

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 22 April, 1985.

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee, please come to order.

We are considering Item No. 5.(a)(1) Parks, Administration; Salaries; 5.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Minister, there is a popular song that's entitled, "What Have You Done to My Song, Ma?" and I want to know, Mr. Minister, what are you doing to my parks, Sam?

I'm disturbed to hear the department is, I assume for economic reasons, having to forego some of their responsibilities in some of the lesser parks, but I have a specific question to the Minister and this has to do with some concepts that the department had in developing corridor parks. I am referring specifically to the Assiniboine River, the idea that there would be a corridor of public lands, parks which even included the lesser parks that the Department of Highways and Transportation perhaps initiated, I'm referring to the Norquay Beaches, etc.

But I recollect from my short tenure as Minister that it seemed to me an exciting concept to develop what we referred to in those days as the corridor concept of sites set aside that people either enjoying the Assiniboine in the raw, canoeing down it, that motorists could pursue a corridor concept of having available to the motoring public, to the canoeing public a series of parks developed along the Assiniboine River. Is that policy still being pursued by the department at this time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the concept that the member alludes to is still part of our policy, and we still add to the system of roadside parks each year or whatever, but we are always under constant development of new opportunities for that very purpose.

It comes to mind three particular ones: there is one on PTH 34 which is new; one at Spruce Woods; Spirit Sands and the other one at the Portage Diversion. Those are three new ones. Then, of course, there's Beaudry which is a big park.

MR. H. ENNS: What?

HON. S. USKIW: Beaudry of course, as we all know about, which was added four or five years ago to the parks system. Or is it longer than that? — (Interjection) — Yes, I guess it's several years ago.

But in any event, in the last little while we have added three such corridor parks the member is alluding to.

MR. H. ENNS: Okay then, just to ask a further question, the Beaudry Park, and I should know, that's that property just outside of Headingley, the the Ammeter Farms property?

Can the Minister indicate to me what kind of resources are in that area? I'm well aware of the work that has been undertaken at the Portage Diversion; it's the natural development for that area. Of course, Beaudry, can the Minister give us some indication of the dollars and cents that have been dedicated to this development?

HON. S. USKIW: To the Beaudry or to the tourist sites?

MR. H. ENNS: To the whole concept of the corridor park along the Assiniboine. That may be a little bit difficult question in terms of . . .

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, let the member continue his remarks. In the meantime, we'll try and find that information.

MR. H. ENNS: Fine, but I was going to pursue that, and then ask what is happening in terms of the joint federal-provincial program that travels from the forks north on the Red covered under the ARC agreement which was a concept that just really got under way when I was last in a position to have some responsibility about it; is that moving along on schedule?

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that the ARC projects essentially will be completed by October of 1985, with the exception of the area at the forks of the river which is still sometime into the future.

MR. H. ENNS: Can the Minister indicate, if we are that close to completion of that project, what the final kind of allocation of funds were called upon by the Federal Government and the Provincial Government to bring about those improvements?

HON. S. USKIW: Without wanting to leave a figure on the record that isn't accurate, I would suggest that it is approximately \$8.5 million in total spent to date, or will be spent by the end of October, plus the \$2.5 million that the Government of Canada is committed to for the area of the fork of the rivers. Now we can give you a breakdown on that if you want later on, but that's essentially about a good ballpark.

MR. H. ENNS: No, I am really just interested in knowing, one gets involved, the the ribbon cutting and the signing of these great agreements, so I am just wondering whether or not the Federal Government, and the Provincial Government, have lived up to the obligations undertaken at that time to develop some very particular sites. They involve some historic sites along the Red River; they involve routes again along the way and, in my concept, all part of the corridor concept of park development along the historic rivers that we have in the province.

HON. S. USKIW: I am advised that we are very satisfied with the federal role in that development and that they have lived up to the commitments entered into. We, of course, don't mind new initiatives on the part of the Federal Government whenever they are available to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With almost the total destruction of the Portage Spillway, the park there, a year ago, I believe it was, there has been redevelopment, some development in the course of the year. I am wondering if the Minister can fill me in on this as to what his plans are to improve that situation there at the present time.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the member would restate which area he is talking about.

MR. L. HYDE: The Portage Spillway, the Portage diversion.

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, I am advised that that area has been reconstructed since the flood situation that occurred a year ago.

MR. L. HYDE: Yes, I am aware of the fact that it has been improved upon from following the almost total washout, but originally there were some fish filleting shacks there for the people to use at the time and they haven't been replaced. I am wondering what is the future plan for that park. Are we going to bring it up to its original state again or is it just going to be left as it is today?

HON. S. USKIW: I am advised that because of the flood risk that we experienced this year, the buildings were removed and, of course, are being replaced fairly soon in the next week or so.

MR. L. HYDE: They will be replaced?

HON. S. USKIW: Yes.

MR. L. HYDE: That's fine, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you. I'd like to pursue the aspect of the Grass River Wilderness Provincial Park. But before I get into that, I have a request to raise an issue here with the Minister regarding Falcon Lake where certain people who have cottages there have expressed some concern that some of our resource people have been apparently planting hedges and stuff like that for certain individuals in there and that service seems to be available only to a selected one or two individuals. I want to draw it to the Minister's attention and see whether he can specifically find out whether this is an ongoing thing.

The question specifically that I have is, what are the rules and regulations governing the building of fences, hedges, stuff like that? Is there a policy in place or is this on an ad hoc basis where the request is made to the Department of Natural Resources and the director

out there at Falcon Lake, and that decision then gets made or is there a program in place that controls the development, expansion of buildings, building of fences, hedges, etc., in that area there?

I don't know whether the individual who raised the concern with me has been in touch with the Minister. I think the effort has maybe been made but maybe has not had the opportunity to make contact there. But I'm dealing specifically with areas where our resource people have gone in and planted caragana hedges, they planted them on a certain individual's property and it was the wrong place. They removed them again, replanted them again and removed them again - I don't know whether the resource people have any knowledge of it - but by doing it on a person's property who is working for the Resource Department, with Resource personnel involved, all the neighbours feel that they should have the same advantage. So I want to raise that with the Minister and maybe his Resource staff could give us an indication as to what has happened there.

HON. S. USKIW: I take it the member doesn't believe that's in their collective agreement as a benefit.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Do you?

HON. S. USKIW: In any event, we'll do a check on it.

With respect to fences, the policy is not to have fences, but under certain circumstances they are permitted.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: What would those circumstances be? Would the circumstances be that if you worked for the Resource Department you could put up a fence, and if you don't, then you can't?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, no, I wouldn't imagine that would be a criteria considered at all, but I'm told that there may be occasions where a fence may be allowed, but as a policy, the rule of thumb is no.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Then I would just like to leave that with the Minister that maybe he could have his people investigate whether there is an abuse of personnel in terms of maybe planting hedges for people who work for the department, and whether those people also have the added benefit if they want a fence that they can have a fence and nobody else can. So I want to draw this to the Minister's attention. It was drawn to my attention and I would ask him whether he would look into that aspect of it and maybe before this thing boils up into a real hodgepodge out there, maybe we could have some clarification on that. I realize that maybe there is not an answer coming right now, but I would expect that there maybe is a clarification or answer. If the Minister gives me that undertaking that somewhere in the near future I'll have an answer on that, then I'll leave it at that.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, it perhaps will be before we are completed with our Estimates review. Hopefully, at least, we'll have an answer to that question.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Without trying to put names on the record, if some of the staff would want to check

specifically on that, I would give what information I have and they can take it from there.

HON. S. USKIW: That's fine.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you.

Then we covered the aspect of the Atikaki Wilderness Park just prior to Private Members' Hour. At that time, the Minister indicated that there were not the same kind of mechanical restrictions in that park as are in the Lake Mantario area.

Now I would like to pursue the aspect of the Grass River Provincial Park. I just want to make sure I have that name right, I believe that's the name of it. There was some concern expressed, because of mineral exploration or mining exploration in that area, and I would ask whether the Minister could give us an update as to what are the restrictions? Is there an expansion being considered? If not, are restrictions still in place in that park area? If so, what are the restrictions?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the Grass River Management Plan has been approved and adopted by my predecessor. I'm not familiar with its content, and I suspect the member isn't either, but whatever that is, I am prepared to make that information available. It does address the concerns and the needs of the mining sector, and does provide some direction with respect to forestry in the area. If the member wishes a comprehensive sort of report or statement on that we can get one for him.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: The Minister is correct, I am not totally aware of all what has happened there, and if the Minister says he's not totally aware either . . . The aspect I want to address is has there been a change in the direction that was initially being promoted, in terms of virtually no provision for mining exploration or any other aspects of that? I fully realize the Minister can and, you know, I would appreciate having a more comprehensive report on that, but I would like to know whether there has been a change, whether the concern about the mining exploration has been addressed, and whether that has been resolved, No. 1.

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, that's the whole point, those concerns, we believe, have been resolved satisfactorily to the people involved and concerned with the issue. But until we have the definition of the new plan it's perhaps not good enough as a statement and, hopefully, the member will bear with us until we give him a fuller statement. We have dealt with that particular issue.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Are there other issues? Maybe I'm on a fishing trip a little bit, Mr. Minister, but maybe for my own benefit, as well as maybe his, are there other major concerns in that provincial park in terms of restrictions that are in place right now? Are they all being addressed? The Minister is indicating to me that he believes that the mining exploration concerns have been addressed which were major ones out there. What are the other restrictions in that area? I want to come back to establishing whether there are also mechanical restrictions in there in terms of use of power boats, snow toboggans, etc., etc.

HON. S. USKIW: There are two other areas of concern that come to mind: one is the protection of caribou calving areas which in that agreement is provided for; and the other one had to do with the potential for wild rice development, so the answer on the latter is that it's not a suitable wild rice area. Or rather I should rephrase that, it is considered not important in that context as there are ample lakes available for wild rice development.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: So what the Minister is saying is that the mining concerns have been addressed, and the Minister feels comfortable that the caribou aspect and the wild rice aspect of it are not major problems. Other than that, we don't have any restrictions in terms of fishing or hunting, other than the concern of the caribou calving aspect of it.

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, we're not aware of anything of any major significance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1).

HON. S. USKIW: I might want to suggest to the member that if he's on a fishing expedition, as long as he uses a barbless hook, I won't mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering with respect to building standards that are being imposed, it seems to me that some time ago that there were building standards being imposed in provincial parks, at least in a manner that would not be imposed in most municipal jurisdictions, that inspectors would go through and have a look at the cottages and tell people they had to fix up their back steps and fix their screens and things like that, whereas in any town in rural Manitoba you wouldn't find that kind of restriction or intrusion taking place as to how people would look after their homes. I am wondering if the Minister could tell me whether that's still the case or not.

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, the requirements that the member alludes to have been dramatically modified so that they are not as stringent as they were unless there is a major problem that seems evident with respect to a building site or a building, then of course there is provision for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2)—pass; 5.(b)(1) Park Planning: Salaries; 5.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

5.(c)(1) Program Management: Salaries; 5.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I just have a question here in terms of Program Management, I could ask just before (2). Are there any other wilderness parks that are being contemplated in terms of designation for the future, aside from the Lake Mantario, the Atikaki and the Grass River?

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, I am advised that the Seal River area in Northern Manitoba has been identified as a potential site.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, can the Minister be more approximate as to where this is? I don't even know where Seal River is myself - I don't know whether my colleagues do - but maybe the Minister doesn't know where it is.

HON. S. USKIW: I didn't even know there was a Seal River.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Neither did I. Just approximately.

HON. S. USKIW: North of Churchill, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(c)(1)—pass; 5.(c)(2)—pass.
5.(d)(1) Park Maintenance: Salaries; 5.(d)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. W. McKENZIE: Can you give me the SMYs last year and the SMYs for this year in the Salaries, Mr. Minister?

HON. S. USKIW: What was the question, Mr. Chairman?

MR. W. McKENZIE: The Salaries, Park Maintenance.

HON. S. USKIW: Yes.

MR. W. McKENZIE: How many SMYs?

HON. S. USKIW: Oh, okay. We have for this year 365.25 staff years. We had 381.49.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? 5.(d)(1)—pass; 5.(d)(2)—pass.

5.(e)(1) Visitor Services: Salaries; 5.(e)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I just want to raise a concern under the Visitor Services aspect of it. I think this Minister had the responsibility for being the Minister of Tourism prior to this responsibility, and I really have to express my concern about the direction, generally, that is developing in the Department of Natural Resources in the parks aspect of it.

There seems to be a very cost-conscious factor and are prepared to start sacrificing certain roadside parks - we are talking of provincial parks that are not economically viable to keep on running - and at the same time we have the potential for — (Interjection) — if the Member for Springfield will just wait, he can always get to the debate from the other side if he wants to. He is in a bit of a precarious position sitting behind me, Mr. Minister, you know.

The concern one expresses that I think we are moving in the wrong direction at a time when the potential for tourism, especially with our devalued dollar versus the American dollar, that we are taking, in my opinion, the wrong direction. We're looking at starting to economize our whole park structure and cutting it down to some degree at a time when we should maybe not be doing that and looking at expanding the possibility of the tourist dollars, which are actually very good dollars to get into this province here. Our investment is not that major but if we are going to continue clamping down

on our aspect of park services, it certainly will not enhance the visitor in the tourist aspect of it and I think maybe our whole position in terms of our attitude towards parks should be reconsidered.

I realize this government can move in whatever direction they want in terms of where they spend their dollars and obviously we see that through the way they are spending their dollars, that promoting self-image by advertising, radio, TV, papers, stuff of this nature, seems to be more of a priority than actual undertakings in maintenance of some of the most, I think, enhancing aspects of our natural resources.

I just want to draw this to the Minister's attention that he, who was the Minister responsible for Tourism, certainly, now that he is in this aspect of it, should appreciate the fact that we need to be able to provide good services to enhance our tourist industry. I just want to draw that to the Minister's attention.

I think that if he was - and I am sure he was - conscientious about the responsibility for tourism. Now he is in a position where he can enhance that through the parks aspect of it and we are moving in a different direction. Unfortunately this Minister, for the period of time that he will be holding his present responsibility, might not have the chance to really look at another set of Estimates where he will be changing that aspect of it, but maybe his attitude would be changing even at the present time.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, we are not attempting to reduce the quality of service, the quality of our parks, but rather to enhance those. That doesn't, however, detract or remove the possibility for some program reductions where we think we can live with those reductions in less sensitive areas for budgetary reasons and that's the reality of budgeting these days.

We are working with tourism in a tourism park strategy so that we are not working at cross purposes. The area that has yet to be fully blossomed out, in my opinion, has to be with respect to how we can work together to provide an opportunity for major private sector developments that will not only create job opportunities but bring forward new opportunities for recreation. I am talking about major resort opportunities for private sector groups.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, I am encouraged by the response of the Minister. I just hope that when we get to the point of development of the private sector within the Department of Natural Resources that there will not be so much red tape and stringent regulations that this will be curtailing it in that respect. So I am encouraged by the Minister's attitude, at least, which is really for this government to promote the private sector is encouraging. It really is for a government that feels that they have to run everything to then say, well, we will give the opportunity to the private sector and I am encouraged by that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not encouraged by what's happening in parks. I inadvertently picked up last year's book of Estimates when I came into the Estimates considerations today and I'm concerned that

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in such vital areas, Mr. Minister, this is a concern that we express on our side of the House, that when it comes to delivery of services there's a less than satisfactory performance. Not to break the rules, but I note that last year in Park Maintenance, we had some \$876,000 allocated for that item; this year, it's \$7,974.00.

HON. S. USKIW: Million.

MR. H. ENNS: Pardon me, million. \$8,076,700 last year; this year, that item is reduced to \$7,974,500.00.

In Visitor Services, last year it was \$376,000, this year it's 373. It seems to me precisely the point the Member for Emerson was making. We have a golden opportunity with the dollar exchange being where it's at, where we're reaching out through Visitor Services, where we are looking at the particular aspect of the services of this department to enhance this delivery system, Mr. Minister, you have short-changed the department, and you're short-changing the people of Manitoba.

I would even accept a zero increase that the Minister of Health is imposing on the health delivery system in this province, but you have allowed under your Ministry to see a decrease take place in these two areas, and in this important area. Mr. Minister, that's not good enough. We should be reaching out right now. We've got a built-in advantage to entice, to encourage, to bring in, particularly our American tourist friends, into our great parks system. We have in effect, although only slightly but nonetheless we have stood still, and we consider that your government has signed MGEA contracts which gives every government employee an extra week off so there is less service there. I assume some of those employees are working in the parks system as well.

Mr. Minister, I think you can't stand up and tell the committee that you are even maintaining the service level in our parks; you have allowed it to slip back. That doesn't seem to make economic sense to me at a time when we ought to be trying to capitalize on inviting the tourist dollar that is there to be spent. I would have thought that perhaps, unless the Minister can tell me that the Jobs Fund came and stole a couple of million dollars away from him as I know they do from other departments, you can remember when you were Highways Minister and then, all of a sudden, the Jobs Fund came along and took \$20 million out of your budget. Then when you pleaded long and hard enough, you got \$4 million back, but you were still short \$16 million.

I have too much respect for these people in Parks and the Department of Natural Resources, you know, they deserve a little stronger effort, Mr. Minister, than what you're giving them quite frankly. I don't see why last year they spent \$8 million on Park Maintenance, you're now cutting that back by \$100,000.00. Last year they spent \$376,000 on Visitor Services, and you're cutting that back by a few dollars. When you add the benefits that your government has accrued to just simply the Salary question, you're cutting it back by more. So, Mr. Minister, I am just telling you that you are not really performing.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately all of us can't be everywhere at the same time. I suspect the

member was not here when we dealt with the reductions that we were proposing for this year, at which time I indicated that because of phased opening and closing of campsites, there will be reductions of expenditures in those areas and that happens to be one of the areas where that is going to show up in this particular appropriation number. So we made that quite clear, that we were going to trim our sails a bit, and work within a smaller budget with some degree of inconvenience perhaps to the general public who are using the campsites.

Also perhaps the member was not here when I made the point, and for whatever it's worth, that I am in a position of having to defend a set of Estimates that were not of my making, but I am prepared to defend them because we are a collective organization in government. I'm not certain whether they would have been any different had I had the decision to make, but nonetheless these decisions were made some time ago and I am here to defend them, Mr. Chairman.

MR. H. ENNS: Well that's fine, Mr. Minister, and I accept that; except that we generalize too often in opposition when we advise governments where they ought or ought not to spend money. But Mr. Minister, you were part of the Cabinet that said, we will sign a \$0.75 million advertising contract with a Montreal advertising firm to do what every Manitoban knows is a great thing, build Limestone. We're enjoying those ads now appearing on our TV screen, but couldn't the Parks Department have done without the cut right now of \$0.75 million and at least maintained the level of service, just maintained the level of service?

The Conservative Party is not advocating great expenditures. We realize the fiscal restraints the government is under, but it's the prioritization of this government that we are worried about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Just before we leave Parks, I had to slip out for a minute. I don't know whether the Minister had the answers to the questions I had asked before, earlier this afternoon, on Rivers Park and the roadside parks on No. 10 Highway north of, say, Swan River to Dauphin.

HON. S. USKIW: Just pass that on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(e)(1)—pass; 5.(e)(2)—pass.
5.(f) Grant Assistance—pass.

Resolution No. 122: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$13,054,200 for Natural Resources, Parks, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986 - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, just before we pass that, I just want to draw to the Minister's attention, he undertook to forward certain information regarding the Grass River Provincial Park and the development on the Atikaki Park. I would hope that that information will be forthcoming after a period of a time. I don't need it right now. I just want to have that undertaking that it will be coming forward.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, we will attempt to have that as soon as we can, perhaps even before the Estimates are complete, but certainly fairly soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 122—pass.

Item No. 6.(a)(1) Lands, Administration: Salaries;
6.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes, I wonder if the Minister could undertake to give us some indication as to - and I don't want to confuse the agricultural Crown lands versus the Natural Resources Crown land aspect of it - but I want to touch on the aspect of some of the land claims, the settlements that are in the making and have been in the making for a long time. I think my colleagues, the Member for Lakeside as well as Turtle Mountain, have been coping with that for a period of time when they were Ministers and I believe that is still being coped with. I'm talking about some of the Indian land claims.

Specifically, I'd like to maybe touch on places like The Pas where I had occasion to meet with various groups of people and there are claims of not that major a nature but somehow it seems that they are caught in a bureaucracy. I don't know whether there's an advantage for the bureaucracy not to move on these things but not being resolved and without really having the indepth knowledge of exactly all the things involved, but just hearing from the one side of the story, it would appear in my mind that some of these things could certainly be moved along. I think it would improve many of the relationships that we have dealing with the various reserves and the concerns of many of our Native people in terms of the land settlements because there seems to be a block somewhere where there is not really a genuine desire to move forward with these things and I wonder if the Minister could indicate where we're at. Is there movement in this direction or not?

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess we need a little more information from the Member for Emerson.

With respect to The Pas, is he referring to the area of the dispute between the Native people and the Pasquia farm group with respect to the boundary arrangements, or is he referring to Indian land claims per se as they apply generally throughout the province?

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I'm referring to, I think we're talking about some road exchange properties out there, we're talking of hydro-telephone installations. They're really not major things, but what has happened, I think, if there was a genuine desire to move on some of these kinds of problems, that some of the more major ones would fall into place as well. What happens, we have a buildup there of not just one item, we have a buildup of three or four and seemingly they have been there for a long time.

My feeling would be - and I'll say this off the top of my head, Mr. Chairman - but I think if the Minister and his people responsible would sit down at a table with, for example, The Pas Indian Band, and just look each other right in the eye and get some of these things resolved instead of trying to do it through the bureaucracy and this system, I think a lot of progress could be made and it would be a lot better atmosphere. I think it would be a lot easier to co-operate in some of the even more major projects. But, seemingly, if there can't even be any movement made on the more minor aspects of making some of these settlements and I'm just referring to, I believe it is telephone or hydro, I'm

certain his staff probably would know - like with The Pas Indian Band there are various little areas where it's been in the mill for a long time - and seemingly as I indicated without really knowing all the background of it, certainly if there was a desire to get some of these areas resolved, it would create a lot more favourable atmosphere in terms of resolving even the bigger ones. But if we can't even move on the smaller - what I consider not Mickey Mouse because they are important - aspects of it, how can we ever get even close to the big ones?

I think if that desire was ever demonstrated by government, and I realize that we have Indian Affairs involved and we have all kinds, but I think it would be beneficial for somebody like this Minister to go down and look at the circumstances. I know this Minister to be a relatively reasonable Minister, I think there is a potential at least for him to be reasonable. If he looked at some of these things and he's been promoting the commonsense approach in many things, if he went down there, looked at it, I think he would have to agree that some of these things could definitely move forward. I used this one particular case as an example and I'm sure there are many many through the system and somehow it seems that we can't make any forward movement on this aspect of some of these settlements.

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the member should recall the introduction of the Estimates where I had, I believe, alluded to an expansion area and this was one of the areas that we were going to enlarge upon or create and that's an Indian land claim's section with three staff people and some support dollars to deal specifically with this kind of thing. So we are expanding our capacity as a department to handle those situations.

The key area at The Pas, though, has to do with the Pasquia Dike's question, and we are close to resolution on that issue. There may be one or two other ones that the member alludes to, such as hydro and telephones, but the major issue there was the Pasquia Dike's issue, and we're close to an agreement on that.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, I suppose if the Minister feels that by adding three staff in that category that it will help resolve things faster. I would just like to indicate to him that maybe I don't know whether that would necessarily be the answer, maybe the Minister's direct involvement in this thing. I think maybe part of the problem is that there is too much staff at the present time, that staff is running over each other and I sometimes have had the feeling, Mr. Minister, that if everybody moved on these things and got them resolved, there would be a bunch of people who didn't have a job, so I sometimes wonder whether by adding more staff that's just going to prolong the agony of these negotiations. At least that is my impression because sometimes you have a point where there are too many chiefs or too many cooks - too many cooks spoil the broth - and I think that could probably be the case. — (Interjection) — It's a figure of speech, no reflection on anybody, but I think maybe the Minister is getting my message.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, we are but one agency or one department amongst a whole host of them that

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are dealing with these issues. The Government of Canada, the bands themselves, and various departmental agencies are involved, and we are but one actor in this whole business. Having had some experience in trying to resolve issues with respect to Native claims of one sort or another over many many years, I don't hold my breath when it comes to predetermining when a solution might be found or an agreement might be entered into, because there are many curves in the road to a settlement on any one of these issues.

I recall the one that I had to deal with at Lake St. Martin with three reserves. After supplying them with hay for about 10 years, after having had a tentative agreement for about two years, it took not a threat - I guess it could have been interpreted as such - but I had made up my mind at that time that unless I refused to further facilitate their annual hay supply I would never have an agreement. It took that kind of intervention in order to conclude those agreements.

It does require a great deal of co-operation from both sides. I think we're close to it with respect to the - well, the Pasquia Dike Agreement is practically in place. The other ones, I really couldn't comment because I don't know.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: The Minister has just illustrated exactly what has been happening where everybody passes the buck and says, well you know, there are these people involved and that kind of people in so many corners. What I am suggesting is that, if there is a genuine desire on behalf of this Minister - and he just illustrated the fact that it can be done if there is a real genuine desire - if he will pursue that aspect, that attitude with many of these things, I think a lot of progress could be made. Not necessarily all, but he illustrated exactly what I was indicating that if there is a desire, a genuine desire, that these things can be accomplished, at least initiated, but there has to be somebody that quits passing the buck and finally grabs the bull by the horns and creates some action.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, with respect to The Pas, in particular, I have to assume that things must be moving along quite well because I have just come from there a few days ago, and I have not been presented with a problem.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Maybe they gave up on you.

HON. S. USKIW: They have never had occasion to meet with me, and didn't seek the occasion when I was there. I have to assume that it shouldn't require the intervention of the Member for Emerson for them to get through to my office. Since I have not heard from them, I don't believe there is a serious problem there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. L. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just realized that I maybe just should have waited until 6.(b), but it maybe the Minister would deal with my problem at this time, if he would.

HON. S. USKIW: Crown Lands Administration?

MR. L. HYDE: I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, if he has seen plans on reviewing the rental fees for Crown lands adjoining, probably not only on the Portage Diversion, but that's the property that I wish to refer to. It has been brought to my attention that possibly the fee structure should be reviewed before too long, that there are acreages of land adjoining the Diversion that some local farmers feel could be bringing a better profit to the government, that the fee structure is far too low. The question that I have to put to the Minister is would he, or is he, considering possibly adjusting that?

HON. S. USKIW: This is an item that comes under the Department of Agriculture, we have nothing to do with setting the fees.

MR. L. HYDE: Yes, you're right.

HON. S. USKIW: The member should take it up during the Estimates of the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. L. HYDE: Very good, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Mr. Minister, it is not my intention to prolong the consideration of the Estimates, particularly in view of the fact that, as the Minister pointed out, I haven't been here at previous sittings.

HON. S. USKIW: No reflection.

MR. H. ENNS: I do want to point out to a seasoned veteran that you are, Mr. Minister, that came into the House at the same time I did in 1966, it just troubles me, from my overview of these Estimates, again, and I consider the Department of Natural Resources, and other departments that are the developmental departments of government, that make things happen that will improve our capability as a government, as a province, to enhance our economic position.

I am disturbed to see that, again, even in Lands relative to last year, we are spending less money, just about \$100,000 in two years. That leads me to - just allow me to refer to a document put out by a financial house, Midland Doherty Limited, that summarizes the Budget, that shows that the last Budget has allowed for a 4.5 percent increase in social services, a 1.2 percent decrease in all developmental departments, which I consider this department one. Surprisingly, government goes up by 22 percent and, perhaps even more alarming, our cost of the deficit goes up by 6 percent.

So in the consideration of these Estimates, where we're talking about service to people, whether it's our ability to service our own citizens first and foremost in our parks, whether it's our ability to encourage greater tourism development and the service provided to them, these Estimates are being held down.

You know, I expect a bit more from this Minister, this Minister is a senior Minister of this government. I have a lot more respect for the department that he now has. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, this Minister has not been doing his job. I can only put it that simply.

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It's not good enough for him to say, I acknowledge, that he is not totally responsible for these Estimates, but what should be made clear through these Estimates to the people of Manitoba is where this government places the priority of this department. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, it's not good enough, parks' opening being delayed because of whatever the problems are, services being cut back, whatever the reasons are. But this is the same government that has allowed its governmental expenses to increase by 22 percent; that has allowed and accepted social services to increase by 5 percent or 4.6 percent; and a net decrease of 1.2 percent in these developmental departments. That's just not good enough. Mr. Minister, the people of Manitoba sense and feel that, they will know that when they can't park their trailers on May 24th when all Manitobans look forward from a long winter to finally getting out and enjoying our parks. All of a sudden, under this government, campsites are not available.

It's in these things, Mr. Minister and Mr. Chairman, that all of a sudden, people are adding two and two together. At the same time though, they have just left their TV sets and they've watched the big ad about the great things that this government is doing with the Jobs Fund, or what the Limestone project is going to mean to them, or they're handing out \$5 to people so that they can start betting at 11 o'clock in the morning at the casinos in the Convention Centre, but we haven't got enough money to get our parks opened up in time.

Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed in this Minister, because I have a lot of respect for this Minister. This Minister has enough years of experience in that Cabinet and this government to have done a little better for this department, even at his late stage of coming into this department. He could have looked at these Estimates and said to his Premier, no, Mr. Premier, I will take over Natural Resources but not with this set of Estimates; I want at least the same money that was there last year because it is an important department and, quite frankly, I want 5 percent more.

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, really what the honourable member is suggesting is a bit of a new venture for the process. I suppose what he's suggesting is that this Minister should present to the Legislature a supplementary expenditure item to augment every part of his department because in terms of the timing of the changes that took place, of course, there was no opportunity for looking at numbers in any event.

But the member is wrong. He talks about a reduction but, in essence, it's not a big change upward but there is an actual increase in the Lands Branch of some \$100,000 year over year out of a total of a \$2 million expenditure in that whole section. There are components that have been reduced and others have been increased, but year over year the Lands Branch has a very slight increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I just wondered if the lands that are coming back into the government's hands on the abandoned rail bed, is this under Crown lands now or what department are they coming back under?

HON. S. USKIW: That comes under Government Services.

MR. D. BLAKE: That's under Government Services, okay. Wait till we get at him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for the fact that time has not permitted me to participate in the debates on the Estimates of the Natural Resources Department. I wanted to particularly ask the Minister for some information on a project that is of concern to communities in the Interlake, particularly in the regions of the Peguis and Fisher River Indian Reserves, to do with drainage problems that the Minister is probably aware of because they date back for a considerable number of years.

My understanding is that there has not yet been any satisfactory solution agreed upon to solve the drainage problems that they have and the prospect of flooding continues to threaten them. They have reason to believe that there are acceptable solutions that from a technical sense have been estimated and arrived at as satisfactory solutions, but the department continues to delay a final solution perhaps as a result of financial constraints, perhaps as a result of negotiations with another level of government, or other levels of government.

But I wonder if the Minister could have his staff provide me, if not this evening, perhaps in writing, a status summary of the project at the present time, what the solutions are, and whether or not they could at least offer to the people of the area the assurance that maybe an engineering design could be undertaken with some definitive cost estimates so that they would know precisely what they are looking towards.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I regret that the water resources people are not handy here this evening. I have no problem in responding to that request. I would like to indicate to the Leader of the Opposition, though, that just on Friday there was a meeting with the band and the Department of Indian Affairs who is assisting the feds to put in a Cabinet paper for some proposal to go forward on a federal-provincial initiative. The solution appears to be expensive in that the band prefers a diversion off the reserve, and I just don't know what those numbers are, but apparently it's extremely expensive. But I will have a fuller statement for the member later on.

MR. G. FILMON: I appreciate that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(a)(1) - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes, I would like to under the Administration end of it, just raise a question. Has there been any change in policy regarding the sale of Crown lands under this department? I notice many Orders-in-Council coming through where parcels are being sold to local government districts, individuals, etc. Is the same policy still in place that has been in existence in terms of where a justified application gets made that approval gets given, or is there any change in that direction?

HON. S. USKIW: I am not aware of any change that has taken place within the last few years. I think it's business as usual.

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Perhaps I could mention one point, and I don't know how old this policy is, but there is a limit of six quarter sections per applicant. I am not sure just how far back that goes.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Would that be under the Department of Natural Resources or would that be under agricultural Crown lands?

HON. S. USKIW: I am advised that's a Cabinet decision with respect to the disposition of Crown land.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: To what extent is this department involved in some of the exchange programs that have been in place with the LGDs, for example, Stuartburn, Piney, where I think a land assessment was done and in many cases exchanges took place between LGD vested Crown lands and Crown lands? I know the program has been ongoing.

Is that program completed or is that still an ongoing thing because I referred the Minister to the Rat River diking problem out there and the wildlife management area that is being established - and we could maybe touch on that a little later yet - but a fair amount of LGD vested Crown lands is involved here, and does the exchange program continue along those lines with this?

HON. S. USKIW: The program is still ongoing but nearly complete.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, I think that possibly it will never be totally complete because there will always be ongoing situations, I believe. But the major program that was initiated, is the Minister telling me that stage is pretty well complete?

HON. S. USKIW: What I am referring to is the special arrangements with the LGD on the tradeoffs and the handing back of the LGD lands. There will always be transactions with respect to Crown lands for the indefinite future as far as I can see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(a)(1) to 6.(d)(2) were each read and passed.

6.(e)(1) Northern Development Agreement - Provincial - Wild Rice: Salaries - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I intend to spend a little bit of time on this aspect of it.

I wonder if the Minister could clarify an advertisement in the paper just last week where the Human Rights Commission had a notice in the paper indicating two special programs: "The Manitoba Department of Natural Resources special program is designed to give preference to Native persons in the granting of licences for wild rice farming in provincial waters. And (2) the Native Employment Services Special Program will employ Native persons and provide employment counselling to Native persons." I wonder if the Minister could clarify that? Ironically, that notice appeared in the paper right beside a notice that says, an historic date for equality rights, and right opposite there it says under 15(1), every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal

benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability. And I wonder if the Minister could, first of all, clarify what his department's intention is with that kind of an ad?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I think what the member is referring to is the hearing advertisement that the Human Rights Commission is embarking upon having to do with the question of affirmative action, or preferential treatment, re the Wild Rice Program. They have suspended the approval of the Affirmative Action Program that was in place pending the results of their hearing; that's the present status. So we are awaiting with some interest just how they come down with their recommendation subsequent to the hearing.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, this ad, and I believe obviously the Department of Natural Resources has a major role in this hearing that is being called, people can make an application up until April 23rd, I believe. It says 4:30 p.m., April 23rd; there's just a phone number there, there's no hearing date advertised. What I'm trying to establish from this Minister is, what is the purpose, what direction is the Department of Natural Resources trying to indicate with this ad, in terms of what's happening to the wild rice industry? And that is where I want to get into the aspect of what's happening in the wild rice industry because the Minister is obviously aware that there's certain blocks in the eastern part of the province that have been designated for the Native people for the development of wild rice, and that every individual, other than those people that are in control of the blocks, can make an application for a licence for the development of wild rice, what is the purpose of this aspect of it? Because right now, in my opinion and the Minister can correct me, that the Native people have whatever authority they need in terms of developing wild rice projects in those blocks that they have right now, including the Whiteshell where they have total authority in there. So, I'm trying to find out from the Minister, what are you trying to accomplish with this kind of a program here that isn't already in effect?

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the affirmative action concept, as it was implemented a few years ago, had to do with providing added opportunities to Native groups who would want to participate in new lake development, if you like, for wild rice production as a preference. That program is still ongoing I understand. The hearing that the member is alluding to, of course, has been initiated by the Human Rights Commission; it has nothing to do with the department, at least the department is not initiating that.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, why would the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources Special Program regarding the preferential licensing for Native people, why would they have their name affiliated with that if that is not the case, that the department does not have a major input into it? Because the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong, are we looking for more concessions than are presently designated for the Native people

and the big blocks that they have, because they can develop any lake that they want within these block areas, are we looking at extending those rights beyond that?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the reason that the department is mentioned in the advertisement is because we are one of the applicants for the Affirmative Action Program. That, hopefully, will clarify where we are with respect to the constitutional provisions once that hearing has been held and a decision given.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Maybe, Mr. Chairman, I don't understand it correctly when I see these two ads side by side, and it seems as if they're contravening each other. You know, one says equal rights for everybody and the other one says, through this department, and what they're promoting, you know, we're looking at a selective group that should have preferential treatment. I don't know how the two go hand in hand and I say, ironically, they're side by side in the paper.

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, I'm advised that that is essentially the dilemma that the commission is trying to grapple with.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I realize my colleagues want to get into this, as well, but I have a whole series that I want to pursue in the aspect of the wild rice thing. Just looking at the Estimates here where we have under the wild rice aspect of it, a decrease of approximately \$5,000 in the terms of Salaries, and I'd like to have the Minister maybe explain that.

At the same time, we have an increase from \$30,000 to \$72,000 in Other Expenditures, and what I would like from the Minister is whether he could clarify the Other Expenditures and the increase of \$40,000, I'd like to know where it goes because I have some concerns as to what is happening in this whole area?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the salary reduction has to do with the fact that we have new people in the section with lower salaries than those that were there before, so there's a slight reduction in salary costs.

The additional costs, of course, relate to the management of the wild rice area in the Whiteshell, that's a \$42,000 increase and a large part of that is cost of aircraft.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: When the Minister refers to aircraft, is this in terms of seeding new lakes and developing new lakes for the purpose of raising wild rice?

HON. S. USKIW: It's the whole range of it; it's seeding, monitoring and controlling the harvest.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Can the Minister indicate why his department would get involved in the aspect of seeding lakes for the farming of wild rice, because we have many operators who, over a period of years, have developed the wild rice farming aspect, if you could call it that, that have licences, that have spent all of their own money in terms of developing lakes for the purpose of raising wild rice? Where is the government getting off starting to seed lakes for the purpose of wild rice production?

If you do it for one element in the Whiteshell, might I suggest to the Minister that maybe there should be much more concern in terms of the research within this aspect, within the aspect of wild rice, because I believe, and I am sure the Minister is aware that the Americans, especially in Minnesota, have developed the aspect of wild rice farming to the point where they're taking over the major portion of the market. Saskatchewan at the same time is developing programs where they are developing much more than we are.

We have a tremendous potential for the purpose of wild rice farming in Manitoba. This is a province where initially the wild rice production was started. We have basically, over the last 20 years, made no progress whatsoever. The biggest problem is that there has been lack of desire and initiative on behalf of government to help synchronize this, and there have been ad hoc policies in place over a period of time so that we are losing tremendous potential in terms of the development of wild rice.

I believe at the present time, if I am correct, I think our income is based anywhere around \$1.5 million a year from the wild rice industry, and it fluctuates a little bit. But there has virtually been no takeoff on this thing. I believe that there are provinces - each province is looking at the possibility of maybe setting up a major research council if you may, Mr. Minister, in terms of synchronizing so that not each province would be doing their ad hoc research type of thing. I think there is a desire. We're at that stage where instead of spending money foolishly in my mind in terms of seeding certain lakes because this is a profession, this is a farming profession, where somebody has to work at it and cultivate it. You can't just drive over a lake and seed it and expect to get results from it. I'm sure the Minister knows that.

Instead of spending money in that regard, whether the Minister would not give consideration to possibly putting some money into research, establishing maybe - you know, synchronizing the efforts of various provinces so that there isn't duplication, so that we can look at the potential and start utilizing or developing the potential that we have in wild rice.

I don't know whether the Minister has any concern at all on the aspects of the development of wild rice, but I think there is tremendous potential there. We're losing it at the present time and have been gradually losing it. Just this business of putting a figure in the Estimates and saying, well, we'll be seeding some lakes, I would like first of all to see the justification. If there is justification for it, I'll retract my statements, Mr. Minister, if there is justification for going around to the Whiteshell and start seeding some of these lakes.

But from what I have been informed of, this is a business like any farming business. Unless you develop your lakes and seed the lakes, you know, who are we doing this seeding for? Is it for any particular licence holders?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I want to remind the Member for Emerson that he has probably been too long away from agriculture and too long in his present position to remember what agriculture used to do and still does. There is a major research capacity and a trial capacity within the Department of Agriculture on

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an ongoing basis, spending millions and millions of dollars for all sorts of programs including new crops, new soil, methods of cultivation or otherwise or extension service from one end of the province to the other to support a major industry. The Department of Natural Resources does the very same thing with respect to forestry, wildlife, fisheries, wild rice, very much the same kind of service in a very minute way, I might add, by comparison.

The particular area that we are discussing at the moment is really the testing of lakes that was carried out in Northern Manitoba where we were successful in establishing a new site for wild rice production as a result of those tests that have been undertaken. Once we have developed the new area, then of course the member's argument comes into play, that is, that there are private sector people that are able to handle it from that point on. But government is taking initiative to discover ways and means of developing a greater potential in that industry and opening new resource areas. That is the proper role for government to play.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I intend to pursue this a little further.

HON. S. USKIW: Just one more thing, Mr. Chairman, if I may. The Saskatchewan Government is doing the very same thing in northern Saskatchewan. All of the prairie governments and Ontario are sharing the information on all of their research programs with respect to wild rice. So it's not working in disharmony, it is working with a great deal of support and harmony between the provinces.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: How much of this money under this section would be designated for research? I'm not talking of the planting or the seeding of lakes and stuff like that, but how much for the actual research and the synchronization in terms of maybe setting up a wild rice council, if you may, for the various provinces? Is there any money allocated under this appropriation for research other than the seeding of lakes?

Because I might add to the Minister that if the private sector is given the opportunity they will do their own seeding of lakes and development of lakes. They're very capable of doing that. But how much of this money is actually designated for research?

HON. S. USKIW: We have a provision here within the administrative budget of \$6,000 for university research on wild rice.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Would that money also be available to co-ordinate, let's say, a wild rice council more than just for Manitoba, that would maybe work in conjunction with, let's say, Ontario and Saskatchewan which are our neighbours?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, there is a dialogue between the various provincial entities. They meet regularly.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I just feel, Mr. Chairman, that this is an aspect where I have a keen interest in. I feel that with the potential in this area that not very much interest

is being created from the Department of Natural Resources. The Minister himself indicated that in the Department of Agriculture millions of dollars are being spent.

Would the Minister maybe consider transferring this aspect of it to the Department of Agriculture where there is more marketing expertise and possibly more funding available? He seems to have difficulty getting funding, and I think this is a major area where there should be consideration given. If he and his department feel that this is not a worthwhile thing, maybe would the Minister consider transferring this to the Department of Agriculture because it is wild rice farming?

I think there's a misconception maybe, Mr. Minister, that wild rice just grows wherever you seed it. It is a thing that has to be cultivated; you have to work on your lakes. You have to develop it just like you do farming itself and in that case is very similar. If there is not a desire to pursue it here, maybe it should be transferred to the Department of Agriculture where maybe more keener interest would be developed.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the member is wrong and he's right. With respect to the wilderness areas, we are very much involved in trying to develop the potential that's there. With respect to paddy rice development, that is a field for the Department of Agriculture to work on. So we have a role and so does agriculture have a role with respect to wild rice development.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I'm still not happy with that because I think, as I indicated before, there seems to be a misconception that wild rice just grows in certain lakes and it grows there by its own free will. That is not the case. This has to be developed in terms of keeping your water levels up, doing proper seeding, having the equipment available, but the potential is there.

When the Minister says they have a major interest in it, I beg to differ on that aspect of it. I think the Minister is missing the point in terms of the potential that is here and what is involved in terms of wild rice farming, and our production over the last 20 years is very predictable. There has been no initiative forwarded and The Wild Rice Act that came out some time ago, I have concerns about the designation, the blocks, for example, that have been given to certain people that are not available to other people really in terms of applying and working some of these lakes, the potential is there. But for the Minister to say that they have genuine interest in developing it, I want him to prove where this desire has taken place, certainly it's not in Estimates and certainly not in the production; that is, the performance is not there that there is a genuine desire to improve in this aspect of it. But there is a tremendous potential and we're losing that.

We're losing that on a yearly basis because other provinces and the states are picking up the slack and hogging the market and we have that potential. There are people who are willing to undertake this kind of work, that are restricted because of certain block designations where they cannot get in and have difficulty with their licensing and stuff of that nature.

So, I say if the Minister says he has a genuine desire, I want to hold him to that, and I want to pursue that.

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And if he does not feel that there is a desire there, then I would ask him to transfer it to the Department of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an old hand who has been involved in the various stages of the harvesting of wild rice, going back some 30 or 40 years when we did have a wild rice market in Manitoba that was unsurpassed and in spite of the strides that have been made in California and other places where they are growing wild rice, I think the wild rice that is grown in Northern Manitoba or Northern Canada is far superior in quality than anything they might grow down there. So I echo the words of my colleague, that there is a tremendous potential in developing our wild rice resource.

My concern is, and it's been expressed to me by some who are in the development stages at various lakes in the North, what are the government's plans for the processing? There are some who have developed their own processing equipment and processing plants, and they have expressed some fear to me that there may be larger processing plants set up and they may be unlicensed or not given a licence to process their own product from lakes that they have licence to now.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the processing is a private operation in the Province of Manitoba, the government is not involved at all.

MR. D. BLAKE: And they have no intention of getting involved in the process?

HON. S. USKIW: Not at all.

MR. D. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, what steps are required for a leaseholder now on certain lakes to expand his operation, or what regulation is he under in endeavouring to control the water level if you're the controller, the water flows in some of the lakes where they're operating?

HON. S. USKIW: I'm advised that most of the rice producing areas are already committed, Mr. Chairman.

MR. D. BLAKE: Would there be no opportunity for developing further lakes if an individual so desired?

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the opportunity for expansion perhaps lies only in the area where they can develop what they already have control of on a little larger scale, or more efficient, or more tonnage per lake or whatever; but by and large most of the areas are committed.

MR. D. BLAKE: That brings me to another point, Mr. Chairman, because a number of the lakes now that are held are not being harvested properly. I assume that some of the research that's being done is teaching good habits of husbandry or of harvesting the crops. Wild rice is a particular crop that you harvest, you can hydrate it if you wish, but you can harvest the crop and in three or four days you can harvest another crop

and still allow for the natural reseeding process and it can of course be stimulated by other reseeding.

Well, I don't want to get into the reseeding process because it's kind of a very very odd process, the method they use for reseeding. But at a lake that is now under lease and not being harvested properly, what are the requirements? Does that just go on and on and on, or is there some process whereby that lease could be terminated and given to someone who wants to properly harvest that resource?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the licences are assignable so that there is a mechanism for transferring the licence from one person to another.

MR. D. BLAKE: Would there be any value on that transfer of licences, Mr. Chairman?

HON. S. USKIW: Back into that one. — (Interjection) — Who knows?

MR. D. BLAKE: That's wide open and I think maybe that's the way it should stay, Mr. Chairman, being a free enterpriser at heart, because if there's a will, there's a way in expanding your operation, I can see that.

Well, that answers some of my questions, Mr. Chairman, and I'm sure we'll put the minds of one or two of my acquaintances who are in the business, at ease somewhat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. D. GOURLAY: Yes, I'd like to ask the Minister a question regarding the Indian land claims, the formula for the settlement of land claims, and I believe he indicated earlier that there had been some meetings recently and about a month ago, the Minister of Northern Affairs had indicated there was an agreement in principle reached for the settlement of land claims. I wonder if the Minister of Resources could indicate what the particulars are of the agreement in principle.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, perhaps we could pursue other items until we dig that up. There is a formula for that, but I'm not sure what it is. If the member wants to pursue other avenues.

MR. D. GOURLAY: No, if the Minister can provide us with that information in due course, that's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to come back to the wild rice just for a few more questions. At the present time, individuals can make application for a licence to develop a lake for the harvesting of wild rice, and these individuals when granted the licence pay a royalty to the province of so and so much per pound, depending on the harvest. Then we have areas where you have block designations where there is a basic fee, I understand, where it is not based on production or anything of that nature and that is where my argument comes in that the Minister is indicating that they will be doing some seeding of lakes in the Whiteshell and up North, wherever the case may be,

but these areas are being held under Native jurisdictions at the present time.

Is there a provision that private entrepreneurs can make application for licences in these areas and develop those lakes, or is that a closed shop?

HON. S. USKIW: I think I mentioned a moment ago, Mr. Chairman, that basically the areas have been allocated and there are Native allocations and non-Native allocations, but essentially the resource has been allocated province-wide.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Is the Minister considering the possibility of changing these allocations if it looked feasible, if there was a desire to do that? Just because there's been block designations, does that mean that the Minister would not consider changing some of these? Because many lakes within these block designations have the potential for wild rice farming and are not being utilized, and there are many people that would like to get into that, and that's part of the problem why we are not developing this whole thing, and the Minister can seed as many lakes as he likes. That will still not develop the wild rice farming as it is required and that is where, through these block designations, is where we are running into a difficulty in terms of really utilizing and maximizing the potential in our wild rice harvest.

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, there's a rule of thumb that used to apply in many areas and perhaps should apply in this one. I suppose we will know a few years down the road just whether it does; and that is, if you don't use it you lose it.

I think it's fair to review the areas that have been allocated after a period of time. It is fair to review those areas that have been allocated to whomever they have been allocated from time to time to determine whether or not the potential is realized or whether they are dormant leases and nonproductive lakes.

I think it's fair to suggest that if they are found to be so, then we would have to examine the question of the lease and the renewal thereof and so on.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Is the Minister prepared to undertake this kind of review at the present time?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier on, I think that common sense ought to prevail and that is the way in which I would want to pursue the issue.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I always take heart when the Minister says he wants to use common sense in some of these things because that is a thing that very often is lacking. If he is indicating to me again that he is going to use a common-sense approach, I can only assume that individuals that want to apply for certain lakes to develop them for the wild rice production, and they have not been utilized, that common sense will prevail and he will consider those applications. Am I correct in that assumption?

HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the statement of principle is one thing; applying a criteria to it is quite another.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Are you back paddling now?

HON. S. USKIW: Not at all. I don't know what time frame is needed to establish whether or not there is a genuine attempt to utilize the resource in a given lake, but certainly there is some period of time that should determine that. The development licences are issued for three years in new areas; it's a three-year development licence. At that stage we should know what's happening.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: So where you have a three-year development licence and that licence expires, the Minister and his staff will be reviewing whether anything has taken place and if it has not, if no efforts have been made in that direction, then these areas could be up for reallocation if somebody applied for them?

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, if the trial period or the development period is successful, then the next stage is the licence for the operation itself, which is a 10 year licence. However, if it's not successful and there is reason to believe that it could be successful, then I think that is where the common sense should apply. It should determine why it isn't working and how it can be made to work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. D. BLAKE: A point of order, Mr. Chairman, for a clarification. Did the Minister say it was a tenure licence or a 10 year licence?

HON. S. USKIW: Ten; three years on development. Once it's a proven development, then it's 10 years.

MR. D. BLAKE: Ten year, not tenure. Okay.

HON. S. USKIW: Ten years.

MR. D. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I just have a few more questions in this respect, and if I have missed anything I can always pick it up under the Minister's Salary.

But coming back to this Minister's common-sense approach, while he is in that kind of a mood, might I draw to his attention the fact that at the present time when somebody applies for a licence, receives the licence, develops the lake and then moves in with mechanical equipment to harvest this, that individual has to again apply for a mechanical licence.

If the Minister wants to use a common-sense approach, maybe he could look in that aspect of it to see whether maybe that could be reviewed and see whether there is a necessity to have that kind of a thing take place because now we have, first of all, the licence for the development of the lake, the harvesting of the wild rice, and then the individual has to come back and apply for a licence to move mechanical equipment in there. If I am wrong in that, I would like a clarification on that.

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HON. S. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the member is right, but it's right only in the area of the Whiteshell Provincial Park. That rule does not apply elsewhere.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Okay. Just so I don't want to make a mistake in this aspect of it. The application for a mechanical licence for the harvesting of wild rice applies only in the Whiteshell, and in the other areas an individual who has a licence does not have to then make an application for a licence to use mechanical devices in there.

Mr. Chairman, I want to caution the Minister that maybe he should enquire about this first because if he indicates — (Interjection) — Well, I don't want him to make a mistake.

HON. S. USKIW: I am advised by staff that the only provision or restriction is within the Whiteshell; and in the North, you can do as you will.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Thank you.

HON. S. USKIW: I am talking about the lessee.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: That is somebody who has a licence to harvest?

HON. S. USKIW: That's right.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(e)(1)—pass; 6.(e)(2)—pass.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: As I indicated, Mr. Chairman, before we move on, this aspect of it, when I indicate to the Minister that I probably will be raising more questions on this later on, so as not to create confusion, I can always do it under the Minister's Salary, so I just want to make sure. I will try and get my facts straight and I hope the Minister has his straight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 123: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,080,800 for Natural Resources, Lands, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Item No. 7.(a)(1) Forestry, Administration: Salaries; 7.(a)(2) Other Expenditures; 7.(a)(3) Grant Assistance - the Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to under this portion of it, get some idea from the Minister as to what has happened with the federal-provincial agreement re reforestation, where it's at. And I want to raise a concern that in one of the reports that came out we had an indication that only 11 percent of our forests were being replaced. The Member for Elmwood raised this in the House at that time, and I wonder if the Minister would want to maybe clarify that aspect of it and give us an indication exactly to what extent our reforestation is taking place compared to the harvest that is being taken every year.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, before I respond to that, I am going to ask staff to distribute a momento

of this particular subject item to all the members of the committee.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Very nice. Is that a way of softening us up a little bit, Sam? I appreciate that.

HON. S. USKIW: It's the Canada-Manitoba Forest Renewal Agreement. This is financed by the Federal Government, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Would the Minister look after his own colleagues? This is for my colleagues on this side.

HON. S. USKIW: We've got more here.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: They've got more there. Go get your own.

Well I just want to indicate our appreciation to the Minister for this, and it is not that I'm hogging these. I have some colleagues that would appreciate them just as much. I have witnesses here. Your members have them, and some of ours want them as well.

Now back to business, I wonder if the Minister could indicate where we're at with the federal-provincial program.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the member probably has a valid point when he talks about harvesting more than we're replenishing in the historical context but, within the context of the agreement, the intent is that by 1990 we will be at an equilibrium position whereby we put back what we take out on an annual basis. That's the target, in essence.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Is that the target of the agreement, that by 1990 that within our province we will be planting a tree for every stump that we have, for every tree that is cut? Is that what the objective of the agreement is?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, my years were wrong. The target is to arrive there by the year 2000. The agreement, of course, is a five-year agreement, but the target of the department is to reach that level of replenishment by the year 2000.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Can the Minister maybe just clarify that a bit more? We have a five-year agreement with the Federal Government in terms of promoting a reforestation program and he tells me that, by the year 2000 is when we are looking at getting to the point where, for every tree that is cut we'll be planting one. The concern that I have with the limited resource to some degree that, by that period of time, we might have exhausted a good portion of our prime lumber, because we're looking at 15 years of cutting taking place. This reforestation, what is the staging of it? What is taking the place, maybe the Minister can explain the agreement in a bit more detail exactly as to how we are moving with that?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the components of the agreement are forest renewal. Just to give the member an example, last year we planted 4.5 million trees and, this year, we're targeting for 7.2 million. Then the next component is stand tending, which is really

nursing it along. Then there is a research component, applied research, a nursery component and, of course, an information component.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Comparing last year to this year in terms of 4.5 million last year and 7.2 million this year, is this a continued escalation that is going to take place? At what point do we level off? How does that compare, Mr. Chairman, what percentage would that be compared to, let's say, the harvest that is being taken? Where are we at right now, are we replacing one out of 10 now? Are we replacing half now, just so we have an idea of where we're going with this thing?

HON. S. USKIW: We intend to reach 20 million per year by the year 1990. The member has to take into account that the forest naturally replenishes itself, as well, that it isn't necessary to artificially produce, if you like, through a plantation system every tree that is taken out. So the key is to ensure that the forest land stays productive in essence.

The figure on that one, on natural replenishment, Mr. Chairman, is 40 percent.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: What the Minister is saying is that we are replacing 40 percent naturally. The 60 percent that is left, what percentage are we replacing of that by this program? It will be escalating, but I'm trying to establish how much more do we harvest than we are replacing, even with the natural aspect of it and the replanting that takes place? How big a vacuum do we have in there?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the target is that we have no vacuum there by the year 2000 but, in the meantime, there is a gap and we're closing that every year. The backlog is 17,000 hectares, that's the catch-up that's required.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: 17,000 hectares?

HON. S. USKIW: Right. That's in the agreement.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well are we working on the basis of catch-up then to try and pick up this 17,000, because the harvest continues. So are we arresting the catch-up at this stage of the game, or is that differential still getting bigger all the time?

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the agreement provides for both, and that's why it is going to take us until the year 2000 to do the catch-up, plus replace what's being taken out annually. It's a closing number, it's a reduced number.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Then, under this agreement, is this where our nurseries are being established? I believe we have a nursery in The Pas. We also have a nursery at Hadashville. Do we have other nurseries that have been coming into the system as we move on with this program or have we basically established the nursery units as we want them?

HON. S. USKIW: Yes, we have our own, but we're also buying from the private nurseries, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Is there an intention to expand on our provincial nurseries from what we have established right now?

HON. S. USKIW: I'm advised that we won't be growing beyond 20 million a year in our own nurseries.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: That would be the maximum that our nurseries will be providing and anything above that would have to come out of the private sector?

HON. S. USKIW: That's correct.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Just to pursue the private sector, what are we looking at? Are we looking at out-of-province supply, or are we looking at in-province, and if there's going to be an expanded program, or nurseries that we have in place, have they been informed that there is going to be an increasing program available to them to maybe sell trees to the province for reforestation, or how is that setup contemplated?

HON. S. USKIW: We're working with in-province operators, Mr. Chairman. I might add, for the benefit of the committee, that Manitoba is well ahead of all of the provinces in Canada with respect to this program.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, that sounds very encouraging. I was under the impression and maybe wrongly so, that in B.C., for example, that they have already attained almost a total replacement program where for every tree that is cut one has to be planted. Maybe I'm wrong on that, but I thought they were ahead of us in this type of a program.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, British Columbia is only ahead of us in terms of the size of the area that they harvest.

The nurseries that are providing ceilings for us are Dakota Plains and Teepee at Portage la Prairie. Those are Native organizations.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: The hour is 10:00, I just want to raise a few questions, then maybe committee could rise. I wanted to pursue the Birds Hill Nursery to some degree and I want to raise the question with the Minister in terms of the rationale for the closure. I believe the question was raised in the House, but I just wanted to pursue it here and have the Minister explain why this nursery was closed.

HON. S. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we could raise a point of order, although I don't want to be sticky with it. The nursery there had to do with ornamental production rather than forestry production. We could deal with it on another item. I think that's right; it comes under Parks. It's not a forestry venture, it's a parks venture. It's not a major issue.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Okay, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that aspect of it because I was under the impression, wrongly so obviously, that this was part of our reforestation program, that those kind of trees, if it is strictly ornamental trees, I assume would only be used in, let's say, in other parks and roadsides and stuff like

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that. It has nothing, basically, to do with the reforestation program. Am I correct in that?

HON. S. USKIW: Correct, Mr. Chairman.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Fine, then, any questions I have on that, I'll try and raise them then under the aspect of the Minister's Salary or somewhere along the line. Committee rise.

HON. S. USKIW: Committee rise, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time being 10:00 p.m., the committee rise.

SUPPLY - HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, P. Eyler: Committee come to order. We are in the Estimates of the Department of Health, Item 4. Children's Psychiatric and Forensic Services, (a) (b) and (c) - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I am not exactly sure what stage we were at when we shut it down at 5:30 — (Interjection) — oh we were pretty close. If you had just cut your comments a little shorter, we could have got done.

Mr. Chairman, in going through the Estimates last year, at least there was no listed Recoverable from Canada, under Section (c), Children's Psychiatric Services. Could the Minister indicate the nature of the Recoverable this year?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is a recovery of \$457,100 and that's under the rehabilitation program for Child Psychiatry.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now am I correct in seeing last year's Estimates that there was no Recoverable from Canada on this line of Estimates?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if we can take this under consideration, the ADM administration is not present right now. We'll try to get for the next time we meet.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, it's with a great deal of regret that we may have to pass this temporarily and wait for the response later on.

Under Other Expenditures, I don't believe we dealt with that under the Children's Psychiatric Services. Could the Minister indicate the nature of Other Expenditures, whether there's outside organizations or contracts, etc., etc., under Other Expenditures?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Just general administration that you would find in usual expenses of travelling and so on, and the increase is \$1,000 and that is funds required to purchase pocket dictaphones for in the field recording of assessment information.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay. Then just one last area to be clarified.

We were discussing before the supper hour, the Salary aspect — (Interjection) —

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Oh, excuse me, I don't want to mislead him. I do understand that it includes sessional fees for three psychiatrists. I think that's what you were asking if there was anything, and I don't want to mislead you, it did.

MR. D. ORCHARD: In the Other Expenditures. — (Interjection) — Yes, fair enough.

Now getting back to the Salaries, under the \$825,500 last year versus the \$911,500 this year. Now, is it a fair assumption that we're talking roughly the same number of staff year to year, or were there a greater number of vacancies in the fiscal year '84-'85 so that your Salary budget could be lower? What I'm trying to get at from the Minister is an indication as to whether in terms of the, if you will, the national competition for qualified people, that they've found they've had to increase the salary package or the salary offering to recruit people to fill vacancies which I believe the Minister indicated existed last year and if that is the nature of the \$86,000 increase in Salary budget for the same number of people this year.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It is the same number of people, but there were more vacancies last year than this year, we were able to fill more of these positions and the difference of the \$86,000 was for classification changes within the department. In other words, they increased as they go from one category to the other. Those positions that we managed to fill also might come at a higher salary. They might be at the top of the board and that's it. It is the same number that we had last year but all the positions are filled now where there were vacancies.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And, Mr. Chairman, under the reclassification of, I would presume, existing employees, was that necessitated because you may have been in danger of losing those employees?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, it is the normal thing that there is classification after so many years and when they qualify, this is an increase that has to go through an Order-in-Council, but it is the same format that we've used for years now.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, it would seem to me that if we go through the various lines and, in essence, this is the last line of Salaries for the department, in direct paid Department of Health, Salaries.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Except Sports.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Sports I'm not really concerned about with all due respect to the Minister and his Sports Directorate. But it would seem to me, that in going through the Salaries, the Minister indicates that the increments here and the reclassification here, the result of length of term of serving in that position by people, but if you go through the various lines in Estimates, I do not think, and I may be wrong, but I

don't detect, I don't recall, any other line of salaries in the Salaries are in the Estimates to date, that had the same increase for the same number of people.

For instance, just in Forensic Services, you have a budgeted decline in Salaries. You have under Chief Provincial Psychiatrist, you have a slight increase, but we are talking approximately a 12 percent increase for the same number of people. Going to other areas, for instance, well it doesn't really matter where you go, as long as the staff remained relatively constant, there was either very little change in salary percentage-wise and, in some cases, indeed, a decrease in the salary budget.

Now it would seem to me if the Minister's indication that this was because of reclassification because of longstanding employment with the department so that they moved through their categories and were reclassified, it would appear as if Children's Psychiatric Services are unique in that phenomena, because no other branch even approaches 12 percent in salary for the same amount of staff.

I would wonder if there are other circumstances which have required the department to have to increase and reclassify employees in here in order to remain competitive.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately we gave the evening off to the director, we thought there were only a couple of questions. I understand what is being said, and I think we'd better double-check. I am told that definitely there is no increase. I think the main question that the honourable member wants to know, did we, because of difficulty in recruiting, have to change positions, to pay more. I am told that this is not the case, I think that we have changed some positions, but just the routine.

Now why I want to double-check, it seems to me that \$86,000 is a large amount, especially even if there is a vacancy, the money must have been there from last year, so I think we'd better double-check on that because the information that I have is, no, it was just for hiring people that weren't filling positions that weren't filled, but there should be some money there. For the same numbers it seems like a large sum, so I'll try to get the correct information.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate that because, unless budgeting has changed, you budget as if all positions are going to be filled. That wouldn't account for 825,000 being underbudgeted last year, because you didn't expect to fill positions. I think you normally budget at full staff complement, and any savings or vacancies are just simply a reduction in the expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, if the Minister can provide those answers for tomorrow, or another day that we're into Health Estimates, and if it needs further clarification we can deal with it at that time.

I am particularly intrigued with the Recoverable from Canada. It would seem, at least in going to last year's Estimates with no recoverable last year, that to come into more or less a windfall recovery of \$457,000 from Canada on a budget of 1.9 million is almost a 25 percent recovery from the Federal Government. From time to time, the Federal Government does get maligned for

certain reductions in programs and fundings and other accusations by provincial administrations, this one included. If, indeed, this is a new source of funding for the department, and particularly for this discipline in the department, and it is new, then certainly I believe that it is significant and deserves the recognition due to it.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No . . . already you said that we would provide the information for those two questions that were asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)(1) to 4.(c)(2) were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 86: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,946,100 for Health, Children's Psychiatric and Forensic Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass.

Item 5. Sport - Mr. Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 6. The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the agreement we have with the Minister is that we're going to deal with Sport Thursday night. We'll revert back no matter what stage we're at in the Estimates to Sport, and my colleague, the Member for River Heights, will look after Sport Thursday night and then we'll resume Estimates on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 6. The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Give us one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe we could wait for staff.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I'll wait for the staff, Mr. Chairman.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'd like to give the following information to my honourable friend on the staff. The total staff, does he have any information at all on this? No? All right, line-by-line.

The Provincial Executive, there were 3 in 84-85, we are asking for three; the Support Service, the second line, 16.5, that doesn't change; Program Evaluation 11, doesn't change; Program Delivery 150, we're asking for 6 more; the total was 180.5, it is now 186.5. Now out of those, first of all, it is not like the Civil Service, there is one other term position besides that. There is 186.5 that shows because it's an agency. Then there is also one term position for Winnipeg region besides the 186.5 which are all regular civil servants.

The vacancies in the Winnipeg region, that was as of March 31st. The Winnipeg region, there were 4; Westman region 1; Northern region 9, out of those 9, 7 have now been filled, and the two are still in process. Then there were another further 7 vacancies, 3 in the Winnipeg region, 3 Westman region, 1 in the Northern region for a total of 7; and 4 of these are being actively recruited, 1 vacancy is being considered for regional

employment elsewhere and will then be filled, and the last 2 vacancies will be abolished as a result of the Ste. Rose reduction. So actually there will be two less than we're asking for. It will be 184 - right? One hundred and eight-six is the final figure, I'm told.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the reference the Minister made to Ste. Rose indicating a reduction in program there, what's the reduction in program at Ste. Rose?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We will get into that during the Program Delivery.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, since this is not your normal line department, I wondered if the Minister might want to deal with some aspects of the 1983-84 Annual Report, and update it to fiscal year end, March 31, 1985, to give us an idea of where the AFM ended up last year in terms of budget, etc., etc.

Then from the annual report, there were several areas that I wanted to get general information on, for instance, Tuning in to Health and the Teacher and Guidance Counsellor Training Programs and Kids and Drugs. Those are the three areas that I wanted to deal with in the annual report.

Now I have to confess that I have not been here in the past, I don't believe, for the AFM Estimates. I don't know whether any reference has ever been made to the annual report at this time. So I'll leave that suggestion for a course of action with the Minister and, if it would be workable, I would like to proceed with some questions out of the annual report.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: If that is the wish, Mr. Chairman, of my honourable friend, we'll try. It might be a little more difficult, because we are set line-by-line, but we'll try to find it. Now the only thing I'm afraid of is we'll be jumping all over the place. I wonder if we could not instead, if we took line-by-line, if we can try this and then I would read what that line does. Then we can stay. Can we try that? That might be easier with a little more decorum.

The first that I have, of course, under the Provincial Executive, there is the board of governors. I can break that down a bit, this 157.6. I think that's the best bet. The board of governors is 34.6 thousand. That is for the remuneration for the board. The executive, there is a small reduction of \$300.00. Now that is the salary of the executive director, Mr. Ross Ramsey, the managerial assistant and a secretary. What normally would be other expenditures would be in there also, for fringe benefits, travel, corporate membership fees, board membership, honorarium and so on.

I think my honourable friend already has the staff. The staff are all filled in that position, three of them the same as last year. In other words, there is a reduction of \$300 from last year and there is nothing new there.

MR. ORCHARD: And what is budgeted for this year?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The budget, that is what you see on the line there, 157.6 and it was 157.9. That is made up, as I say, of the 34.6 plus 123. You see, if we could deal here with the executive director, the staff and the board, then we could finish that line.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The board honorarium, that surely isn't out the provincial executive of 157.6. That comes out of, what? - program delivery?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I've put that down, it's 157.6, board of governors 34.6 and the executive is 123. Now, this 123 is the three staff that I mentioned, plus the expenses and what would normally be called other expenditures.

Any questions on that?

Pass line-by-line. All right.

The Support Services, now the staff in there is 16.5. That includes the salary of the director of Support Services, the finance manager, personnel manager, building operation manager, information area manager, secretary 1, accountant 1, clerk 1, personnel administrator 1, personnel assistant 1, library assistant 1, library technician .5, maintenance worker 1 and cooks 4, and that is the same number. That would be, if you compared it to the department, the administration, and that is composed of finance, of course, personnel, building operation and library resources.

I'll break that down. This \$1,132,700 which is a decrease of 51.7 or 4.4 percent over last year. Now the director, a secretary and what would be known as a - what is it? - the expenses anyway, this has gone up from 75.4 to 80.8 percent. The finance, which is the branch that would take care of the, if we would compare that to the Department, that is 169.4. It went up to 171.1, and there is staff in there. The personnel is 156.7 to 180. The building operation from 674 to 578.4, and the library resources from 108.9 to 122.4 for a total of \$1,132,700.00. That, as I say, would be the equivalent of the administration and so on. It has nothing to do with the programs as such, just staff.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So, Mr. Chairman, these are administrative officers, not people who are developing programs who are working with new directions in combating drug dependency, alcohol dependency, so that if we were going to talk about that, we'd probably be in program evaluation and development. Well, maybe I should pose the question before we pass this? — (Interjection) — Rumour mill has it that you're losing your top-notch people on program development to a job in Ottawa. Where can we discuss that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, this time you're not only ahead of me, you're ahead of my staff. They've never heard about that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, at the time when some of the controversy was swirling around psychiatry and I don't know how I managed to get the two linked together, because they're not - we just indicated that, and I can't give you the individual's name, I don't have it, that the AFM was losing probably one of their better people in terms of program development for chemical dependency and I don't know whether that was pure rumour or not. Obviously, if these gentlemen haven't heard about it, it must have been not necessarily one of the more reliable type rumours that were floating around and I'm just inquiring as to whether there's any knowledge of that.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My friend on that will probably go in more detail when we reach that line, but I won't

be able to help him much more. There's a Dr. Alan Wilson, who's a member of the board who is doing that work, in chemical withdrawal and we haven't heard anything that he was leaving. — (Interjection) — I think we've got it now. He's not an full-time employee. He's a member of the board, but he is not working for the Alcoholic Foundation. He's working at the Health Sciences Centre on that program. That's where - he'll be leaving the hospital to go to Ottawa and take another position in Ottawa. But the mix-up I guess is that it's very close, I would imagine that they work with the Alcoholism Foundation and because of his knowledge he was named to the board. He was named just last year. He's one of the new ones, for three years.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So then it's not a staff person that's leaving. It's expertise that's on the board that was probably available to the AFM and the staff. Okay, then we can discuss it further at Manitoba Health Services Commission.

We're on Support Services, how be it if we pass that and get on to Program Evaluation and Development?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Support Services—pass; Mr. Minister.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Program Evaluation that would be the equivalent of the Research and Planning that you would have in the Department of Health. There were 11, and there's still 11. Now again, that might give some idea, because my honourable friend might want to have some questions though, maybe this will be more interesting, more appropos than the last one.

First of all let me tell you what these 11 people are. There's the Director of the Program Evaluation and Development, the administrative assistant, an evaluation officer, an evaluation clerk, a training unit head, two training officers, one secretary, a treatment program consultant, prevention program consultant and an external program consultant.

Now, we've cut back the director, there has been an increase from \$80,085. That is only the salary and expenses of the director of this branch. The Evaluation and Research Department, that would be more like the Planning and Research, there is an increase there from \$75.7 to \$86.9. The training unit, for the training of special consultants, counsellors, and so on, and also for the outside set-up programs for the school, the training of the teachers and so on - I'm told that some of them come here and part of it is considered a program.

Then the treatment program consultant, that went from \$47.7 to \$48.3. The prevention program consultant and secretary and staff, that went from \$82 to \$86.7. The external program consultant from \$33.8 to \$39.6. The total went from \$496.3 to \$510.2. Now there again, there's 11 on there. This is not the actual delivery of programs. This is where we would train different people, the evaluation and research and consultant to the treatment prevention program and external program. Most of it will be under Program Delivery, then we can pretty well cover everything.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, what I want to discuss is the programs I mentioned earlier on from the Annual Report, Tuning in to Health. Okay, let's pass

this one and do you have a reduction on Program Delivery?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Program Evaluation and Development—pass.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Now the Program Delivery, that's the heart of it, last year there was \$5,565,500.00. This year we're asking for \$6,037,900, an increase of \$472.4, or 8.5 percent, an increase, as I said earlier, of 150 employees, staff years to 156, or 4 percent. Now the administration of the program has gone up from \$370.4 to \$388.4; the Non-Residential Treatment Services from \$4,300,000 to \$4,037,600; the Prevention and Community Program from \$1,194,800 to \$1,611,900.00. The administration provides for the planning and administration of a range Rehabilitation and Prevention Services delivered through regional offices again in the province. The Residential and Non-Residential Services provide counselling intervention and follow-up services in a Residential and Non-Residential after-care mode and the prevention community programs provide a range of prevention services and training courses. The salary that we provide for the annual increment adjustment in expansion of First Offender, Driving while Impaired Program, then I should give you the staff here, the Stony Mountain institution additional contract employee is in there; the education literature; additional reprinting requirement for the Kids and Drugs Program and Tuning in to Health, an elementary school program; the other operating increase primarily due to other cost increases; a reduction in bed capacity at the Willard Monson House in Ste. Rose; a reduction in part-time employee costs in treatment centres; and a reduction in staff development and travel expenses.

The Staff: All staff report through a regional administrator in each of the three regions, that is, Winnipeg, Western and Northern. When I am talking about the regions, it's not the same as we have in Health - there are three - who are responsible to the director of program delivery, who in turn reports to the executive director.

The Administration includes the salary of the director of program delivery; one regional administrator in Winnipeg, Western and Northern, that's one in each - that's three; also an administrative assistant in each and one secretary.

The Residential and Non-residential Treatment Services include the salaries of the Winnipeg regional heads, two; eight supervisors; 48 counsellors; 20 attendants; seven alcohol treatment workers; eight nurses; 10 secretaries/clerks; one psychologist and four cooks.

The Prevention and Community Program include the salary of the community program head, one; four supervisors; 15 field workers; two alcohol treatment workers; 16 counsellors and two secretaries.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Tuning in to Health, according to the '83-84 Annual Report, during the fiscal year '84-85, it's indicated that the AFM was hoping to introduce the program into at least one-third of Manitoba elementary schools. My question is, was that target achieved and could the Minister indicate the geographic

distribution of the introduction of that program; i.e., was it equally spread throughout the three regions or was the focus in Winnipeg first as a kick-off to the program, and west and north will follow?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, I will give you some information as was requested on elementary school program. That's the only one that we had last year and now we are working on the high school program also, the same program at the high school component.

Twenty-seven teachers were trained as Tuning in to Health leaders in Westman and Parklands, 1984. Of 11 school divisions in the Westman region, nine indicated an interest in using Tuning in to Health beginning in '84-85; two divisions indicated an interest in the program for the '85-86 school year. To date, six parent sessions have been run in Westman.

Of five school divisions in the Parklands region, four indicated an interest in implementing Tuning in to Health for '84-85; one division indicated '85-86 as a possible starting date. To date, one Parent Awareness Session has been run.

Twenty-four teachers were trained as leaders in this program in the Eastman, Central, Interlake regions in '84. Of four school divisions in the Interlake region, one division planned on using the program in '84-85; one division in '85-86; and two divisions are interested in implementing the program but haven't yet decided on a starting date. Four parent sessions have been run to date in the Interlake.

Of seven school division districts in the Eastman region, most have indicated an interest in Tuning in to Health beginning in '85-86; to date, two Parent awareness sessions have been run.

Of eight school division districts in the Central region, two divisions have indicated an interest in implementing the program in '84-85; three divisions in '85-86; one division is undecided and one division currently has no plans to include the program in their curriculum planning; to date, no parent sessions have been held.

Twenty teachers were trained as Tuning in to Health leaders in the Northern region in 1984; in 1985, six jurisdictions indicated an interest in implementing the program; in '85-86, an additional six jurisdictions are considering implementation; and, to date, six parent sessions have been held.

Twenty-three teachers were trained as Tuning in to Health leaders in 1984 in the Winnipeg region. Of 10 school divisions, six have indicated '85-86 as a possible start date while four are undecided as to their plans for Tuning in to Health; 1 parent session has been run to date, but a number of parent sessions will be run in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division by June, 1985.

Some school divisions are waiting for a French version of Tuning in to Health, or a completion of the junior high Tuning in to Health component before proceeding further.

Tuning in to Health is receiving attention from a majority of Canadian Provinces. Orders for the program have been received from addiction agencies, school boards and school divisions and law enforcement agencies. While Manitoba educators and the AFM have agreed to certain guidelines with respect to in-servicing, etc., this cannot, of course, be enforced to order outside of the Province of Manitoba.

I think my friend knows what this program is all about, that it's a comprehensive package on alcohol and drug education for use in Grades 2 to 6 and the program is an integral part of the Manitoba Health Education Curriculum and has been designated by the Department of Education for use as an optional basis. Of course, the overall goal of the program is to reduce future occurrence of problems associated with chemical use by young people. The package includes extensive resource materials and detailed instructions as to how to initiate and proceed with each lesson in order that students will progress toward achieving the specified program outcome.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Minister intrigued me with the one comment at the last, that there were requests from out of province for the program has developed.

When you comply with those kinds of requests, are you able to recover any revenues from those out-of-province utilizations of the program to assist in offsetting the cost of program development and, indeed, to provide additional revenue so that the AFM can continue further?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, we don't charge for the expertise or try to recover the development of the program, but we make sure that all printing and all the costs associated with meeting the needs in their request is paid for. In other words, it's not costing us any additional money to make it available to these groups. Of course, it's an understanding that we have between provinces and they also share with us anything that we might be able to use.

MR. D. ORCHARD: This program appears to be maybe unique compared to other alcohol education or drug education programs in the school system in that it involves the parents. I think, if I'm not mistaken, that is probably one of the first of its sort, at least in this province, and it has relied on that.

I would like to ask the Minister, what is the amount of classroom time involved with the students in this program? Secondly, how much time is required of parents in learning of the program and in assisting, no doubt, the children with their taking the program in school?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's the first program, curriculum-based program, that gives some information to parents, but I think my honourable friend might be referring to Kids and Drugs and other programs that are aimed at the parents. There is also Prevention and Education for Parents - that's another program that we have. This is the information that is passed on to the parents to make sure that they understand. But the main programs for parents are Kids and Drugs and Prevention and Education for Parents.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, how much classroom time is necessary for the delivery of Tuning in to Health, and how much time do the parents spend in the parent sessions in Tuning in to Health specifically?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: As far as the students are concerned, part of the period on health that is ongoing

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once a year, 40 minutes or so, but that includes many other subjects. But the parents, there is only one session to inform the parents and explain the program to them as to how that particular program works.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So the Tuning in to Health is part of the regular health - the school divisions that accept it, that bring it into their divisions, incorporate it into their health programs. What's the ideal time? Is it like a half-course? Is it like a quarter-course, a third? What sort of time is necessary to give the students the complete exposure that this package which is, as I understand, fairly comprehensive? What's the time required to make the most effective use of it with the students?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I was misleading my honourable friend. That period is only for that 40 minutes usually once a week for that program. It's an optional program.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So it's in addition to the health program, once a week, 40 minutes for the school year?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, they have nothing to do - this is where there is a bit of confusion here. It's certainly a health program, but it is an optional program and deals with advice for a 40-minute period once a week, only for that. That has nothing to do with the health. As I say, that I was giving the committee the wrong information. The health program is not related to that at all.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, has this Tuning in to Health been patterned off an established program from any other jurisdiction? I ask that question on the basis of whether there is any statistical background that the AFM and the Minister can offer which shows to parents the benefit of this program in terms of lessened drug-related and alcohol-related problems amongst our school-age children. The reason I ask that is that it may well be that one of the quickest ways to implement a program which is worthwhile is to have a background of knowledge and statistics which indicates that this program has been quite successful and should be quite successful in your school division.

I have to say that I consider myself quite fortunate in going through the school system and the university system when I did, because at that time the drinking age was 21, for one thing, so you weren't necessarily exposed to alcohol at the young age they are today. But more importantly, there were no drugs; there was no marijuana; there was no LSD - there was nothing. There were no drugs at all except in my latter years at university which was not a problem at that time.

But I really believe that the youth today are exposed to a great deal of drug pressures and alcohol pressures. Parents have a very great concern about how they can, if you will, steer their children on the right course, because I don't think any parents want to have their children experimenting with drugs. It's a bad enough experience and probably an inevitable one that all children are going to experiment with alcohol. I suppose that will go on as long as there is civilization. But the drugs are a much more troublesome problem for youth

today, and a problem which has much longer and more far-reaching effects on students.

What I am looking for tonight, if staff has it, if the AFM has it, is whether there is a record which would indicate a program like this has reduced drug involvement by students by 10 percent or 5 percent or 20 percent, because that kind of information will do more, I believe, to sell the program to the school divisions via the influence of the parents of the students that are in the various school divisions in this province, if such positive proof of benefit could be demonstrated through the introduction of this program in another jurisdiction, because I presume that it's a little too early yet to determine whether it's successful in Manitoba.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, I can't give this information to the committee at this time. It is a brand-new program. It was developed by the staff. It was the first one.

Now, they are quite confident with the research and what they put in and the teaching of the prevention, it will be successful. It is only one year old. Most of it this year has been training the teachers to be able to put the program in. Next year, they're coming in with the second part, the high school program.

As years go by, I would imagine that the evaluation that we will make on that will be able to give us some information that we can share with the committee, but it is too early. As I say, it's a brand-new program. We haven't any experience of other jurisdictions and so on. There is just that. But we are very optimistic and highly confident that it will work.

Now for the parents, I think much has been talked about the parents. There is another program for the parents. It is Kids and Drugs, and that is definitely aimed at the parents on prevention. It is a meeting, I think it's a two-hour session and about eight sessions with them, showing them how to identify the problems that they might have with their children and to help them.

Many of them were in either my friend's generation or mine where we were not exposed to what they're exposed to today. So it gives them a way to recognize it, how to fight it, to deal with the children. Also it is training teachers to be able to talk with the parents in churches, schools and so on. But that is aimed directly at informing the parents, giving them an idea of how to cope with it if they find it - and prevent it mostly - in their families if at all possible. That is the program aimed at the parents.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, let's deal for a moment then with kids and drugs, the program aimed at the parents. Can the Minister indicate how a community would go about bringing this kids and drugs program into their community? For instance, if at home a group of parents wanted to become exposed to this program, is the AFM making staff really available to meet and undertake these courses 8 2-hour sessions, I understand the Minister says, and if so, is there a cost to the people enrolled in the program?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Well, first of all, these people would get in touch with the Alcoholism Foundation who would either send a consultant or councillors, I guess,

trainers, who would give the program, or better still, if they can't do it right away, they would eventually train the people out there so they can deliver their program and the cost would be very minimal. It would be just for material; it may be \$20 for the whole thing for that community. They don't have to pay staff or anything like that. It's so they would buy their own material.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for that answer.

The Teach and Guidance Councillor Training programs, which, I presume, is necessary for the implementation of tuning into Health. Can the Minister indicate how the recruitment - if that's the right word - process for teachers and guidance councillors is progressing throughout Manitoba? Have you got a good regional distribution so that pretty well all the school divisions that are interested have some member on staff or several members on staff who are enrolled in the training program so that they can be used to deliver the AFM programming?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It is by a program, Mr. Chairman, and there is only need for these people to contact the AFM and then we would train them to be able to deliver their programs. That would be done by program, whatever program they're interested in. It's province-wide. Whatever request we would have, we would train the people for these programs.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And have you got a good distribution throughout the province? Are there any areas that you want to see more teachers, more councillors involved, or have you got a satisfactory distribution of teachers and councillors?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think the best example is what I read earlier to give you an idea back on the training to health program, the different school divisions that had requested it, and I think it's pretty well through the province. I guess we wouldn't rest until every single community is availing themselves of the programs and having the people properly trained, but my information is that we're satisfied that it's spread out throughout the province.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, is the AFM responsible for some of the drinking ads, the moderation and alcohol ads? Is that part of the mandate here?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There is co-operation with different agencies that might want to do that. They contact the AFM and there is definitely co-operation with the Federal Government, but in those ads, the Federal Government pays all the costs.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I notice in here that the advertising and exhibits budget for AFM for the fiscal year ending 1984 was only 13,000.00. So, that with the AFM is it fair to assume it does not participate a great deal in any of the drinking and driving ads? The one set of ads that I particularly remember as being very effective were the ones where a youngster was wanting . . . I just can't come up with the train of the ad, but basically,

it is pretty effective for an adult if he had a youngster at home. The ads are pretty direct in terms of encouraging him to get home on time type of thing. The AFM I presume did not participate in those? Those are other organizations?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The AFM will work with these groups. For instance, there was a press conference today on another program in co-operation with the Manitoba Hotel Association and the Liquor Commission on a program to make the people aware of the danger of driving while drinking and to work with the people, for instance, the waiters and the waitresses and so on in hotels and so on to be able to identify when people have had enough, how to deal with them and so on. This is a program that isn't advertised, but that kind of co-operation is also given to anybody who requests it. In fact, they might seek it also, but there is nothing. This advertising is for staff and so on. It has nothing to do with the programs. That would be done by the Federal Government and whatever is done by the province would be done through the office of the Attorney-General through the Department of the Attorney-General, but probably the work and the preparation would be done by the Alcoholism Foundation.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, well, I guess my questions are going to be on the next line, the Funded Agencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, did all the divisions pilot the program tuning into health?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I had all the detailed information that I gave just a while ago. I said those who would be bringing them in this year or next year or I have no date for it. I gave that information, is it the same?

MRS. G. HAMMOND: No, I was asking if they had all piloted it, not if they had introduced it. I understand that pilot projects were last year and I was wondering if every division had piloted that program?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The field testing was done just last year, but that was select in areas that would represent the whole province. Now, the situation is that they're conducting sessions with the parents, as many as possible, in filling in the requests to start with, and then the division will decide, after getting this information and so on, if they want to go ahead, and this is what I read. But the field testing was done by selection and so on to be representative in the rural area and so on. But, we have no record, not at this time anyway, of the school division that participated.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Did the Minister indicate that the high school program is just being developed, or are they piloting it now?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It's being developed and it should be piloted probably starting in the fall.

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MRS. G. HAMMOND: How long has the training been offered to the teachers and guidance counsellors?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It would depend on which program, because we are training people for the different programs, for Tuning in to Health and also for the Kids and Drugs.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Tuning in to Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We'll have to get that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. B. RANSOM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding from talking with some people in my constituency that services through the AFM to the Killarney area, for instance, have been cut back. I'm wondering why that would be so.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the only place where there is a definite cutback, and we'll cover that, was in one of the facilities in Ste. Rose. Now if my honourable friend wants to give me details, it might be that inadvertently there has been a cutback in travelling or something, but there is no planned cutback at all in any area except the one I mentioned in Ste. Rose. There might not have been an increase in the funding. Later on we'll be dealing with the agencies. If my honourable friend could give me the details, we'll check to see what the reason is, if there is anything at all.

MR. B. RANSOM: It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that there used to be an AFM worker who handled a caseload of people through the medical centre at Killarney. That person no longer comes there. That caseload has been dropped. Anybody who has need of that kind of service now has to go to Brandon to obtain it. It's not obtainable through the Tri-Lake Health Centre anymore.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the member if we can check into it, and come back with the information.

MR. B. RANSOM: Yes, I would appreciate it if he would do that.

Since I was not always able to be here during this discussion of Estimates, I wonder if the Minister would check something else for me at the same time. I understand that they may still be short a public health nurse. There is still a vacant position in Killarney as well, and that there is a family service worker position vacant since last September.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: We haven't covered that yet, but we will take the question and try to get the answer when we get into Hospitals. If the member is not here, I'll see that the member gets a note from me anyway with the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that in the Program Delivery staff, I believe

it was, there are 156 for this year. Now I presume that those are people recruited by the AFM to help with drug dependency, alcohol dependency problems throughout the province.

What I'm interested in is: What sort of training and what sort of opportunities are there for individuals to become part of this Program Delivery staff? Are there vacancies that come up on a regular basis? What sort of compensation is available to people employed in the Program Delivery? I know that has to depend, no doubt, on the qualifications of the individual, but if the Minister could indicate a range of salary, the kind of training you're looking for, and the length of time that they may be retrained by AFM to deliver the program.

The reason I'm asking is there is at least one individual that I know of at home who would fit very very well into this kind of program delivery, because he himself has from time to time worked with high school students. He's not that old of a fellow himself and would be very excellent, I believe, in terms of program delivery. I would like to get a little background information as to what sort of educational qualifications the AFM looks for in their field staff personnel and the range of compensation.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there are usually approximately five or six vacancies. We advertise. We give the qualifications needed. The background would be the education usually maybe of a psychologist, maybe a social worker, nurse. The training, if they haven't got all the qualifications, we train them.

Now there are also many reformed alcoholics and people that have gone through the program also who are doing good. There is a good source of people that are interested and dedicated also, and who have probably the worst experience but the best experience to deal with it. These people are trained also, so that is the background of the people - psychologists, social workers, nurses or people that have gone through programs themselves or have had problems. We do most of the training. Well, they have to come with some basic qualifications most of the time, but we do the training ourselves.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Salary range?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The salaries are competitive pretty well with the Civil Service for social workers and psychologists, whatever.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That would be helpful information if I knew what a social worker in the Civil Service was earning, but I don't. I am not looking for exact figures, just ballpark range as to what their compensation range is.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: . . . I guess, as an example, the most common employees that we have the salary would be anywhere from 24 to 30, 32.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Program Delivery—pass.
Funded Agencies - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, what agencies are funded?

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HON. L. DESJARDINS: The agencies are Churchill Health Centre. We're asking for the same as they had last year, 44.1; Kia-Zan, 184.2, the same; Main Street Project, 764.2, the same; Native Alcoholism Council, from 222.1 in 1984-85 to 290.9 in 1985-86. It's additional operating funds required to operate their new facilities at 160 Selkirk Street. There are also an increase in staff of 5, although there is no recognized staff, it's just more added information. We have the total staff of these agencies, there are five more, and that's in this program, in that increase.

Sagkeeng Alcare Centre, 44.7, the same thing; Salvation Army, 169.4, the same thing; The Pas Health Complex, 469.4, the same; X-Kalay, 216.1, the same. These are all services that we purchase through these agencies, of course. That doesn't mean that all the funding from these agencies come from the AFM. They might qualify under United Way or other programs and have their own fund raising function also.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Could the Minister indicate what Rosaire House again is getting and whether . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Which one?

MR. D. ORCHARD: The Pas Health Complex, and whether ARI House is still funded?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Did my honourable friend say Rosaire House? Well, that is The Pas Health complex that I have mentioned.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's what I wanted, the numbers there.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Oh, the figures. The same as last year, 469.4.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And ARI House?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Which one?

MR. D. ORCHARD: A-R-I House, Winnipeg.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The only thing there, we second to them one employee that we pay the wages and that's all, the salary. That's why it's not in here as an agency.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, it would seem that most of these organizations with the exception of the Native Alcoholism Foundation, I believe, are all at the same funding level as last year.

Does the Minister anticipate that they will be able to continue on with the same level of program delivery or will we see a reduction in program delivery with no increase in funding through many of these organizations?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: My information is that - of course, again I want to remind the members of the committee it isn't the only source of revenue, funding, and we haven't heard from all of them yet, but those that we have heard, yes, they will be able to give the same level of service as last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Funded Agencies—pass; Resolution No. 88 . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, we are not quite finished yet. We have to talk about Recoveries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recoveries - the Member for Pembina.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, there is a substantive increase in the Recoveries this year over last year. Could the Minister indicate the nature of the increased recoveries?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You will see the recoverable, the 945.1, it is directly recovered by the Alcoholism Foundation as compared to 539.6 last year and recoverable from Canada to the Consolidated Fund. As mentioned here, it is 1,310,000 and last year it was 1,268,900, and that was vocational. We have The Disabled Persons Act. That, of course, goes directly to the Department of Finance.

MR. D. ORCHARD: How is the AFM achieving the \$400,000 increase in recoveries?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The increase is 404.5, as such; Driving While Impaired Program, Expansion of First Offenders Program, 312.5; Federal Government re Stony Mountain Institution and Personal Contact for Alcohol Program - I guess that's a program that's delivered for them - is 40; Manitoba Health Services Commission, sessional fees, reimbursement of medical doctors fees, 34.3; sale of literature primarily due to increased sales of the Tuning in to Health elementary program, 10.3; another general revenue increase of 8.4; for a total of 405.5 increase.

MR. D. ORCHARD: The major increase is the \$312,500 from the First Offender Program. Now just let me make sure I've got that one correct and the Minister can straighten me out if I am wrong. That is paid by the offending driver, is that correct? Now, does that represent an increase in the number of offending drivers or an anticipated increase in the number of offending drivers, or is that an increase in contribution per offending driver?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, what we had before is the second offender program only and now it is the first offender. But again I think I owe some word of explanation to all the members of the committee. This program, when this was prepared, the intention was to proceed with it. Now, in recent court decisions, we have been advised by the Attorney-General's Department that we should have a look at it. It might be that we will need legislation. So if at all, we still feel that the program is a good one; we still want to go ahead. We might have some problems, and this was just brought to our attention last week or so, the week before, and we are looking into it at this time. If the program goes as it should, as we want it to be, this would be what we would recover. It might be that we might not be able to deliver the way we want or exactly the same or as fast, but I haven't any more information

than that. This was just brought to our attention, the intention of the Alcoholism Foundation and my own just a few weeks ago, a week or two.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Envisioned under the program was first offenders. Was it mandatory? Was it the intention of the Minister and the department and AFM to make this mandatory for first offenders on impaired driving? Maybe if the Minister could outline how the first offenders were going to be rolled into the program and what the contributions, etc., etc., would be.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes, it was in the past only the second offenders; now it is proposed to be the first offenders. It is compulsory. During this fiscal year the Foundation will also look at ways to address the problem of first offenders. There are an estimated 4,000 motorists convicted each year of their first alcohol and drug related driving offence. The basic assumption is that the majority of these individuals are not problem drinkers or alcoholics. It would be the intention to convince these individuals that past drinking and driving actions are problematic and changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviour are required if the problem is to be prevented from happening a second time. These types of programs are not the final solution to the drinking and driving problem, but research indicates that education has a major role to play in reducing subsequent offences. The estimates have been prepared to permit the AFM using a cost-recovery approach to explore the feasibility of introducing a first offender program. If this program does not proceed, expenditures and revenues will balance out so that there will be no negative affect on other AFM programs and services.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Under what legislative authority is the Minister able to net in, I guess, or whatever, second offenders, and what is anticipated that you're going to have to have legislatively in order to make this program on first offenders workable? I presume that your Attorney-General has said, you are not going to be able to do it, it could be challenged, presumably.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: You have to co-operate with the Minister of Highways. It is under his Act that this would be done. There would some amendment to the Charter of Rights. We've been told that there might be a possibility that we might have trouble making this compulsory and putting a charge on it. We might need to have amendment to that Act before we can proceed with this.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I take it, from what the Minister is saying, that he doesn't know for sure yet whether you have to have that legislation?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The advice that we get is yes, we will need to have changes. That was given to us just lately and we're just pursuing it now at this time.

MR. D. ORCHARD: It might seem a little strange to most people that you budget a new program, you even institute cost recovery and then you check out the legality of it.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I'm not going to pass the buck, but I think that should be taken to the Attorney-General's Department, and I'm told that it was just unforeseen or an unexpected court decision that was rendered just lately, that is the reason we were given. It was felt at first that, no, we would not need any change in the legislation. That is something that has been debated last year and this year, and the feeling was that we didn't need anything. Lately we've been informed that probably we will because of the court decisions.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Is the court decision basis someone who has been compulsorily required to enroll in the first offender?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think the court decision is on the mandatory part of it, the decision of the Supreme Court. That might be challenged. We can't impose that without change and make it compulsory and recover that amount also.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Do I understand that the existing program on second offenders is not being challenged, or are both programs subject to challenge?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The information we have is it's only on first offenders.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure we'll get an opportunity to debate this during any legislation the Minister of Highways might bring up and make appropriate comments at that time.

Mr. Chairman, can the AFM share with us any statistics which would indicate the trends in chemical dependency, alcohol dependency, alcoholism versus chemical dependency by - and I don't know whether they maintain them by category of drugs - and I'm thinking of all of the dependency drugs other than alcohol. Do they have any information as to what our trends in Manitoba are indicating, whether we've got more people with drug dependencies and less people in a steady population? What's happening in terms of drug dependency problems in the population in Manitoba?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: For a while, I think the liquor has been pretty steady, those who have been problem drinkers and so on. The drugs are stable also, except that there seems to be an indication that some people are now taking a second drug, the same people are now taking a second drug, but the rest is pretty stable.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So is it fair to assume from the Minister's answer, the people who may have been using marijuana are now graduating to hashish, cocaine, something of a higher order, if you will, on drugs? Given that information, where do people with drug dependencies - not alcohol, but drug dependencies - go to receive medical attention? Is there one of the hospitals that specializes in drug dependency, withdrawal problems, or are a number of hospitals able to make that treatment available?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: There's a special program for heroin at St. Boniface Hospital, and the others are pretty

well treated at the same facility, both for drugs and liquor.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, is there any indication or any statistic available on the numbers of Manitobans with a heroin dependency? Do we have reasonably good figures on that?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It hasn't been increasing. It's been pretty steady. The only record we have, enrolled in the program in St. Boniface, and they see approximately 30 patients.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Now, 30 doesn't seem like a very large number, and of course, there may well be other people who are not in the program for treatment, but in terms of population statistics, is that lower than other jurisdictions, about average, or is it higher?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It tends to be lower than other jurisdictions. This is for the whole program. The program admission primary care, there is an increase there from 883 in 1983 to 1,089, but the main reason is due to increased demand for services. I guess people are coming out, well, not necessarily, but there is more. The residential program admission in residential programs is from 1,700 to 1,762; the non-resident, the adult, 3,277 to 3,184; the non-residential youth program 447 to 364, and that has decreased because we had the staff vacancies and less mandatory referrals as a result of introduction of The Young Offenders Act.

The number of individuals these services were provided to was '83, 3,496, and for '84, 3,500. The number of residential days provided at the reception units in Winnipeg went from 3,296 to 3,638. The next one that I have in the residential, they've increased, and that is due to increased demand for services also. The man's residential in Winnipeg went from 6,386 to 7,843; River House, Winnipeg, 3,241 to 3,424; Sun Centre, Brandon, 5,546 to 6,655; Polaris Place, Thompson, 3,923 to 4,028.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, that would seem to indicate that there is going to be, if that trend continues, a substantive increase in the demand for services on the AFM.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. D. ORCHARD: I would question whether, given the budget and particularly given the potential loss - of course, that won't affect the funding. But the Minister has, with few exceptions, no increase in funding, and if I follow line-by-line on the Estimates, a major part of the Program Delivery increase, at least a portion of it is certainly going to be increased staff. With the numbers the Minister has given me, and I never wrote them down but their sums, in quick mental calculations, were a 12 percent increase in program and service demands on the AFM.

I would question whether the Minister has enough budgetary room here to allow for that kind of a program expansion with the current budgetary funding. I guess to question the Minister further on whether his budget is going to be adequate, I would refer to the Estimate

of Revenue for the Province of Manitoba wherein the Attorney-General who is responsible for the Liquor Control Commission is budgeting for this fiscal year, an \$11 million increase in Liquor Control Commission revenues. All told, if my numbers serve me correct, the Minister is budgeting about a \$500,000 increase in gross program costs which was going to be paid for by cost recoveries on the First Offenders Program.

I would simply ask the Minister if, in light of the apparent increase in demand for AFM programming and what is a modest increase in funding, some of it staff, but most of the program funding is relatively stable, I simply ask the Minister if he shouldn't have maybe made an effort to get a slightly larger slice of the anticipated increase in Liquor Control Commission revenues of \$11 million that are budgeted for this year.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that the Alcoholism Foundation and myself would like to have more funds to be able to increase the programs. There is no doubt about that. There is no doubt that the Foundation for a number of years, forever and a day, has been advocating some kind of a percentage of the revenue from the sale of liquor. It hasn't been successful under this administration so far, no more than it was in the past. I don't know of any government that will go along with that.

We try to make a good point but, of course, we have looked at the overall funding and costs of government. Our effort was, of course, trying to develop a program that would be an important program. That was our main thrust this year, was to be our main thrust. We are disappointed, and I'm talking about the first offender, because I think that would be making the people aware of it. The people that were found guilty, of course, would have to pay for the program instead of getting the general public to subsidize their program, so it would be another deterrent for them to change their ways. But there is not much more I can say.

Yes, I would like to have more money to be able to bring in more programs but with the guidelines that the whole department had, we'll have to make do with this small increase. As I say, the main programs that we were pushing this year was the first offender. We still hope that we can deliver it. It will be a big increase in the programs we deliver. Where the funding comes, I don't see anything wrong with that. As I say, it's another deterrent, so it's still a fair increase in these difficult times.

But I can't argue with that, that it would be nice to have more money, the same as I probably would welcome in the Department of Health and more money in Urban Affairs to be able to give more to the city. I'm sure that every department - we'd like to build more highways and so on. I will say, you know, you can't have it both ways. With the deficit and the way we're going, we haven't been able to get everything that we want. I don't know what you are pointing at - the recovery?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, in the AFM's Annual Report, it indicates that since 1979 the number of young people under 19 has more than doubled. In

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fact, it's well on its way to tripling. Has the government considered raising the drinking age?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I have my views on that, but I can't tell you what government policy is in this. This would be under the Attorney-General. If there are any changes, it will be announced. I can't announce any government policy at this time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, since the Minister says it's going to be up to the Attorney-General . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I said it would be announced.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: . . . would he be recommending to the Attorney-General that the age be raised? These are pretty alarming figures. If they're not going to put more money from the liquor into programs such as this, then surely I would expect that the Minister of Health would be making that recommendation on behalf of the population of Manitoba and on behalf of the citizens.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I have my concern. If I was to publicly state today my views on that, I don't think it would be fair. When this is done, it will be a government policy as part of a team approach. What I say personally to the Attorney-General might be accepted or it might not. So I don't think it is proper, especially during the Estimates, of giving my own views. It might be that they're not accepted.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I am not asking the Minister to give his views as a member of the Legislature. I am asking him to present a case as the Minister of Health. I would suggest, looking at these figures, that probably the least he could do as the Minister of Health is to go after the Attorney-General with these figures, and make that suggestion. I'm not asking him to do it personally. I am not asking him to do it as the Member for St. Boniface, but I am asking him to do it as the Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I accept that, but what makes my honourable friend think that might not have been done already?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Kirkfield Park has drawn the Minister's attention to a very interesting statistic. Over the past several years, I have attempted to faithfully keep track of - in my complex filing system - a series of articles sent up to me by the American Association of Traffic Engineers, but basically it's highway traffic statistics and a number of states in the United States, have raised their drinking age and the year after they've done that, the traffic fatalities and injuries have decreased dramatically and it is even with the one-year increase in the legal drinking age in the States. My colleague, the member for Kirkfield Park, has indicated a reason here in terms of service demands on the AFM, which would lead the Minister of Health to make that kind of recommendation to his Attorney-General and to his caucus and I would offer to him statistics that are readily available from the United States where they have raised their drinking

age and saved medical costs and in this province where we fund the entire medical costs and have brought in seat belt legislation in an attempt to reduce medical costs, it's pretty clear from any evidence and any statistics I've seen from the United States that the Minister of Health could achieve a fairly substantive budget saving by recommending to his Attorney-General the raising of the drinking age.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: I think that this is incumbent on all the members of this House - I hear rumors, in fact, I think I've seen it in print that the members of the opposition might be bringing in a private resolution requesting that and if that is decided to be a free vote, you'll know exactly how I feel. In the meantime, let me say that as the Minister responsible for the Alcoholic Foundation and they're on record - I suggest to the Commission that they give us their best advice that they are suggesting that they would like to see a change in age and I've brought that to the attention of my colleagues.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, prior to passing the AFM, I wonder if we might refer to a couple of notes in terms of the Annual Report.

Under the Annual Report - the latest one is for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984 - you have an accumulated operating surplus, fiscal year 1984, \$172,006.00. We have to combine the two statements, Exhibit A, Exhibit B. The last year, 1984, according to Exhibit B, the AFM ran a net operating deficit of \$84,292 but still maintained an accumulated operating surplus of \$172,000.00.

Two questions. First of all, for fiscal year ending March 31, 1985, was the AFM able to operate on budget or did they incur an operating deficit or for that matter, were they able to incur an operating surplus? That would follow through the second question: What is the approximation of the accumulated operating surplus for fiscal year March 31, 1985?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Final figures are not available at this time. They're still processing vouchers. The best guess is that there could be a very small surplus, that they should stay with the budget.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, when we go to Exhibit B, for instance, under Other Revenues, you've got the Province of Manitoba operating grant, and then you've got Other Revenues, is that equivalent to the recoveries line in the AFM estimate, or is that revenues from external agencies that may fund the AFM?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: The equivalent of the figures that you mention, it is not . . . they're outside funding.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Okay, so that's Recoveries from various program deliveries.

Grants to Other Agencies, under Expenditures, is that equivalent to funded agencies under the AFM? If the Minister wants to bank questions, I'll ask several of them here. Is that equivalent to funded agencies?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. D. ORCHARD: One thing that intrigued me down here near the end was Subsistence - what is the line "Subsistence?"

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HON. L. DESJARDINS: That is food for the residents. Makes sense, doesn't it?

MR. D. ORCHARD: Rather straightforward, isn't it?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Over and under 18, they all get fed.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Under Dental Claims, did the AFM always have a dental plan? Is that where you get into the dental claims?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: This was added to - the plan was given to the AFM at the same time as it was given to the Civil Service.

MR. D. ORCHARD: That's what this is?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 88: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,082,700 for Health, The Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1986—pass. — (Interjection) — Order please. The Member for Pembina on a point of order.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister has available the - is it his intention to table the Capital program tomorrow when we start dealing with the Health Services Commission or can he do that this evening so we can go over it tonight?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, I won't be able to do it. It will probably be next week. I expect that we will go with the Administration and so on and then we'll keep the two lines - it's been reversed this year - I think

we'll go with Personal Care Homes, Hospital, Medicare, so it should be sometime next week. It could be later on but I doubt it. But anyway, if it is not done in time we certainly will hold this back for the full discussion.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Pity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the understanding then that it is 10:00 o'clock, Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

MS. M. PHILLIPS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has adopted certain Resolutions, directs me to report the same and asks leave to sit again.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Johns, that the Report of the Committee be received. (Agreed)

COMMITTEE CHANGES

MRS. D. DODICK: Mr. Speaker, I have a committee change. . . (inaudible) . . . Natural Resources, the Member for Gimli substituting for the Member for Transcona.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, P. EYLER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. A. MACKLING: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Concordia, that this House do now adjourn.

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