many different interpretations of what industrial democracy actually means. On a recent tour I have made of Northern Manitoba, I had an opportunity to speak to officials from Inco at Thompson, and also officials at Sherritt Gordon and Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake. Although they

each had a different concept of what industrial democracy actually meant, they all shared the idea that it was time we moved to a more co-operative attitude in the workplace.

I believe that Sherritt Gordon has had a labour man who is in charge of safety and quality in the workplace, who they have had for several years. I believe that the employees, because of this man, have much better information, access to information pertaining to costs and also to profits, and because of this information, the working people were making some very responsible decisions.

A few months ago I had an opportunity to represent the Minister of Energy and Mines at a farewell party for Peter Gush, who was the retiring President of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. In his farewell remarks, which were being made to management people of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, Mr. Gush made reference to industrial democracy as well. I do not recall his words exactly, but he said it was time that we got away from the confrontational attitudes during negotiation and also in the workplace. Mr. Gush made the comments that the corporations that recognizes workers had a contribution to make, and the ones who took steps and gave them a greater say in day-to-day operations, were the corporations that were going to survive these tough economic times.

Last fall I had the privilege of spending a day with Klaus Offermann. Klaus was one of the two labour people who were appointed to the Board of Directors of Kootenay Forest Products in 1974. He felt that the lines of communications really improved after he and Gary McCandlish were appointed to the Board of Directors. They also found that the number of grievances dropped and the productivity of the mill was increased.

It should be noted that these men were appointed under Dave Barrett when he was the Premier of British Columbia, but they were also re-appointed when the Social Credit came into power and formed the government.

Worker representation on the Board of Directors has been a particularly interesting subject to me, not only because I believe that workers on the floor have a lot of knowledge which would make an operation more profitable if this knowledge was used, but also because both the International Woodworkers of America, which are located in The Pas, and the Canadian Paper Workers, who are also located in The Pas, have not let me or this government forget that they wanted worker representation on the Board of Directors.

Fortunately, we have a Minister who is open to the concept of worker representation and a few months ago two of the men were appointed to the Manitoba Forestry Resources. Allan Ragowski was appointed to the Board of Directors as a representative of the I.W.A. and lumber mill, and Wayne Halverson was appointed as a representative of the pulp mill.

I recently attended a seminar at Gull Harbour Lodge on Hecla Island. The workshop was put on by Murray Harvey from The Pas and it was designed to study and deal with the business community on the subject of corporate Board of Directors. The workshop dealt with the Manfor Board of Directors and the complete Manfor board was present. I believe that it was an excellent presentation and it should be extended to all board

members so they are made aware of what their responsibilities are when they become members of the board of directors.

I am sure that both the directors who have been appointed to the Manfor board will agree that the early stages of their responsibilities have been difficult for both themselves and other members of the board. There must be a period of adjustment, a period when trust has to be built up. I am convinced that any corporation will benefit when the experience that it has on the floor is passed up to the directors' level through their worker representatives.

I also realize there must be growth on the union side, the directors' role is to be involved in making positive contributions towards policy decisions, and leave the day-to-day operations up to management and they must also let the grievance procedure work its proper course.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear the Member for Turtle Mountain speak in support of this resolution, although he has some guarded reservations in the area of cooperation at the board level. I also believe that the welfare of the operation has to be a concern. I guess the recent recession that we are presently experiencing has given us a clear indication of how important it is to have a healthy industry, no matter if it's agriculture, mineral resource or forestry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I believe that we are on the verge of a breakthrough in the area of industrial relations. While attending a recent conference on the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, I noted a workshop on Quality in the Workplace. I attended the session and was pleased to learn that private corporations are starting to become more concerned about the well-being of their employees. They are also looking at ways in which they can get employees involved in a more meaningful way. Although when questioned on industrial democracy, the speakers of the day evaded the question. In my way of reasoning it is the first step to industrial democracy.

It is interesting to observe that when a survey was carried out asking if Canadians, if there should be increased worker participation at corporate board levels, 75 percent of the professionals and executives who responded to the questionnaire supported the concept. They believed that there should be increased labour representation on board levels.

I believe that anytime a person is treated with respect and dignity, and are shown that they have a worthwhile contribution to make, they become a more satisfied being, and therefore a more productive employee. I believe that the biggest benefit will be that employees will get the feeling that they belong to the company, they are part of the operation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to summarize by stating my views on why there should be worker representations on boards. One of the accomplishments would be it would bring the contribution of the worker's experience to the board level. It would also promote democracy in the workplace and would also increase the economic efficiency of any corporation. But the big benefit would be an improved labour relations climate.

I know that the appointments at Manfor in The Pas are being watched very closely and I'm pleased that they are, because they could serve as a model for other corporations to follow, if the experiment in The Pas is successful. I also believe it could serve as a model for

private corporations to follow. It is my hope that the resolution put forward by the Member for Wolseley receives the unanimous support of this House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question?

The Honourable Member for Thompson.

**MR. S. ASHTON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, in beginning of my remarks on this particular resolution, I'd like to clear up one thing for members opposite, who have suggested this is a motherhood resolution. I can tell them clearly that the Member for Wolseley would never bring in a motherhood resolution of any sort. A parenthood resolution maybe, but certainly not a motherhood resolution.

However, Mr. Speaker, I would mention to members opposite that if they really read what is involved with this resolution, they might find also that it is not a motherhood or parenthood resolution in the same sense that they mean, Mr. Speaker, because I would suggest to them that while they may give token support to this resolution, they really think twice about the principle that is involved because I know a number of traditional Conservatives do not support industrial democracy because it does involve a number of concepts, a number of mechanisms which do violate what they consider to be a proper way in which to run a society. So I would suggest that perhaps it's not even a motherhood or parenthood resolution in that sense.

However, in beginning my remarks, I would like initially to review exactly what the resolution proposes in terms of actual mechanisms and perhaps review some of the experience of those mechanisms in other countries throughout the world.

The resolution is fairly straightforward. It mentions industrial democracy. In doing so, I think it uses it in the same sense that a number of other terms are often used which connote hold much the same sort of concept. I'm referring to such concepts as workplace democracy, self-management, worker participation in management. All of these various terms have been used interchangeably at different times to describe basically the same basic concept.

What that concept is, Mr. Speaker, is a concept that there is a role for society in terms of the internal management of an industrial enterprise. That's the basic root of it. It says, further to that, Mr. Speaker, that role is to expand and encourage development of internal democracy, internal justice if you like. Those principles of democracy and justice are very similar to the same principles we seek to have in our overall society, that of some element of participation, some element of shared decision-making, some element of accountability for those decisions. All those particular principles, I think, can be used just as much in industrial democracy as in our democratic system.

However, Mr. Speaker, industrial democracy clearly is in a number of things and these things are often confused for that particular concept, so I would like to point out what it doesn't refer to. It doesn't refer to the system, for example, in Japan which is often described as being one in which there is industrial democracy. Because if one analyses what happens in Japan, one will find that basically their system is rather

paternalistic. There are a number of mechanisms which are very similar to those mechanisms which are used in other countries, where those countries do use them in an effort to expand industrial democracy. However, if one analyses what happens in Japan, it clearly is not at the root of the system. They clearly have a paternalistic system.

I mention that, Mr. Speaker, because given the economic success of the Japanese the last decade, the last number of decades as a matter of fact, a lot of people tend to look at Japan as a role model. I am not suggesting that we ignore the example of Japan. Certainly their success speaks for itself. However, to take from their experience that somehow they have industrial democracy and that industrial democracy works in that particular manner, I think, would be incorrect because that clearly has not been what has happened there.

I think the place where industrial democracy is practised most properly in terms of that particular concept is in western Europe. In western Europe, in the various countries that it is practised, it takes a number of different forms. It first of all is used at a number of different levels; first of all at the board level; second of all at the workplace level; and at various levels in between. It is used on a wide variety of issues as well, Mr. Speaker, and that's another aspect of it. It is not where it's practised solely, but the scope of issues which it involves.

In many countries in western Europe where industrial democracy is practised, there is quite an extensive involvement of the workers of the particular enterprises in decisions related not just to workplace matters, but also to the very long-run strategy of the industry itself. By that, I refer to investment decisions for example, Mr. Speaker, because they do have participation in those decisions through their involvement on the boards and management committees of those enterprises.

Now I've mentioned the fact that a number of western European countries do have industrial democracy in some form or another, in certain sectors of the economy or others. I think the most notable examples are Sweden, West Germany and Austria. In these countries, the mechanisms vary considerably from very formal mechanisms to somewhat semi-formal mechanisms to very informal mechanisms, but they all have one common thread, Mr. Speaker, and that common thread is that the industrial system has to be viewed as part of our overall social system; that we cannot simply say that we are going to encourage democracy in the political sense and then ignore what for most people anyway is a major part of their life, that being their workplace. We cannot say that, sure, you have democratic rights in society as a whole; you're a citizen with full rights in that society and yet, somehow when you punch your clock at the beginning of a day and you go to work, you somehow lose most of those rights. You have to adapt to what is basically a non-democratic system.

I think that recognition is important, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier. I think that this may conflict with the very basic principle of traditional Conservatism. If I may be permitted perhaps an example of that, Mr. Speaker, this may conflict very strongly with the principle that Conservatives subscribe to, I think, in most countries of this world. That is that of the entrepreneur's

prerogative or management prerogative which is basically the same concept, Mr. Speaker, only in this particular case, management represents the entrepreneur.

Now that concept says basically, Mr. Speaker, that since the entrepreneur takes the risk in terms of his investment that he should have the sole decision-making authority on a wide variety of issues. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it goes further and it says that basically the entrepreneur should be able to set the particular issues on which he can decide and decide solely.

I mention this, Mr. Speaker, because one of the first things that one attaches to a system in which there is industrial democracy is the concept of shared decision-making, is a concept of a role for someone other than the entrepreneur, in this particular case, that of the employees in that particular organization. As I mentioned, that I feel, may violate some of the principles of traditional Conservatism, Mr. Speaker.

Now of course, that doesn't bother me. I'm sure it doesn't bother any members of this side of the House but, before members opposite attempt to say that, yes, they're in favour of industrial democracy, I think they should think this through. I think they may find that they may have perhaps some questions, as did the Member for Turtle Mountain. They may go a little further and find that they may, in fact, oppose this concept, because that is certainly what Conservatives in Europe have done, Mr. Speaker. They have looked at the concept of industrial democracy through their view of the world and said, no, they don't support it. I think that's important, Mr. Speaker, as we debate this issue, because it should give us the opportunity to define our differences as well as those areas we agree on. Because certainly, given the nature of their party, Mr. Speaker, and our party, I'm sure there are differences on many issues including this one.

It's important to recognize, Mr. Speaker, this is a change to the traditional view of an organization. It's a change because, until very recently, it was accepted pretty well universally that it should be entrepreneurs' privilege, management privilege, and there should be little else.

That fact is, however, Mr. Speaker, that has been changing and it's been changing rather dramatically in western Europe. What are the results? Well, Mr. Speaker, in those countries where there have been those changes, there has been a dramatic increase in productivity. In fact, many of the countries that I have mentioned already have had the top growth rates in the world. And what does accompany that, Mr. Speaker? What does accompany that has been a greater sense of harmony both in the industries where industrial democracy has been practised and also at the national level where the sense of co-operation has been felt throughout the country. — (Interjection) — That is Western Europe, Mr. Speaker, where they had been practising these principles.

What about Canada? Well, Mr. Speaker, it's sad to say, but we have been slipping. We have slipped from third position in the world in terms of GNP to approximately fourteenth. We have been faced, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of industrial strife; and while in terms of lost numbers of work days that doesn't amount to as much as people often feel, it is actually a loss of perhaps .5 percent or 1 percent of work time

in Canada. I think it's a symptom of some of the problems we have.

Mr. Speaker, some people sometimes react rather quickly to that. They say, well, we have industrial strife. They ask the question, why; and they immediately answer it with, well, it's because of those unions. Well, is it because of those unions, Mr. Speaker? I would say no, because I can compare one country, for example, right off the bat - Sweden. I can compare that with Canada; I can point out in Sweden there are, I believe, three times as many unionized workers on a percentage basis than there are in Canada. In fact, Sweden has one of the highest rates of union organization in the world. I can point out, Mr. Speaker, that apart from the United States, I believe we have one of the lowest levels of organization in the world. Now, what is their strike rate, Mr. Speaker? Is it as high as ours? Is it higher perhaps, because they have more unionized workers. Well, Mr. Speaker, it's quite the opposite. They, in fact, have had in recent years and they have had for approximately 50 years now one of the lowest strike rates in the world.

It's not just Sweden, Mr. Speaker; it's also Austria. That's another good example of the suggestion that unions have been causing all the problems is not true. In Austria, they have a very high percentage of organization; they also have one of the lowest strike rates. In fact, Mr. Speaker, for a number of years they have had no strike rate, they've had no lost days because of strikes - zero. That, I think, is a testament to the success of their system and also the falsehood of a number of the arguments that are used here in Canada. So, Mr. Speaker, if, in looking at the industrial strife that we are faced with, it is not obviously the fault of unions and unions alone. What is it the fault of, Mr. Speaker? Why do we have such industrial strife?

Well, I would say, Mr. Speaker, it's largely because we do not have the broad acceptance of the principles embodied in this resolution. I would say that is perhaps the major reason. I mentioned before in terms of the overall concept of participation, Mr. Speaker, I would note that that's referred to in the resolution. It also mentions the importance of consultation at the governmental level in reference to the Economic Summit, and also at the board level and the workplace level.

So, Mr. Speaker, that I believe is the reason why we do have these problems is because we do not have that approach, and it's embodied, I think, in terms of what one sees and in terms of a lot of strikes that do take place. Canada has one of the highest percentages of strike rates attributable to the question of the recognition of a union; one of the highest rates in the world, Mr. Speaker.

In other countries, managers take the existence of unions for granted. In fact, there are many stories of those people coming to Canada, the United States, and actually seeking out a union, actually going to employees and saying, please start a union so that we can begin this process of consultation. There are cases of that, Mr. Speaker. In Canada, however, unfortunately for many years we have had a different attitude. It's been an attitude of confrontation that makes the bargaining for a contract, in often cases the first contract but not necessarily so, not just a question of the issues of that contract of wage rates, of working conditions, of those

particular matters, Mr. Speaker, but at the root of those disputes has been the question of the recognition of that union itself, and the strike that ensues, the conflict, is a direct result of the fact that there is a struggle for that recognition.

In a system where there's industrial democracy, Mr. Speaker, that recognition is taken for granted. It is taken from that stage to one further stage that the existence of that union is used as a springboard towards greater consultation, greater co-operation, greater involvement of employees in the enterprise itself. It's for reasons such as this, Mr. Speaker, the absence of a recognition of the importance of industrial democracy and the role of employees in the workplace that I believe we have slipped. I feel, Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why we should be fourteenth, why we should be continuing to slip. I feel there is no reason why we should continue to have at various times not one of the highest strike rates, but the highest strike rate. I believe only Italy rivals us, and that alternates between year to year. I don't feel that we have to be in that position, Mr. Speaker.

I talk to my constituents in a constituency that is probably one of the highest unionized constituencies in the province. I talk to people in terms of my constituency on both sides of the table, Mr. Speaker; both on the management side and the union side. There is one thing, Mr. Speaker, that I keep hearing from them more and more, and that is that we need more co-operation. Mr. Speaker, what they are looking for is much the same sort of thing that is mentioned in this resolution, a greater consultation and participation. As I said, that is not just from union members; it is not just from management people; it's coming from both sides.

The best example, Mr. Speaker, of how important that kind of co-operation is came most recently during the shutdown at Inco. Not too long ago we had a very divisive strike in Thompson. During the election, as a matter of fact, there was a strike on and there were a number of splits that occurred in the community because of that. Last year, last November, when we had a shutdown for three months, did those splits come to the fore, Mr. Speaker? No, quite the opposite; there was a tremendous sense of co-operation because union, because management, because all sorts of community people got together, sat down, and came up with one of the best employment programs that I have ever seen in this province, Mr. Speaker, the Thompson Improvement Projects Employment Program. They created more than 370 short-term jobs; they created more than \$2.7 million of community assets on more than 70 programs that affected the entire community, and they did it because they co-operated. They put aside past differences and they said, we can work together. That wasn't just one side, Mr. Speaker; it wasn't just the other side. It was everybody, and that is what they are saying to me more and more, Mr. Speaker, as their representative, in looking at Canada's slide. They are saying the solution to that slide in places such as Thompson and throughout the country is to have a greater sense of co-operation, to have more consultation, more participation. As I said, Mr. Speaker, these are both sides; it's both union and management who are saying that to me.

If I could be permitted, Mr. Speaker, I would say that in supporting this resolution, I feel that I am finally

finding a forum in this Legislature to express that, because they've been saying it to me; they are saying, that is exactly what we need more and more.

In talking to this resolution today, Mr. Speaker, as I said, I support it personally, but I'm sure that every person in my constituency, if they had the opportunity to read this resolution and the principles embodied in it, would support it not because it's motherhood or parenthood, not because of that, but because the great change that it embodies, the change in the way we manage things, is exactly the kind of change they're looking for, Mr. Speaker. They're looking for a new approach, a co-operative approach to society. That's the kind of co-operative approach outlined by the Member for Wolseley in this resolution. It's the kind of approach I support, Mr. Speaker, and it is the message that I'm getting more and more from my constituents.

I only hope, Mr. Speaker, that members in this House, and members of other parties across Canada will pay attention, because unless we start listening we will continue to slide and that's something that just shouldn't happen Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Housing.

**HON. J. STORIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It's an honour to be able to rise on this occasion and make some remarks on the resolution that was presented by the Member for Wolseley.

I certainly begin by saying that I agree wholeheartedly with the remarks of the Member for Thompson, who has indicated that now more than ever is an appropriate time to start looking at some alternatives to the way that our economy functions. And particularly how the relationship between labour and business and government, but labour and business in particular, the history of that relationship and to look at some alternatives.

As the member indicated there is a tremendous cost to our society as a whole and certainly to individual workers, to individual businesses with the present system. I suppose some would categorize the present system as an adversarial system. While that is not always the case, and while there are a significant number of satisfactory resolutions from the present system, it still has some deficiencies and deficiencies which I think everyone acknowledges must be dealt with.

I recall the Member for La Verendrye in his remarks was talking about his own personal experiment in workplace democracy and was pointing out some of the limitations to that system. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, no one on this side is of the view that this industrial democracy is a panacea or that it is a quick cure-all for some of the particular problems that face labour and industrial relations at this point in time.

However, that because of the unemployment, because of the particular difficulties being experienced by businesses in this country, it is a most opportune time for all members, for all parties in industrial negotiations to review the current practises, to look at some alternatives, some experiments which have been ongoing on other countries.

Certainly we're not alone in being an industrialized country and we have to recognize, and I think learn

from some of the experiences and some of the practises that are ongoing in other countries.

The Member for Thompson and others have mentioned the success of countries like West Germany and other Western European countries. In using the particular skills and the knowledge and the insight that workers gain, not only from being on the shop floor as it were, but from being part of an organization that by its very nature has an impetus which is sometimes at odds with the individual managers and the people working within it.

Organizations, all kinds of bureaucratic organizations, all kinds of large organizations have a life of their own in essence. Regardless of how good a manager might feel he or she is, there are things occurring within that organization which by their very nature make it ineffective and inefficient.

If we were to assume that inefficiency and poor management were the sole purview of government organizations or government Crown corporations, we would be sadly mistaken because all of us are aware of horror stories coming out of private industry. Large organizations whom, despite the fact that they have annual reports which indicate they're making a profit could certainly be doing a better job, both in terms of their profit picture and in terms of their relations with their employees.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the resolution embodies certainly the principles that we would hope were well accepted in terms of industrial democracy. I think the Whereas embody assumptions that most people acknowledge are the cornerstone for a society based on industrial democracy and recognizes the contribution that employees can make.

If I'm right, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read the Whereas and make some comments about the position, a position that Canadian businesses have taken and Canadian labour have taken on these particular assumptions.

The first Whereas reads:

WHEREAS consultation with employees and other representatives by employers in the operation of business enterprises can engender a sense of commitment to, and enhance the well-being and the prosperity of the enterprise and its employees.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, the idea of a commitment is something that is not the sole prerogative of managerial staff. I think that if you look around at companies that have been particularly successful in Canadian society, you will find companies whose employees at all levels have a commitment to that particular organization. Whether we're talking about Massey Ferguson or - bad example - whether we're talking about Xerox or other corporations, who on a regular basis have very rosy annual reports. Those companies have employees at all levels who have a commitment and I'm sure that it can be demonstrated that a commitment on the part of employees is a first step in a companies well-being.

So a commitment - then how do you engender a commitment in individuals? Do you do it by the traditional management style of imposing decisions from the top?

Just having reviewed some of the input of members opposite, I think we all recognize that there are a large number of corporate entities who recognize that decentralization of authority is a very successful way



of incorporating the talents of all the individual within an organization, that decentralized authority that typifies the traditional management style is a thing of the past and something that companies sometimes unwillingly, but I think out of necessity are changing.

So we have situations occurring across Canada where the decision-making process has filtered down from the board room to middle management to perhaps the shop floor. I know that companies such as Volvo, and I think some of the larger auto makers, are experimenting with a decentralized authority, decentralized decision-making process.

The second Whereas reads:

WHEREAS the broad skills and talents of employees frequently are employed only in narrow and specific job functions for the benefit of the enterprise.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, we were talking a minute ago about the fact that employees are no more or less intelligent or capable on average than managers. The fact is that out of the ranks of thousand of people are chosen managers, but within those ranks are also capable and intelligent people and for a management to assume that the particular people that they, for whatever reason, have chosen to be escalated on the corporate ladder are the only ones who can make a contribution to that organization, is clearly a false assumption. And, if you make those kinds of assumptions, and you move your corporation along on the basis of those assumptions, at some point you're asking for a catastrophe, and within any organization I am sure that the present board, or the present board chairman, could identify areas in the corporation which, because of their unwillingness to allow a decentralized decision-making authority pattern, have created some of their own problems.

So we say that there is a tremendous amount of talent, a tremendous amount of ingenuity in the work force at levels other than the managerial level. Not to utilize that, not to put it to work for a particular organization or a corporation is a denial of the health of, not only the organization but a denial of the security of the work force and an abrogation of its duties as a corporate citizen.

The third Whereas says:

"WHEREAS the special knowledge, skills and insights of employees could both assist in the more efficient operation of the enterprise and develop a sense and an effect of constructive co-operation.

So moving beyond that, once you recognize that you have the talent you have to be ready to formalize ways of making sure that those individuals can contribute to that organization. It is not enough to say, yes, we have a whole wealth of talent at various levels in our organization. Somehow you have to recognize that for that talent to come to the fore you have to have a mechanism for it to happen.

Certainly we have seen examples of that in our own workplace, health and safety legislation. Workers on the shop floor recognize the dangerous situations which they are forced to work under. They are recognized at that level long before senior management becomes aware of a potential problem, and yet if there is no mechanism for the managers and the board to become aware of the significance of a particular problem, then nothing happens, and what we have is five or ten years down the road, a workplace-related illness, which people

on the shop floor were cognizant of a long time ago. But in effect, because of the lack of a structure for them to seek redress to that particular problem, we have a long-term health problem, which I suppose we all pay for in the end.

Certainly other countries are strides ahead of what Canadian industry and business is at in terms of making structures available for the contribution of their work forces, and I think, as I have said before, both sides recognize the need for those mechanisms to be in place so that the contribution can be there.

Certainly we have taken steps in the area of workplace, health and safety. We have, now, committees established so that workers can make input. We haven't been nearly so effective or as active in providing mechanisms for employees to contribute in terms of providing innovative production areas or providing ways to enhance productivity, if you will. When I say productivity, I wouldn't like you to conclude that that is the responsibility of one group. Productivity involves certainly management, management style, and management capability. It involves the technology that you are using and I think on the whole, Canadian industries are using technology that is out of step really with what other industrialized countries are using.

Certainly you would use Japan as the typical example of a country that has adapted technology in its workplace and enabled it to succeed in the world business community. Canada would be the typical example of a business community that has not, to any great extent, used the technology that is available to increase the productivity of their particular plants.

I think the next WHEREAS, Mr. Speaker, is a significant one as well and certainly one that indicates quite clearly that this government is committed to the idea of industrial democracy and recognizes that it is not something that unilaterally a government can institute. The fact is that industrial democracy requires a good deal of co-operation and understanding on the part of labour, business and government. Government being that particular institution which sets the regulations which manipulates from time to time the variables that go into the relationships between industry and labour, so government has a role to play.

Certainly the resolution which reads:

WHEREAS participants in the Economic Summit Conference organized by the Government of Manitoba at Portage la Prairie last November unanimously concurred on the value of improved consultation and communications as a means of improving labour-management relations and providing broader perspectives to the operation of business enterprises, - clearly the dialogue that occurred at Portage la Prairie was, I think, the beginning - perhaps that is not the correct word - it was certainly encouraging for a number of us that attended that meeting and took part in those discussions to see the recognition on the part of both parties, on the part of labour and on the part of government, that industrial democracy was something worth striving for. The overall feeling that came out of the Summit was that the current system, while it has served us well, the current relationship between business and labour has served us well, there is need for improvement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time being 5:30, when this resolution is next before the House the Honourable Minister will have six minutes remaining.

The Acting Government House Leader.

**HON. A. MACKLING:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, that subject to the committees meeting this evening, this House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow (Tuesday).