

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 7 May, 1987.

Time — 1:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER, Hon. M. Phillips: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Madam Speaker, I would like to make a ministerial statement with respect to the fire situation. There were to have been copies available for distribution, and I think they may be arriving at this time, so I would like leave to make that statement. (Agreed)

Madam Speaker, I'm sure, as members of this House would know, and Manitobans generally, that we do have a condition in the province wherein there is a serious threat from forest fires. I want to indicate that to date this year we have had 123 forest fires and the long-term average for this date is 10 fires.

Presently there are 42 fires burning in the province; 28 under control, 5 being held, and 4 not under control, and 5 are not being actioned at this time.

Yesterday, 9 new forest fires occurred, and with light winds and moderate temperatures most new fires were contained. A serious situation has developed at the Jeep Mine fire, which is located approximately 5 miles west of Wallace Lake. This fire grew from 2,000 to 3,000 acres in the past 24 hours, and with the increasing winds and temperatures forecasted for today and tomorrow, additional problems are anticipated in controlling this fire.

The fire is primarily located in a black spruce cut-over in rock outcrop in the Precambrian Shield. The terrain is rugged and most fire-line control must be established by hand. Suppression resources presently include 90 firefighters, 3 helicopters, 3 water bombers, numerous skidders, several tractors, as well as the usual pumps, hose and hand tools. An additional 80 firefighters will be added today to bolster human resources.

The situation will be reviewed at 3:00 p.m. today and decision made as to whether additional restrictions in the area will be required. The road to Wallace Lake may have to be closed, thus prohibiting access to Wallace Lake campground and cabins in the area. In order to provide sufficient lead time to those who would be considering travelling for the weekend, we will be noting with the media any further developments in this regard, so we would ask all concerned who want to monitor this situation to monitor the media this evening at which time we would give a further update.

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, I thank the Minister for that . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Madam Speaker, I thank the government for the round of applause when I got up. I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for the statement that he has made regarding the forest fire situation in the province. It is a matter of major concern to all Manitobans. Ironically, it was a little over a week ago that I asked the Minister about the forest fire situation. At that time he indicated, well, it was serious but it wasn't that dramatic.

The last few days, Madam Speaker, we've been covering the Department of Natural Resources Estimates, including forestry. The one thing that I found ironical at that time was that there has been cutbacks in almost all categories of forest firefighting in the Province of Manitoba, at a time when we realize that there are major problems developing. We had a very fortunate year last year, Madam Speaker, in terms of forest fires and the government and this Minister saw fit to take and use that as an excuse to cut back on the expenditures for fighting forest fires in this province.

So I hope that the department is going to be vigilant and make sure that all efforts are being made to try and keep the forest fire situation under control and that it's not going to be a matter of money that is going to be a concern for this Minister, the fact that there is less money slated to be spent; I hope he can overcome that and do his job.

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: Before moving to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery where we have 48 students from Grade 5 from the Hastings School under the direction of Ms. Pat McMurchy. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Riel.

We have 25 students in Grade 9 from the Minnetonka School under the direction of Mr. Ron Koskie. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Niakwa.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

**Sugar beet industry - Min. Stmt
re fed./prov. agreement**

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture, given that we have been asking questions for several weeks in this House about a sugar beet agreement, if the Minister would like leave to revert to Ministerial Statements to be able to report on what I understand was an agreement that was signed moments ago on the sugar beet industry.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question.- (Interjection)-

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.
The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, I want to make it clear. Are we reverting to Ministerial Statements?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.
My understanding was that the Minister of Agriculture was recognized to answer a question.
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I was pleased to have the Member for La Verendrye, who attended the signing ceremony with the Federal Ministers, Honourable Jake Epp and Honourable Charlie Mayer, and the Member for La Verendrye who was at the news conference and at the signing. I want to indicate to the Leader of the Opposition, Madam Speaker, he should be well aware, and I'm sure he is, that there were very significant differences during this period of time between the position of the province and that of the Federal Government.

Madam Speaker, this province showed great flexibility in attempting to deal with this problem. Back in March, Madam Speaker, we put on the table . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, please, order please.
My understanding that the Honourable Minister was answering a question, not making a statement.
The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition asked about the agreement that we signed. Madam Speaker, obviously they are not . . . Madam Speaker, all the games that we've had from members opposite, had we had the cooperation of members opposite, this agreement would have been signed months ago, not the kind of nonsense that we've had.

Madam Speaker, we called for unanimity in this House and of all Manitobans to stick together, to stick together in it's agreement and it's those members opposite that held this agreement from not being signed.

MR. G. FILMON: Well, Madam Speaker, it's obvious that the Minister doesn't want to make a ministerial statement, despite the responsibility he has to take for putting hundreds of Manitoba families in a position of anxiety and uncertainty over their economic right; that's right.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

MPIC - Phase II of Task Force Report

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member have a question?

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for MPIC.

Madam Speaker, in 1982, under the direction of this Minister, MPIC was instructed to examine the feasibility of entering the life insurance, accident, sickness insurance, and pension field. In late 1983, as I understand it, a report was issued by a task force that had been established under this Minister, a report that concluded that it was both a practical and a feasible proposal and that a Phase II be proceeded with that would provide more detailed information upon which to make a final decision to proceed.

I wonder if the Minister can indicate whether or not Phase II was ever proceeded with.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MPIC.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
I'm surprised that the Leader of the Opposition has such a short memory. I recall very well our leader, the Premier, indicating about two years ago that we had no intention of proceeding into the life insurance industry. So that responds to that question, I would think.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, given that the task force recommended, at that time, that they investigate whether or not they could enter into an agreement to perhaps purchase a compatible existing company in that field, has that intention also been completely abandoned?

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Madam Speaker, as I just indicated about one minute ago, the Premier of this province, two years ago indicated we had no intention of entering into the life insurance field. Therefore, we have no intention, nor any reason to seek out a dormant charter to get into that area of business.

**Sales tax - Man. Gov't position
re national sales tax**

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Let me firstly begin by saying, I'm surprised that the Minister of Finance has not seen fit to make a statement with respect to Manitoba's position on the national tax

reform, as has been revealed in some respects, by the Federal Minister, Mr. Wilson, yesterday.

Madam Speaker, my direct question to the Minister of Finance: Does the Government of Manitoba today support the concept of a national sales tax? One that would replace both the federal sales tax and the provincial sales tax, given that this new federal sales tax would apply to all goods and services between factory and retailer.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As was evidenced earlier with respect to other questions asked by the Member for Morris, it is obvious that he's not only read the Budget, but he hasn't read the attachments to the Budget that very clearly articulate the position that the Province of Manitoba has put forward with respect to national tax reform in this country. I would suggest that he take the time to read it so he would understand the position that this government has taken forward at the national debate, both through meetings that I've had as the Minister of Finance, the First Minister has had with First Ministers on this very issue. In terms of the announcement that the Federal Minister made yesterday, all he indicated was that his long-awaited White Paper will be coming down on June 18. He also indicated that their reform will be looking at the corporate income tax, the personal income tax, and at national sales tax, and open the possibility to harmonize efforts between Provincial Governments and the Federal Government with respect to sales tax.

The position of the Province of Manitoba is that we are prepared to look at the possibility of harmonizing tax effort, whether it be on the income tax level, or on the sales tax area, so we are open to look at their suggestions. However, Madam Speaker, we are not in favour of any massive shift, as has been contemplated and has been reflected on by some, from corporate taxes, and income taxes onto sales taxes, because that would not be the best way and the most progressive way to deal with taxation policy in this country.

Taxes - based on consumption vs income

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, I don't need to be lectured as to whether or not I read the Budget.

Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance, given that tax brackets may be reduced from 10 to 3; and given that there may be more, finally more equality as between taxpayers, does the government support taxes paid on consumption basis, as compared to taxes paid on income, that basic concept, Madam Speaker? Because in reading the Budget remarks by the Minister, and knowing that he's had many meetings, or he's had additional meetings with officials from the Federal Department of Finance, Madam Speaker, can the Minister give me a definitive answer to that question?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: You know, maybe I wouldn't have to, as the member describes, lecture to him with regard to matters relating to taxation if he didn't do things

that border on dishonesty at times, like he did with respect to the payment of sales taxes in this province, like he did with respect to . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, the member used the words "bordering on dishonesty." If he's calling me a crook, I ask him to stand in his place and call me such or to withdraw the remarks.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: I did not say that the member was dishonest. I said his statements bordered on dishonesty. If that he finds offensive . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please!

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Madam Speaker, if the member finds those statements uncomfortable, I will withdraw them.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please!

If the Honourable Opposition House Leader would like to give me instructions, he knows the proper process for doing that. If you would just listen, the Honourable Minister just withdrew his remarks.

The Honourable Opposition House Leader.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, may I humbly suggest that your request for order should be directed to both sides of the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: May I humbly suggest that my request for order was directed to both sides. The Honourable Minister just withdrew his remarks.

Would the Honourable Minister of Finance care to continue his answer to the question now that he's withdrawn the inappropriate remarks.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The member seems to be awful sensitive when I raise that issue. But, as I was indicating, I wouldn't have to be in the position that he indicates, to lecture him with regard to matters, if he wouldn't be doing damage to the truth when he talks about issues like the collection of sales tax, like he did yesterday, as was reported in the papers, trying to make fun of the situation, that there may be a run on government monies, which is simply not the facts, Madam Speaker. I would not be in a position that I would have, to put it in his term, "lecture to him."

In regard to the issue of taxes, the position of the Government of Manitoba, has been, and continues to be, that the basic and the fairest way of taxation is on the ability to pay; is looking at a fare share from corporate taxes; and basically through the income tax system. We believe that there should be less reliance on consumption taxes and more on the ability-to-pay taxes.

Tax revenue from Federal Gov't

MR. C. MANNES: A final supplementary, Madam Speaker.

How will Manitoba's tax revenues flow from Ottawa, given that there is a major change in tax reforms, such that there is a national sales tax replacing the provincial sales tax; I'm asking?

HON. E. KOSTYRA: The answer is, I don't know. I had a conversation yesterday with the Federal Finance Minister, and he indicated to me what he was going to be saying in the House of Commons yesterday. He indicated to me, and this was the first time that he has indicated that to Provincial Ministers of Finance, that he is prepared to look at the possibility of having a national sales tax system.

He also indicated that officials will be receiving information on the various options that the Federal Government wishes to place. The position of the Province of Manitoba is open on that question. We are prepared to look at ways where we can harmonize the tax system in Canada, whether it be the income tax system, whether it be corporate income tax, or whether it be sales tax, but it has to be based on the principles of ability to pay and on the principles of fairness, Madam Speaker.

AIDS - funds for education/information program

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Before I ask my question today, I'd like to table the following pamphlet.

My question, Madam Speaker, is to the Premier. We are, Madam Speaker, this week in AIDS Awareness Week, and we know that as a world and as a country and as a province, we are in the midst of an AIDS epidemic, a disease for which there is no cure. Our only hope for the citizens of this province, and indeed for the entire world, is education.

Would the First Minister and his government produce a pamphlet similar to the one tabled, to be distributed to all householders in Manitoba, so that as legislators we cannot be accused of immoral and irresponsible behaviour in not providing our citizens with essential information?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. H. PAWLEY: Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. I also appreciate the honourable member forwarding to me a copy of the AIDS Lifeline Awareness pamphlet issued in San Francisco.

The Minister of Health has, under very active consideration now, the development of a pamphlet that would insure that in the Province of Manitoba there would be greater awareness of many of the questions that need to be answered and do concern Manitobans insofar as insuring that there's greater information disseminated with regard to this very terrible disease.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Madam Speaker, a supplementary question to the Minister of Health.

Would the Minister of Health set aside \$17,200 of his additional budget for AIDS information, to produce this householder, which can in fact be done at that cost for 400,000 copies?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: No, Madam Speaker, but I could announce and I could repeat what I've said in the House before, in following the answer of the First Minister, that we are preparing a program that is in front of Cabinet now, and the suggestion and the possibility - we're exploring the possibility - of using extra revenue from the Lotteries, as I mentioned in this House a couple of weeks ago, to add to what we have in our budget.

AIDS - pamphlets included with MTS bills

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Madam Speaker, a final supplementary question, but this time to the Minister responsible for Manitoba Telephone System.

Would the Minister responsible for the Telephone System be willing to discuss with that department the ability to send out such a household pamphlet, if produced, via telephone billing mailings?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, I'd be willing to discuss all possibilities of communicating this very legitimate issue with the Minister of Health.

I know the Minister of Health is very concerned, and all caucuses very concerned about the AIDS issue and the education that's necessary in our province; and any avenue that would be appropriate in terms of delivering the message for AIDS education, I'd be certainly willing to work with all our caucus and with the Minister of Health.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health on the same question.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I just wanted to add something, that I have instructed the staff also to discuss with the MMA a line that we have, that people could phone and have information on different diseases, to include AIDS on that; and that probably will take place.

Sherritt Gordon Mines - closure of business, negotiations with HBM and S

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. H. ENNS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would direct a question to the First Minister.

Madam Speaker, I and I'm sure many other Manitobans, particularly northern Manitobans, along

with I'm sure the Premier, are concerned about the fact that Sherritt Gordon Mines of Toronto have decided - a company by the way that has provided many years of gainful employment, particularly in northern Manitoba - has decided to pull out of the mining industry in Manitoba, thus jeopardizing some 450 jobs.

Now my further understanding is that the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company is currently negotiating with Sherritt to take over the assets at Leaf Rapids, of Sherritt. My question is simply, is the government monitoring these negotiations and can they provide any updated report to the House as to how they're proceeding?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'll take the question as notice for the member.

Sherritt Gordon Mines - report on security of Gov't funds provided

MR. H. ENNS: Madam Speaker, while the Minister and the government is taking this question as notice, this is, of course, the company that only a few years ago, received very substantial provincial and federal funding for the deepening of the mine shaft at Ruttan Mines at Leaf Rapids; at that time, assuring us that this would provide some additional years of employment that is so badly needed in that community - that one-industry town of Leaf Rapids.

I would simply ask the government to provide the House with an updated report that includes the security, if you like, of those public dollars invested by both Provincial and Federal Governments.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the concern of the member and I'll take that question as notice, as well.

Sugar beet industry - financial differences between two agreements

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. C. BAKER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

Could he tell the Legislature the difference, monetary-wise, in the deal to Manitoba as compared to the original one?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, it's very clear that members opposite are in this House only for political purposes; they don't wish to discuss agriculture. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased that the Member for Lac du Bonnet raises the question about the financial differences between the two agreements.

Madam Speaker, essentially, the difference between the two agreements for Manitoba today, as it was a

month or two ago, is in the vicinity of \$4 million. That was the blank cheque that members opposite wanted us to sign, Madam Speaker, insofar as tripartite stabilization.

Madam Speaker, in essence, they were prepared to give up as much as the province would gain over five years in terms of revenues from the sugar beet industry in this province. That's the kind of blank cheque that they wanted to produce.

Madam Speaker, as well, it should be pointed out that, because of our negotiations, the Province of Alberta will benefit to the tune of at least \$6 million.

Sugar beet industry - immediate notification re agreement

MR. C. BAKER: Madam Speaker, yesterday, I asked a question if, in fact, when the deal was signed that there would be an effort made to make sure that every Manitoba sugar beet producer would be notified about the agreement. Have we done anything in that field, to make sure that everybody can get their seed in the ground, possibly before the weekend?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, it's my hope that all farmers have either picked up their seed, or will be picking up their seed, at the Manitoba Sugar company, either this morning or later today. We had a good representation of the executive of the sugar beet growers at the signing ceremony, and we hope that all producers will, in fact, be as happy as those of the executive and, needless to say, the workers of Manitoba Sugar, whose uncertainty, in terms of their jobs, is ascertained over the next 10 years.

Shoal Lake - continuation of Federal Environment Assessment Review Organization

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Charleswood.

MR. J. ERNST: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs.

Madam Speaker, seven or eight years ago the Indian Band at Shoal Lake proposed a cottage lot development at that site. From the outset, there's been a concern by the citizens of Winnipeg that their water supply was in danger. Madam Speaker, at the outset, as well, the Federal Government implemented an Environmental Assessment Review panel to deal with the issue of what will, and what will not, be permitted on that site.

Madam Speaker, since that time the city and the province and the Federal Government, for a portion of that time, have been negotiating, on what I'm not sure. My question to the Minister of Urban Affairs is, do they now support the continuation of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review panel to determine what will be, or what will not be, permitted on that site.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of the Environment.

HON. G. LECUYER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, Madam Speaker, we certainly do want to see negotiations continue on this topic and we want all parties who have involvement, and who are part of the issue, to be at the table when these negotiations take place. I understand they will be resuming shortly.

MR. J. ERNST: Madam Speaker, I'm not sure that the Minister understood the question and perhaps if I can pose it again. Are they supportive of continuing the FEARO, the Environmental Assessment Review process?

HON. G. LECUYER: Madam Speaker, the process is indeed, as the member indicates, incomplete. And certainly it was always our understanding that process would be completed, but that's not for us to decide. I understood at one point that the FEARO required some additional information from the band which they were supplied with the long lapse of time. But it appears since then that the process of completion, the assessment, has not been put back on track, and I don't know in terms of the details when that will take place, if it will.

MR. J. ERNST: Madam Speaker, if in fact the FEARO, the Environmental Assessment Review process is the one that will determine what can and what cannot be permitted on the site, for heaven's sake, can the Minister answer, what are they negotiating on the basis of? They talked about a blank cheque with respect to sugar beets, Madam Speaker, here's another blank cheque that they have no basis upon which to negotiate.

HON. G. LECUYER: That's why we want the federal party to be at the table in negotiations, Madam Speaker. If the FEARO process, in that process, information was gathered, Madam Speaker, that might call for holding back on the project, the project can always be modified and, therefore, that is the reason why there needs to be negotiation to deal with the proposed project, no matter in what form it is proposed to go forward.

Manitoba Lotteries Foundation - conflict-of-interest guidelines

MR. J. ERNST: I have a new question, Madam Speaker, to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the Minister if there is a conflict-of-interest policy in place at the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation with respect to its employees?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I'll take that as notice.

MR. J. ERNST: Madam Speaker, a supplementary question to the same Minister. Can the Minister, while she's taking that as notice, also advise the House if any conflict-of-interest guidelines or policy applies to any of the umbrella groups or major beneficiaries under Lottery Foundation grants?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Certainly I'll get back as soon as possible.

Flyer Industries - insurance re gov't bond guarantees

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Flyer Industries.

In the agreement signed with den Oudsten, section 504, it says that the Government of Manitoba, or MDC, will guarantee up to \$30 million of bonds, supporting the new Flyer Industries in Manitoba, when they make bids on new buses.

Last year, we were told, Madam Speaker, that the guarantees would be fully insured. The committee stated that the province was able to find insurers. Today at the committee hearing, Madam Speaker, we were informed that insurance was becoming increasingly difficult to receive and nearly impossible to receive. I'd like the Minister to tell this House what steps are being taken to guarantee that the people of Manitoba will not lose more money on the Flyer deal?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As the member indicates, there was a committee with full staff present this morning, at which, more appropriately, that kind of question ought to have been addressed, where we could get the exact details. But the member is aware, as well, that on two contracts entered into by Flyer in the last short while, Toronto and Winnipeg, that there's been no performance bond required. As well, there are discussions ongoing between Flyer and others to reduce the proportion for future contracts.

The overall detail I'll take as notice and get back to the member.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Madam Speaker, a supplementary.

We were told about the contracts that didn't require bonding, and it is obvious the Minister doesn't like these question in public, especially when they relate to the people of Manitoba's money.

It says also in the section that the MDC will pay \$300,000 toward the cost of any insurance, to secure the people of Manitoba's money when bonding Flyer.

I ask the Minister: Has he got a place where he can buy the insurance to protect the people of Manitoba's money on the Flyer deal?

HON. V. SCHROEDER: The member glosses over the statement that I made with respect to what happened in Toronto and Winnipeg. Those transit authorities determined that there was no necessity for any bonding whatsoever, which means no insurance requirement, no insurance requirement whatsoever on the part of MDC. He also ignores the fact that I pointed out to him, as was pointed out to him this morning by our staff, that we're working on reducing the amount at other cities from 100 percent to somewhere in the range of 20 percent, which obviously is going to reduce liability.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: A final supplementary, Madam Speaker.

It was also pointed out this morning, that it was expected with new contracts that Flyer are working on,

that there would be a requirement of bonding to be guaranteed by the Manitoba Government.

I ask the Minister again, after we were told this morning that that insurance is almost impossible to get, what steps he is taking to make sure the people of Manitoba do not lose more money on the Flyer deal, because they have lost \$96 million to \$100 million already according to the statement given us yesterday.

HON. V. SCHROEDER: That number, of course, was public quite some time ago. Somehow members opposite, at least the Member for Sturgeon Creek, is into the 1980's, as opposed to the Member for Brandon West, who is in the 1970's, the very early 1970's, before that committee just a few days ago. But again, it's an issue that was dealt with at committee. The member knows full well we're doing our best to get the insurance, should it be required, because if we can have similar contracts, over the period during which we're liable, it has a termination clause to it. If we're able to get similar contracts to Toronto and Winnipeg, the problem will not arise, but in the meantime we're working on attempting to get insurance should the problem arise. But what he's into is several hypotheticals.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: We were told this morning it would arise.

Provincial Judges - Min. of Labour to review statement of A/G re wages

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Madam Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Minister of Labour.

Earlier this week, Madam Speaker, in response to comments made by the vice-president of the Provincial Judges Association, the Attorney-General made the comment that the judges could be virtually guaranteed no negotiations respecting their salaries.

My question to the Minister of Labour is: Has the Minister reviewed the Attorney-General's comments; do they constitute an interference in collective bargaining; and, if they do, will the Minister be causing an unfair labour practices complaint to be filed against the Attorney-General . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: I had an interesting phone call with the judge in question and he wanted to assure me that he had been taken out of context, and I wanted to assure him that I had been taken out of context, and then he said he had been more taken out of context than I'd been taken out of context, and I said no, I was more taken out of context than you were taken out of context, No. 1. Then we both agreed that the Opposition in this House was entirely out of context.

Madam Speaker, first of all, there are no negotiations taking place between myself and the provincial judges, in any event. The judges have recently had a salary increase and the anniversary of that is October of this year, so there are no negotiations. There are some discussions about pension rights and they are taking

place between myself and the association on a very affable way, without any great difficulty, and I think that the question was meant to be facetious and I want to congratulate the Member for Brandon in being more and more expert at being facetious.

Provincial Judges - A/G involved in wage negotiations

MR. J. McCRAE: Madam Speaker, to the Attorney-General.

Is the Attorney-General telling us that he's withdrawn his guarantee that there will be no negotiations with the judges, is that what he said to Judge Conner in his discussion?

HON. R. PENNER: I thought I just said that there are no ongoing negotiations between myself and the provincial judges. There was nothing to withdraw from.

Salary of Deputy Attorney-General

MR. J. McCRAE: A new question to the Attorney-General, Madam Speaker.

What is the salary of the Deputy Attorney-General?

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

MR. J. McCRAE: Could the Attorney-General also tell us whether there have been upward revisions in the Deputy Attorney-General's salary in the past year?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. E. KOSTYRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Any changes in place with respect to one deputy minister would be the same that are in place for all deputy ministers. I don't have the specific information on that, and if the member is requiring information on the scale for deputies I will provide it, if he doesn't already have that information through other sources that are available.

Child Care Worker - disciplinary action re death of Daniel Felix

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Community Services.

The other day she had indicated that the worker who had been involved in the infant death of Daniel Felix have been fired for his or her involvement in that case. Could the Minister indicate whether she has now changed that statement?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, certain comments that I did make yesterday implied a connection between

the disciplinary action involving the employee and the specific child death.

The case is very complex, but I would like to clarify that there was, in fact, no direct connection between the incident and personnel action taken by the agency to date.

MR. G. MERCIER: Well, Madam Speaker, I would ask the Minister, that in view of the findings and the report she tabled in the House, that the review team expressed serious concerns about the appropriateness and adequacy of the judgment exercised by the worker; and the finding showed that the worker had failed to adequately investigate and assess at least two allegations of physical abuse, the seriousness of which was minimized with only a superficial effort; and furthermore, the worker had undertaken a series of significant decisions without prior consultation or collaboration involving the decision to return the child to the birth parents.

Is it government policy that a worker who performs in that way should retain his or her job in the child abuse system?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, in the child and family system certain responsibilities are delegated to the agencies, and management of the personnel is one. I have been assured that the agency has taken this report and the concerns very much to heart.

I did indicate that there would be discussion with them about the report and they report back to my department in June and, after further discussions, to me in July. I believe they are taking the responsibility very seriously.

I think, again, the actual weighing of a personnel matter, because of the mandate of the agency and the delegation of that authority, in the first instance, has to be left with the agency. But I do think the report that we've asked from them will be the mechanism we can use to see if they have taken appropriate action.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, can the Minister inform the House as to whether or not the worker involved in this case had previously returned an infant to a high-risk situation; and the infant in that previous case had been killed?

HON. M. SMITH: Madam Speaker, I don't have that degree of specific information on an individual worker. I believe that my responsibility is to ensure that there are processes and systems in place to permit review of involvement of appropriate groups, and I'm assured that is the case.

What I indicated earlier about the response of the agency, again, usually we wait if there are court proceedings, that they be completed in order to give the agency a chance to review the situation, and that will be included in our review with them.

MACC - number of Notices of Intent to foreclose

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, I have been informed that MACC, which reports to the Minister of Agriculture, has moved to forward several Notices of Intent to foreclose on farmers in Manitoba. Could the Minister of Agriculture tell us how many Notices of Intent MACC has forwarded to farmers in Manitoba for foreclosure action?

MR. C. MANNES: The Family Farm Protection Act.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I believe that there is a process within MACC that, unless there has been a conversion of assets or some major difficulty with the loan portfolio of an individual farmer, there is no movement to foreclose. There are options in which, where a farm family is in financial difficulty in trying to settle out an account where it appears that no longer the farm is viable under present conditions, options of leaseback opportunities are provided. Madam Speaker, as I indicated earlier, my recollection over the last six years, that there have been less than 10 foreclosures instituted by MACC. However, in every case, even since our legislation and when we had the voluntary panels, Madam Speaker, the corporation has been instructed to offer mediation process prior to closing out of any files or any financial difficulties with the farm family; that mediation and review is offered up-front before any finalization has taken place.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

The Honourable Member for Arthur on a point of order.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Madam Speaker, when will the Minister of Agriculture quit misleading the people of Manitoba in this House?

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

The honourable member does not have a point of order.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Madam Speaker, I'd like to receive leave to make a slightly political statement.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)

The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. H. PANKRATZ: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

First of all, I want to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture for signing the Sugar Beet Agreement. Madam Speaker, how can you do that without being political? - and also for allowing me to attend the signing and the press conference.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable Jake Epp, and the Honourable Charlie

Mayer, for their persistence is succeeding and to getting Manitoba to agree and sign a tripartite agreement.

I want to congratulate our provincial board for their time and effort, and especially Bill Siemens and John Loewen. I am pleased that the Provincial Government realized the need for such an agreement in order to keep the industry alive in Manitoba.

I'm pleased that the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Uruski, went to Ottawa with some flexibility about this agreement, and did not stick to his hard-line approach which almost destroyed this industry in Manitoba.

This agreement will remove the uncertainty that has clouded the beet industry for the past three years. Now farmers, industry and employees have the assurance that the industry will be around for at least 10 years.

I, again, am pleased with this agreement. I regret that it took the Honourable Minister and the government so long to realize what this Opposition, the workers and the industry has been telling him for the past three months; that this industry is important to the economic welfare of the province, and that this Minister and this government should not have been playing politics with the lives of the workers in the sugar beet industry for the past three months.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion I, once again, want to thank the Honourable Minister for having signed this agreement.

Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: Madam Speaker, I sense that there is an inclination on the part of all members to dispense with Private Members' Hour, by leave, today.

MADAM SPEAKER: By leave. (Agreed)
The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: I move, seconded by the Minister of Agriculture, that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources; and the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet in the Chair for the Department of Education.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Baker: Committee come to order.
When we adjourned yesterday, we were dealing with Program Development Support Services.
Mr. Minister.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I have some material that I'm going to forward on to the Member for Kirkfield

Park concerning the Home Economics curricula, which I promised; as well as a copy of the revised peace/conflict resource book that we discussed yesterday. I believe we had previously provided the Member for Kirkfield with an edition of the resource book, and there is an updated version and I'm including that and the peace studies resource materials that are available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, I just wanted to make a brief comment on the Continuous Progress that we were discussing yesterday where the Minister said that the children were in the program mainly from K to 3.

My own feeling on this issue, and I've given it a great deal of thought, I think the department should be sure that program does not continue after that because I think if children fall behind up to Grade 3, that is a better time for them to be held back a grade than when they get up to the junior high level where the peer pressure is so much greater.

I think that in a lot of cases some of the kids fall behind because of the school year. If a child's birthday is November and December, they have a much slower start than years ago when they used to start the children in, say, January and very often, as was the case with myself, I had a year-and-a-half in Grade 1 because they just kept you in your grade but they let you start an extra six months.

I would hope that they would look at this because the incident that I gave yesterday was so true, and that these children, every one of them, could have lost a year at junior high when it would have been a devastating time for them. I don't know what's happening in the lower grades at the elementary level, but if children have to be held back, that certainly is the place to do it rather than let them continue on at this slow pace if they're not going to catch up.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think it would be safe to say that schools are holding back fewer children than in the past, although it still happens on occasion. I think there's general agreement that while we may not agree that holding back is perhaps the best course of action, that some remedial action is necessary; and I think, by virtue of the fact that more schools have access to resource teachers, resource help for individual students, it's made the necessity of doing the kind of thing the Member for Kirkfield Park was referring to less likely to happen.

So I think there's general consensus that the middle years, the junior high years, are a difficult enough period for students to cope with without the additional burden of I guess the stigma that's attached to being held back at junior high years. Certainly, I think it's the intention of all of the elementary teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 6 to make sure that students graduate with the necessary skills, and if they have to use resource teachers and supplement the material and so forth, they now have access to that to a much greater extent than in the past.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would give us an update on what is happening

in the area of Native education. I see that there has been a slight reduction in the Native education area, and I notice that it says that there's an elimination of the position of producer under the Program Development Services in the Supplementary Information. What was the producer doing?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that title refers to an individual that was responsible for producing material, particularly the art work support material, for curriculum. That answers the question - generally doing support work on curriculum development.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'll just carry on. Was that position eliminated because that was not needed anymore in that area?

I also asked if there had been any changes in the area of Native education.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I'm told that the change will not reflect negatively on the material that's being produced, that there are other people, particularly in the METV area, that have the kinds of production skills that can be used effectively for application in all areas.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: In the area of Native Education, is that primarily in Winnipeg or is that all over the province? I'm trying to see the difference between what the feds are doing, or is it the province that administers the education program?

HON. J. STORIE: No, there are actually three different - when we're talking about Native Education, the province has responsibility for non-status and Metis students in the province generally, and the majority of those students in rural Manitoba are students within the Frontier School Division in many northern communities.

In addition to the branch's responsibility through the Native Education Branch, we also support the activities of inner city school divisions through the Inner City Education Branch or staff complement.

There are two other education systems in the province that work in conjunction with Manitoba education in some respects, and those are band control schools, schools under the authority of a particular band; and Indian Affairs schools, which are operated directly by the Federal Government.

Both Indian Affairs and the band schools get their authority and funding from the Federal Government. The other schools, which have large Native populations, are operated by school divisions; the largest one obviously being Frontier, which has a significant Native-Metis population as well as a significant population in the Inner City of Winnipeg and following under the jurisdiction of the Winnipeg School Division.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: In the news release, February 27, social programs and education are government priorities. It says that unique education needs of Natives in urban areas will be addressed.

How exactly are they being addressed and what type of programs are they giving for Native students?

HON. J. STORIE: Of course, some of them are being offered by the school divisions themselves. This year,

for example, when we get to the funding, the department has increased the Inner City Education Grant by approximately 30 percent, an additional \$500,000, which goes directly towards meeting some of the needs that I guess have been identified by the Winnipeg School Division.

In addition to that, the department has an Inner-City education team which act as a resource liaison between school divisions and the department. In addition, there is approximately 2.2 million which is available through the compensatory grant program. Those programs are there to establish innovative, imaginative programs to assist with exceptional needs that school divisions have, and many of those programs are being used to enhance the educational opportunities of Inner-City Native children. Examples would be the parent-child centres which are there to encourage the interaction between the community and the local community.

As well, as you know, the department also supports other initiatives, indirectly I guess, through Winnipeg School Division by providing additional funding to Winnipeg to meet the challenge that exists in the Inner City.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, I wonder if the Minister would explain the parent-child centres. What exactly are they doing there?

HON. J. STORIE: The parent-child centres are attached, in most instances, to schools - in all instances in the City of Winnipeg - to schools, and they operate on a daily basis with the support of a coordinator or director and volunteers. They encourage parents with young children, parents with children in the school to attend, make use of the centre, which is really an activity centre with a focus on material for child development.

They're an informal setting, but a setting of which parents, who perhaps are not comfortable with school generally, school personnel, can come and familiarize themselves with the programs and the teachers and the setting; and, at the same time, offer their other offspring, their preschool children a chance to learn and to explore the world and new experiences.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Are they doing a little bit of parent exploration there too, as well as the children?

HON. J. STORIE: I think in an informal way, obviously there are staff at the centre who are prepared and I guess do informally discuss parenting and the role of parents and try to help develop parenting skills. Some of it of course is done through modelling, and the fact is that they see examples of staff interacting with their children in an effort to develop skills, and so forth. I'm sure that the staff in those schools - and we're not directly involved in that - but the staff in those centres are also using opportunities to invite speakers and add resources from the community into the centre to help the parents cope with the task of child rearing.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, I wonder if I could have a list of the schools that have the parent-child centres. I wonder if the Minister knows how many parents are taking advantage of these centres.

HON. J. STORIE: I can't give you firm statistics on that. I have visited two of those centres - one at River

Elm and the other one at Pinkham School - and was pleasantly surprised at the number of parents and children that were there. It's a voluntary activity. I guess they are responding to a need and I think their use obviously varies, but they have been quite successful at getting volunteers, people who are willing to donate some of their time to make sure their centre is open and that there is a contact point at the school.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is this an area that CIDA was involved in and are these funded through the department, the activity centres?

HON. J. STORIE: CIDA was not directly involved in these. It has played a role in making the community aware of the resource centre, or the parent-child centre. The divisions really have applied for grants to establish the centres, so they have a responsibility. There are evaluation criteria as well and the centres will be evaluated and I guess some decision made about the effectiveness and the utilization of those centres generally.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How long have the centres been in existence?

HON. J. STORIE: Two years for the oldest. Some of them have just opened. The River Elm just opened last September.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: So there are two centres then, just River Elm and Pinkham?

HON. J. STORIE: No, there are five centres.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: There are five centres.

HON. J. STORIE: One at Strathcona, one at River Elm, one at Pinkham and two storefront locations.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Where are these storefront locations and how are they operated in conjunction with the school?

HON. J. STORIE: The storefronts are at Ellice and Sherbrook and 425 Elgin. Mr. Chairperson, these are kitty-corner to schools; so, although they're not directly attached, they're associated with a school.

Mr. Chairperson, I would also like to correct the suggestion that all of these are funded directly by education or through the compensatory grant, three are, the three school ones are, the other two that are referenced here are supported through the Core and through Child and Family Services. So indirectly the department is supporting them because of our involvement in Core, but they are not directly funded through the Compensatory Grant Program.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I'd like to just go on and ask about the Manitoba School for the Deaf. There has been a fairly good increase in the expenditures for the Manitoba School for the Deaf. What have been the changes in that area?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, there have been a number of changes, the most important of which perhaps from

many perspectives is the appointment of a principal, a Mr. Howard Miller, who is familiar with the school and was also acting in a similar capacity in another jurisdiction. The increases generally reflect increases in costs of operating the school, rather than any substantial additional services. I guess a couple of other major initiatives in terms of continuing to attempt to integrate students from the school into the community and community schools and continued support for those students who continue on to post-secondary institutions to offer support and counselling, etc., to those students.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. J. WALDING: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Are we dealing with these by subappropriation or are we dealing with the whole Appropriation 4 as a lump?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are dealing with the whole thing and we allow ourselves to go back and ask questions but not forward. So we are dealing with 4, although they can ask questions related to the items that we dealt with before.

MR. J. WALDING: There may be other members who may have questions and it seems a little strange to be jumping from subject to subject. Would it not be better to deal with each thing at a time and move on? At least we'd know where we got to then.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm at the will of the committee. The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, if I may, if any of the other members certainly have questions in the area, please feel free to have them put up their hand at that point. There is no problem with that. In some of the areas, we have two or three members that are dealing with these areas and it's easier if we can come back occasionally to them, if there's no objection.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, on this point of order, I think we have been fairly flexible on that. I think the only stipulation that's been made to date is that Item 3, Financial Support to Schools, there was an agreement because of an obligation I guess of one of the other members to deal with that on Monday next. Other than that, we have been hopping about considerably with general approval I guess of the committee to this point.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Just in this one area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Member for St. Vital have a question?

MR. J. WALDING: Yes, I had a couple of questions, but I didn't want to interrupt Mrs. Hammond and I didn't want to have the thing passed and have us move on towards the next page before I had the opportunity to put a couple of questions.- (Interjection)- I'm patient, I can wait.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: If they were dealing with some of the areas like Native Education or School for the Deaf, please just, if with the will of the Chair - excuse me - but that's not been a problem.

Yes, I wonder if the Minister - it is a fairly good size sum of money in the Manitoba School for the Deaf - could indicate where the sums of money are being spent, the new funds or in what area they are being spent. What kind of support are they giving to the divisions when children are mainstreaming?

HON. J. STORIE: Just in terms of the increase, most of the increase, as I indicated, was general salary increases and operating increases, so there are no additions to service, and as you can see the staff component hasn't changed. So the only additional services, as a matter of emphasis I guess, within the school itself - I missed the last part of your question.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, what kind of support is being given to the children who are mainstreamed into the different school divisions.

HON. J. STORIE: Of these, something like 99 students who currently are at the school, or 100 students; something like between 30 and 40 are actually integrated to some degree, some in schools very close like Tuxedo-Shaftesbury School, others in R.B. Russell and so forth. In some instances, interpreters go along with the students. Again, it depends on the degree of the handicap. Some are there with the aid, I guess of special hearing-aid equipment, so it varies from student to student. Whatever assistance is needed, if there is an opportunity for integration, we generally try to accommodate individual need.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Last year I mentioned to the Minister about a university in, I believe it was Western Canada - I can't find my notes right now - the school for deaf children.

HON. J. STORIE: Gallaudet.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Pardon?

HON. J. STORIE: Gallaudet College.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there will be three persons, I understand, attending Gallaudet College as of this fall from the current group of students.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Do you have any idea what type of courses that these students will be taking?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the Gallaudet is a college, as we generally define colleges, and students are taking a variety of different courses leading to a variety of different degrees: arts, sciences, as well as others, education. I understand, although I don't have the numbers, that it's a fairly large college.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. J. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, just before we begin this, I had an agreement. I have an obligation for about five minutes, at three o'clock, if we could take a short recess, and then we'll get to the Member for St. Vital and perhaps won't interrupt his flow of questions.

MR. J. WALDING: I'm really not going to be that long, but by all means, if you have other arrangements, go ahead.

HON. J. STORIE: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Recess for five minutes.

RECESS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee, come to order.
The Member for St. Vital.

MR. J. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to know about computer-related expenditures for the whole of Appropriation 4. Can the Minister advise what they are for this year as compared with last year? Are they the same or is there a slight change?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, yes, there is a breakdown in the Detailed Estimates for each branch. If you would like us to just collate that, we can get that and give you the information in a few minutes.

MR. J. WALDING: That would be fine. The reason I asked the question was whether there were any other computer-related expenditures which come under any other heading or which are subsumed within any other appropriation or sub-appropriation?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I understand that it is all identified as computer-related in the Detailed Estimates.

MR. J. WALDING: If I can have that total, you know I'd appreciate it. The question that follows from that is what proportion are they of total departmental computer-related expenditures or, put the other way, what is the total computer-related expenditures for the whole department?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm fairly certain we don't have that right at hand in those terms, but we'll certainly provide it.

MR. J. WALDING: If the answer then is given for the '87-88 year, can I then ask what the appropriate figures were for the '86-87 year, which should be at hand if they've already been spent?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, both of those are identified in the Estimates and we'll compile them both.

MR. J. WALDING: I didn't find them listed in the Estimates. I couldn't find any sort of a block figure at

all as to what the Department of Education had spent on computers.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the copy of the Detailed Estimates includes a section called "Other Operating, Computer-Related," and each of the branches within the department, they've identified their computer-related costs for both last year and this year, but it's not in this book. It's in the detailed Estimates Book. Yes, we're on page 53. Page 51, page 55, they each have them identified for each branch. So we'll just calculate those out and get you the numbers.

MR. J. WALDING: That's for that appropriation, Appropriation 4. What are they for the whole of the department? Are they listed in the same way or differently? And is there not an overall figure?

HON. J. STORIE: No, they're identified for example in 5. I'm looking at Assiniboine Community College. It's got computer-related, it's got the dollars identified there as well. So it is in each appropriation where there are computer-related expenses.

There is no overall tabulation and we will get that for the Member for St. Vital.

MR. J. WALDING: Just as an example, Mr. Chairman, I didn't see one under Appropriation 3. and I'm sure that the department must spend a good deal on computer-related expenditures under 3. in figuring out its expenditures and comparisons between departments and everything that it does.

HON. J. STORIE: The member is correct. The costs . . .

MR. J. WALDING: And if it doesn't appear under Appropriation 3., are there other appropriations where it doesn't appear in the same way? What I'm asking for is a global figure for the whole department.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes. Mr. Chairperson, that example it would appear because that's grants to schools, it appears in the Administration section, which is 16.(1)(e) apparently.

In any appropriation where there are departmental expenses relating to computers, they're shown by . . .

MR. J. WALDING: You say 16.(1)(e)?

HON. J. STORIE: 16.(1)(e) I believe, page 33.

MR. J. WALDING: Page 3 of the Estimates?

HON. J. STORIE: 33 of the detailed estimates, page 33, the supplement.

MR. J. WALDING: (1)(e) then if we pass. But I can be supplied with the total figure.

HON. J. STORIE: We'll get the total, yes.

MR. J. WALDING: Does the department get the bulk of its computer services from Manitoba Data Services?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it is a mixture. We do obtain some services from Manitoba Data Services, some in-house and some from the University of Manitoba, which provides services to post-secondary institutions including the community colleges and other universities, Brandon University.

MR. J. WALDING: What would be the approximate proportion of those three areas, approximately equal or does it vary a lot?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand approximately equal wouldn't be far off, about one-third, one-third, one-third.

MR. J. WALDING: I wonder if perhaps you could provide me with the figures for '86-87 and the expected '87-88 figures.

HON. J. STORIE: I don't think that would be a problem at all. I think that would be quite easy to do.

MR. J. WALDING: It doesn't sound too difficult but that's what I would expect to happen.

Can I ask why there is only approximately a third of the amount of computer-related expenditures, which goes to the Manitoba Data Services, when I understand that many years it's been the government's policy to consolidate all computer work with the Manitoba Data Services, which is wholly owned of course, and so to economize on perhaps non-compatible computer services elsewhere?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think as the member knows that before any additional capacity is added to any department in government, it goes through the Department of Finance Management Information Services which reviews the application of the computer equipment and says, is this something that could be done more efficiently or more easily by Manitoba Data Services?

In some instances because the application is for relatively small chunks of information requiring additional programming, software and so forth, that MDS doesn't have, that it's easier to use in-house computers that exist and create software for that particular use. So each time that there's another use being considered, the use of MDS is an alternative.

In the case of the University of Manitoba Data Information Services that's something that's been longstanding and again, I guess, the software and the package for student records and so forth was developed there, so its use has just been continued.

MR. J. WALDING: Have there been any additions to computer capability within the department over the last, say, year?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, I believe Red River Community College have purchased an upgrade to the system they had in place recently. Other than that I think that was the only exception. I don't think the University of Manitoba had any upgrading. I think the Red River Community College upgrade was the only one.

MR. J. WALDING: Not within the department itself?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that is within the department, yes. The capital for that project was provided by the department, yes.

MR. J. WALDING: Was that the total extent?

HON. J. STORIE: That was the only one last year. I understand from staff that there is money in this appropriation, or in this year's Budget for an upgrade of some of the equipment at 1181, within the department. That would not be a purchase. I understand it's, in fact, leasing additional capacity, but not purchase.

Again any additional capacity, any additional utilization of computer services is reviewed by the Central Agency in the Department of Finance, in terms of its efficiency and necessity.

MR. J. WALDING: If this is a leasing arrangement, are we talking about a new hardware which is to be leased by the department? And if so how much are we talking about? What are we talking about?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the details in terms of the additional or the tender haven't been worked out. I understand that what we're doing really would be again amalgamating, that we have some pieces that are already leased that provide certain services and that, because of the state of the art of the equipment, you can now lease equipment within the same budget that will do more. So the upgrade is only in terms of delivery of service, not in terms of dollars. It will not cost us any more, or at least we do not believe it will cost us any more. Those things obviously would be checked out before there is any change, that it would have to be within the budget.

MR. J. WALDING: How will that new material be used in comparison with MDS services now provided?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairman, I'm assured that the equipment that is and will be leased or used by the department will be now compatible with MDS so that will in effect be establishing really a link with MDS so we can do additional work, utilizing their capacity as well.

MR. J. WALDING: You're telling me that there was no linkage with MDS before, in the use of their large data banks that they have over there?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there was, but because of the staggered purchase over several, many years, that not all. The intention right now is to consolidate the service with new equipment with more capacity and link it up. So we'll actually be improving not only our ability internally to generate, but also our access to MDS, and we do use MDS as I indicated earlier.

MR. J. WALDING: Will this entail a larger purchase of computer time from MDS than was done previously?

HON. J. STORIE: Not necessarily, but it is possible, depending on the services that we require or some

additional numbers that we want to crunch. We certainly could have access to it. Obviously that would have to be worked out with MDS as well. Those things are negotiated, so it's possible, but it's not necessarily the case.

MR. J. WALDING: Is the department then budgeted to spend the same amount of money at MDS as last year, or more or less?

HON. J. STORIE: The same amount.

MR. J. WALDING: The same amount in dollars with no inflationary index or anything else.

HON. J. STORIE: I presume we have more than a year agreement.

MR. J. WALDING: I would appreciate the actual dollar figures when they can be supplied, Mr. Chairman, and that's all the questions I have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I just want to deal briefly with the Child Care and Development. It mentions that they've eliminated one position related to clinician services. I wonder if the Minister could indicate what the position was and why it was eliminated.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, yes, the reduction is in the word processing area. The department does a considerable amount of Braille translation and, because of the automation and so forth that's occurring, it's possible to do a roughly equivalent level of service using fewer operators in effect. So that's where the reduction is actually occurring.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is this the area that the people from the department go into the division to discuss the low incidence grants?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, they do.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder if you could tell me which people go out or is it the same ones that go to each division. I understand there are three I know that go into St. James. Is it the the same people who go into each division and what is their background and their salaries?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the professionals are generally worked as a team, although they are allocated a number of divisions so each consultant or group of consultants may in fact have five or seven divisions in which they operate in the main. The qualifications obviously are special ed degrees, clinicians, certificates, master level degrees. The salary range is between 35 and 45 for each of the clinicians.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I understand that each year, or it may not be each year, but I'm assuming that it is, that there are three people from the department who go into a division and go over every application, with

people in the division, even though the applications have been in approximately one month ahead, with all the assessments done. Am I correct in that?

HON. J. STORIE: I just missed the last part of it. Who does the assessment?

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The division does the assessment on each student for whom they are applying for a grant. They put it in an application in some form. It's into the department one month ahead. Then appointments are made and three people from the department go out to the division and they go over every application, which in St. James I think is approximately between 290 and 310 applications for low incidence funding. This goes on every year.

We have three people from the department. In St. James, we have two superintendents, two coordinators. They now call in a principal and a resource teacher. I understand that they go over every single application. Now in - and I'm using St. James as an example because that's the division I went to, to find out what happens in this particular area. They go over each one and they come down to approximately a dozen, and it's by application, I understand, it's by person. Very often, when the people from the department look at the application, they may recognize the name of a parent who has been particularly vigilant, both at the department and the division level. That person may get kicked in. It may be one of the dozen that they are quarrelling with on the assessment.

I guess the question that I have is that this is an awful lot of people, an awful lot of salaries involved. You have the assessment come in from the division. They are consistently funded for approximately 300. Has the Minister considered doing a block funding and letting the division choose the people who they have assessed, they know, and let them go to the parents and let them choose, rather than somebody come and look at something that's on paper, rather than the people involved who know the students?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, obviously the issue of block funding has been raised on a number of occasions. I guess there always is going to be - well not always but it's not unusual that there should be disagreements or there will be disagreements when you have a process of application for targeted funding. Generally I think the staff approach has been, and it's one that I concur with, that the staff is not out there to do anything but make sure that the needs of the children are being fulfilled. I met with the Special Educators' Association and the Superintendents. We have gone over this.

There are mixed feelings about the necessity for continued categorical funding and the application process as it exists.

I think there is concern on the part of, for example, the Teachers' Society, many special ed coordinators and perhaps some superintendents, some board members, that to the extent that you move away from targeted categorical funding, you leave open the possibility that the progress that has been made over the last few years in terms of dealing with the needs of special needs children will lose momentum because of the pressures on other areas in the system.

Generally I think staff are there to be helpful and it's unfortunate that sometimes the application process puts staff and division personnel in an adversarial position and, to the extent possible, I think we try and avoid that as they do. On some occasions, there is going to be disagreement about the necessity, the appropriateness, of the categorization of the individual. In the main, it hasn't been a tremendous problem. I've met with many divisions and talked about this.

The concern I've heard more often than the question of the suitability of the final level of placement has been the question of the red tape, the time-consuming aspects of the application process itself.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to get away in any way from the funding that is going into the low incidence funding, neither would I assume are the divisions.

The problem that I see here is that this could be a great money-saving area because, if you're looking at salaries of three people, 35 to 45, I'm just taking the 40, that's \$120,000.00. Now I know this is only a five-day period that we're talking about, but these same people, obviously, or ones in the same category, are going out to the divisions. In areas like St. James - and not every area may well have the same type of services that this division has, but I would think that the larger divisions do - that they are spending four or five days in the division, taking the time of - because where you have two superintendents, you've got two coordinators. They are calling in principals and resource teachers, and these people are available for every application.

Now on the main, the funding doesn't change very much from what I can gather. They are funded pretty well, when it's say 290 to say 310, that the funding would be approximately somewhere in the middle of that. What they are suggesting, and what seems to make more sense, is that, if they have these applications in that they are all assessed, if the department would come to a figure on average, say approximately using the 300, block fund that area. In other words, let them make the decision on the maybe 10 or 12 that there may be some reason that they're going to quarrel about whether they do fund or whether they don't fund, whether they're in incidence II, or whether they're in incidence I. Let the division make that decision, because they know the children, rather than it be on paper. They're not quarrelling at all that the funding go to these children. What they're saying is they feel it's a waste of money, a waste of staff. If there is anyone needing to come into divisions, let these people come in and help them do assessments if that's needed, help show them how to do assessments if that's needed.

In this particular division, I don't believe that sort of thing is necessary. This may not apply to everyone and maybe some divisions could be different than others, but if there is any way to make a saving so that the monies that are being spent could give one extra child the resource, the low incidence funding that may not be given because they are ruled out for one reason or another, I think it would be well worth looking at, rather than wasting everyone's time going over every one of these applications.

HON. J. STORIE: I think the member is making a good point. I have met, as I indicated earlier, with

representatives from the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents and Special Educators. I indicated that we are prepared to review the possibility of block funding for a portion of or some of the money currently allocated under the Low Incidence Program.

I wouldn't want the member to be left with the impression that, because of the time that's required, the three or four or five days, or whatever of professional time that goes into reviewing the applications collectively, that there would somehow be money freed up within the department. Because all of the people who are involved in the assessment process spend 245 days or 365 days of the year, whatever, the rest of the year providing support services to those very children and those staff.

So those staff are there and this is simply a very, very small part, and we would like to make it an even smaller part of their job, but there would be no additional saving to the province other than freeing up the time to do perhaps what we would all agree would be more productive things than chase paper in circles.

The difficulty with block funding, as you know, we do provide categorical funding in many different areas, and we are receiving criticism in other areas because the block funding, once it's provided, of course, there is an anticipation that there is going to be ever-increasing amounts of dollars put into that block funding and there is very little way to control what happens to the dollars that are being spent in those areas.

Clearly, there are divisions who have made applications and aren't satisfied with the final decision that's come down, but in most cases, I think it's done cooperatively.

I will take the member's point as notice and indicate, to the extent that it's possible, I would like to streamline the process. I don't think anybody wants to see division staff spend their time needlessly chasing paper any more than staff in the department want to. If we can devise a system that provides the necessary funding and expedites the process, I think we should do it.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I thank the Minister for that answer. I think it would be a help because there probably are other divisions who might need the help a lot more than a division, say, like St. James would if they have the expertise there.

In the Child Care and Development, is this an area that would be dealing with child abuse?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the coordinator of our child abuse guidelines and the discussions that are currently going on with Community Services, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, is in the Curriculum Development and Implementation Branch.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes, I'm sorry, I guess I overlooked it there. I just would like to ask a few questions then in that area if that's not a problem.

What is happening - and I think I touched briefly on it before - as far as funding for the counsellors in the elementary schools? Is there funding for counsellors in all elementary schools?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, there is funding available for I guess specialists, clinicians, resource teachers. Divisions

are eligible for a grant - a categorical grant - based on the per student population of the school's school division. They choose whether to apply that funding to resource teachers, support staff of one sort or another, or counsellors. So there are no specific grants for counsellors, but there are funds made available. Divisions make the decision ultimately as to the ratio of counsellors to resource teachers and their distribution throughout the school division itself.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: With the Committee on Child Abuse, is the Minister finding that the type of resource and counsellors that individual school divisions and into elementary schools, are they doing the proper job with what they are choosing?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that's asking for a judgment, I guess a subjective kind of judgment from myself, that I really don't feel I'm capable or prepared to make.

I think, because of the relative newness of the whole area of child abuse, the difficulties, the complexities that exist in terms of dealing with both the victims of abuse and the abusers themselves, that it would be fair to say that even experienced counsellors in many instances are at a loss when it comes to dealing with the problem that this social problem presents.

I think the faculties, the professional groups themselves, including the Manitoba Association of School Counsellors, all are attempting to come to grips with the need for professional development in the area of family crisis counselling and child abuse counselling. I think everyone recognizes that there is a long way to go before we can feel confident that every professional, every counsellor, is fully equipped to deal with that problem. It's not an easy problem to deal with; that's for sure.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I guess what I was getting at, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that school divisions that choose not to have counsellors in elementary schools, who then is in charge of the abuse problems? Is this left then to the individual teachers, and if the counsellors are having a tough time getting a handle on it, what's happening to your average teacher in the classroom?

HON. J. STORIE: I guess teachers, the principal, itinerant staff, resource teachers, counsellors from other schools probably are the first contacts. The Department of Community Services obviously has its own staff and procedures for dealing with abuse when it is identified.

I think the member knows that it is law in Manitoba and teachers are certainly aware of their obligations to report instances of abuse or suspected abuse. At that point, it becomes, I guess, a school-community problem and in some divisions at least, perhaps not enough, there are teams that are developed, including police force, representatives from the school division, representatives from Community Services, who are put in place to deal with the problems.

I think that still leaves a legitimate question about what happens over the longer term to the student and how is counselling provided? I think it would be only fair to say that at this point the resources that go to dealing with that problem are scarce. Perhaps that is

one of the areas where we, as a department, have to do more to encourage divisions to consider providing those kinds of resources. They can do that clearly by taking advantage of the existing grants or reallocating staff to reflect the importance of that area.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many schools approximately would be using the team approach? And I would imagine that the Child and Family Services that are in the areas would be having as great a problem finding staff to deal with not only their community, but with the extra load that would be coming from the schools when you're using this approach. How is it working and how are they allocating staff for this?

HON. J. STORIE: I think over the last several years Community Services has seen a substantial increase in the number of child care workers in the field and obviously abuse has been one of their priorities. So I think, in terms of the case load that individual regional community health centres have, abuse is a priority.

I can't say with any authority the distribution of additional human resources, but I know in the case of my own area that the schools and the Community Services workers work very closely together and there is a good response mechanism in place for dealing with abuse cases. I expect that it's not as well developed in other areas, but I'm reasonably certain that there is a protocol developing in every area. Divisions like Dauphin, I believe, have established the committee kind of approach for dealing with those problems. Other divisions are developing it.

I have had discussions with the Teachers' Society and the school division encouraging them to develop that kind of a mechanism, particularly where there aren't other resources available. Where there aren't counsellors and where there aren't Community Service workers in the immediate community.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What kind of policy has the Minister set down or come to an agreement with the Manitoba Teachers' Society as far as the treatment of children in the school? It was quite a problem before as far as do we touch, do we not touch. What sort of agreement or have they come to any decision on exactly how to treat children and what is acceptable that will keep the teachers out of difficulty?

HON. J. STORIE: We have discussed this. I don't know whether we discussed it at committee last year. I have certainly had several conversations, discussions, with teachers and trustees and the Superintendents' Association about the perceived threat that exists on the part of teachers in terms of physical contact. It seems to go in cycles that there are a number of cases that are identified and receive a good deal of publicity. It creates, I think, uncertainty on the part of teachers about the appropriate way to deal, to use affection as a motivator in a class. I have said that it would be a sad day for teaching if teachers, particularly elementary teachers, but not exclusively elementary teachers, couldn't use affection as a motivator. I see it as one of the most powerful motivators a teacher can use and for an elementary teacher to not be able to give a student a hug or a pat or an affectionate squeeze would be unfortunate.

I don't know that there is any simple way to prevent teachers from being the victims of accusations that aren't well founded. I think the teachers agree that they certainly don't want to feel threatened by the possibility, they don't want to feel intimidated by the possibility of accusations being made, and that, although there have been some recent concerns, I don't think the teachers are prepared to develop any professional code of conduct which would limit them in any way from using affection as a motivator. I think they've decided that it's probably worth the risk to continue to maintain that kind of bond between the pupils and the teacher to simply continue practice as normal.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the department and the Manitoba Teachers' Society involved in the creation of the child abuse registry and what is going to happen with that particular registry as far as people being put on the registry who have not been convicted? Are teachers having any say, is the department having any say, into what Community Services is doing in that particular area?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson, not directly. We have not been involved in discussions about who should or shouldn't be on the registry. We have our obligation and teachers have their obligation in terms of protecting the interests of the child and, once it becomes an issue for the courts or Family Services, then they have the jurisdiction.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Considering that teachers are what I would consider a high-risk group in this area of child abuse, and not necessarily at the elementary level, but would it not make sense to have this group have some sort of representation - and the department - possibly on a committee that would be setting up that abuse registry and especially if they are setting up guidelines, because you have a group more than any other, other than parents, that possibly may have some good input to make in that area?

HON. J. STORIE: I think the member makes a good point. I think teachers are a high-risk group in one respect only and that is that they are probably more prone to allegation than any other area. They are no different from any other parent I guess in the sense of the potential for being parental abusers. But I think it's something worth raising with my colleague, the Minister of Community Services.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I just wanted to state, that is exactly what I meant, the allegations, not the deed.

If anyone else wants to get in on this area of child care - oh, I guess I just have one broad question. Are there any new initiatives being taken in this area of the Child Care and Development? Is there anything new or, as the government loves to say, innovative going on in this area?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairman, there are several, I think new developments. Over the last year the low incidence III grant was introduced. This year, in the last few months actually, we have established an advisory group on special needs which involves the whole

plethora of groups interested in specialties needs placement, including parent groups. In addition, we are currently circulating a paper on parental involvement in the school, and both of those are initiatives that have been looked for from a number of different parent groups and, hopefully, will result in establishment at a minimum of policies that we hope to use as a provincial example, provincial model. So those two initiatives, I think, will result in (a) provincial policies, perhaps changes in procedures perhaps in the fall or shortly thereafter.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I hope it's shortly thereafter a little better than the kindergarten assessment, Mr. Chairman.

The paper that is being circulated, I wonder if the Minister could give any indication just how widely that is being circulated. Is it going into each division and they are circulating it, or do you have advisory groups in divisions on special needs?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, we had a list actually of groups who have expressed an interest in particularly appropriate education, parental involvement in education. We submitted this paper to them as well as to school divisions for comment, and I'm assuming that all school divisions will be reviewing the paper and perhaps assessing their own practices in light of the paper and making comment. So it's been fairly widely distributed. We have circulated it to those people who certainly have expressed an interest in that area.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Do the people have a time frame that you've asked for responses?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, the last item, it says: "Written advice on these matters would be welcome by June 1 so that guidelines may be finalized by June 30, 1987." I don't see the member falling off her chair laughing, but that's a fairly tight timetable, and I won't hold myself to that as it turns out. I think what we're trying to do is encourage people to provide their advice and comments as quickly as possible. We would certainly like to have something in place, a departmental policy, something we could share with other divisions and other interested Manitobans by the fall.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I have some questions on the Correspondence Branch. When we go to the annual report, the annual report shows a fairly substantial growth in the number of students being involved, the number of courses being taken, and then there's a graph showing a fairly large growth over a number of years. The projection seems to be onward and upward.

Could the Minister advise why this trend of increasing people wishing to take correspondence courses? I would have thought that, somewhere along the line, perhaps this would have started to diminish.

HON. J. STORIE: I'm sorry, you're wondering when it might diminish?

MR. C. BIRT: Yes, I would have thought it would have diminished. When you go back over the period of years,

some people for various reasons couldn't complete their education but, with the amount of training and retraining that's going on and the number of programs sort of in the employment areas, I would have thought that this type of program would have diminished. I'm just curious to know why is it growing?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the Director of the Correspondence Branch tells me that it's because of the fantastic job she's been doing in selling correspondence and making it available to a variety of groups who probably hadn't presented themselves or considered themselves target candidates for upgrading and additional educational opportunity.

I think that it is perhaps somewhat surprising that the print courses have seen an increase. It's also true that these numbers reflect some other innovative things that are going on as well, including the activities of the Small Schools Grant Program, the interest in rural Manitobans, rural students having access to additional options which may only be available through the Correspondence Branch. It may reflect the more stringent requirements of faculties and community colleges in terms of their prerequisites.

So the students are responding and saying, "I need Chemistry 300; I need this; I need that," and responding by applying through correspondence and a number of other areas, including correspondence material support to telecourses and Manitoba Educational Television courses.

So there are probably several reasons why you're continuing to see an increase. I expect that we will continue to see that increase into the future.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I think initially it was started for literally people to stay at home and upgrade or complete their educational skills. I take it we've sort of moved away from that, and then really what the Minister is saying is that this is now sort of a complementary or supplementary program for really people who are in school or going to school, such as the Small Schools Program.

I'm wondering if the Minister - I think he tried to give a breakdown, but could he give an idea of - the annual report, which is a year old, talks about 9,000 students. Are they all coming from small schools, or is there some sort of rough breakdown as to who's using the service and why?

HON. J. STORIE: Many of them, the majority are coming from smaller schools, certainly. Out of the 10,000 students, approximately 6,500 are currently enrolled in a high school. So the majority of courses are to supplement option offerings really of school divisions. A very small percentage are currently home school students at any grade level.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister and I discussed, I think it was a day or two ago, the whole question of home education. Are any of these courses - are you aware of it? - directed to the type of home education. I think there were some maybe 200 students who were involved. Are they availing themselves of this program, or are we just talking about people who are trying to upgrade or complete a Grade 10 or something that are staying at home?

HON. J. STORIE: That's difficult to answer. I think that, from the Correspondence Branch perspective, they have approximately 167 students who are enrolled in a course or courses, from Grades one to eight. So there are, I guess, several of the home schooling students who are taking advantage of the offerings of the Correspondence Branch, but some of those students obviously are not home schooling for reasons other than remoteness and so forth. Some of them may in fact be not elementary students. They may in fact be interested in upgrading. So the numbers don't quite match, although we are offering some service to some home-schooling students.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, how does one get a completed course? Are there tests that are sent out, or do they go to centres for testing to get some sort of approval or accreditation in the course or courses they've been taking?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, there is continuous testing throughout the individual course. Tests are submitted for evaluation by people hired on contract or on fee-for-service within the branch. The tests, where there are exams, occur at schools or other appropriate locations if schools aren't available. The branches recently introduced a percentage for work. In other words, it's no longer based simply on the examinations or the tests that occur throughout the year. There's something like 20 percent for term work.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr Chairman, I believe the Manitoba Educational TV operation is involved or associated with this department, and does it then sort of complement or work in conjunction with the correspondence courses? In other words, for those who are taking it, is the programming designed to help those who are taking the home study program?

HON. J. STORIE: The print material that's used, whether we're talking about telecourses or TV courses, I guess, comes from the Correspondence Branch, the print material there. Yes, the answer, I think I'd answered earlier that really those things working in conjunction with each other are partly responsible for the increased attractiveness of correspondence courses.

MR. C. BIRT: The TV program, Manitoba TV, does it have other functions or what is its criteria? Obviously this is one of them but what other objectives does it have? What does it do? What type of programming is it doing and what's it trying to achieve?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, it's trying to bring education to the people.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate that. The question is: How? I mean you just don't pull a few mathematics courses out of the air. Are they geared into the school curriculum? Is it used for classroom work in addition to correspondence programs? It's not an entertainment facility, that's for sure. What objectives are they attempting to achieve with the TV program?

HON. J. STORIE: Well the broad goals, I guess approximately 50 percent relates to high school. There

are also credit courses via the telecourse system for community college credit courses, one in running a small business and another one in understanding human behavior. Both of those relate to Red River Community College credits. One for ACC is called "Marketing."

In addition to that, there are, I guess, parental information programs and so forth. The Manitoba Educational Television has worked with the Department of Agriculture to prepare a program on farm stress, and accompanying that is a really incredibly useful sort of work-at-home stress test, I guess. It's called "The Human Harvest: Changing Farm Stress to Family Success." So, it's involved not just in the credit aspect of both high school and community colleges, but it's involved in other educational endeavours for the community at large.

We're broadcasting now on CBC and increasing the number of hours of broadcast this year from 135 or 140 to 165 next year, and we're carried not only on the CBC but on community access channels, on the cable networks. There are 14 cable networks that are also using the productions and the courses offered through METV.

So, it has a very broad audience at the current time, and I think the potential for expansion there is quite significant. It's been well received, and I'm told that there are something like 25,000 viewers per week. So it's meeting a series of objectives, not the least of which is the credit applications for high school and community college.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, roughly on a breakdown as to, if we can target it, what's the breakdown of the amount of time that's spent on - shall we call it? - purely educational matters and then others more community information like this Harvest Program you referred to? Is it a 50-50 or are you doing 80-20? Roughly what are you doing?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, 95 percent is educational. Some of it is non-credit, I presume. It's not all credit, but it is educational in the sense that it's programming for human development or whatever.

I could offer the member a brochure that was - is this last year's? This is the current year's METV brochure which outlines the programs, gives an overview of the aims of the METV. It says here, there are three kinds of educational programs: credit, non-credit, and educational generally. I think that, if the member would like a copy, I can certainly provide him with one. This incidentally is sent to schools, sent to health care centres, clinics, that kind of thing, libraries. So it's distributed so people could be aware of the programming schedule.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman if I was, say, in Brandon or Virden or someplace like that, how would I have found out about your Home Stress Test for the agricultural community? Is it advertised? Is it put into the TV Guide? I mean, you've got something there. How do you get it out that there is something there worth watching?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, some 6,500 copies have been sent out. The Member for Fort Garry, not

being a farmer or not noted for his farming activities, probably hasn't received a copy yet, but groups have also been sent out to ag reps offices and church groups, those who have expressed an interest or have had some involvement in dealing with farm family stress. So the program itself, the airing of the program will be advertised, and we're trying to get the message out in that way.

Advertising, as the member well knows, is an extremely expensive endeavour. My own feeling and, I guess, experience has been that mass advertising doesn't always do the job. In fact, mailing it out to interested individuals and groups who have immediate interest in it is more effective and fortunately less costly.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, does the Educational TV produce all of their own programming or are they acquiring some of it from other jurisdictions? I know in the past that there's been sort of sharing with other jurisdictions, but I believe last year there was some indication you were going to try and step up the production, so are you now producing pretty well 100 percent of your own programming?

HON. J. STORIE: No, I see the TV director smiling. No, we're not at 100 percent yet, but we are at 20, and that's an improvement over last year of about 5 percent increase. We have about now 70 percent Canadian content and we are still using productions from the United States, primarily. But certainly programs like the Human Harvest, the farm stress program that has been produced locally, and hopefully we will be able to do more of that.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that the number of hours were going to be expanded I think by about 20 hours next year. What is the limitation in expansion? Is it the ability to put stuff on the air, or is it acquiring the air time, or is it a combination of both?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the air time comes to us at a fairly reasonable price, no cost.

MR. C. BIRT: That's why the director can get such a large salary?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, we pay him the big bucks because we get it cheap. The fact is that the licensing costs or distribution costs of programming from other jurisdictions, or purchased from independent sources, is quite expensive, and producing material locally is also very expensive, so the 20 hours is the best we could do with the budget that we have.

It also I think reflects the fact that the market out there for programming through television is growing, but it's still developing and while we might be able to pour another X number of thousands of dollars into it, it may not have the same pay-back in terms of viewer participation and student participation. So I think we're growing at a slow but steady pace.

Mr. Chairperson, just so staff advises, well, that we're repeating programming; this year we'll be broadcasting the full year, so in effect we will have more like 400 hours of programming because we are no longer just running the short season.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I believe - I'm not certain - you build up this library of tapes, programs, whatever, and then are they available to the public or school divisions on a rental basis or fee for basis? If they missed the matter on the air or they see it in a book like this, they can get ahold of something, that they can in fact get ahold of it?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, we do have dubbing rights to most of the material. When we get the distribution rights we generally get the dubbing rights as well - not all of it, but the majority of it.

MR. C. BIRT: I look at the financial statement in the Supplementary Estimates and there is elimination of one position - a consultant. Is it out of the Manitoba TV area that the consultant has been eliminated?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that was a consultant to the department.

MR. C. BIRT: Well, it is shown as a staff year. Why would it be an SY if it was a consultant position?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it was a secondment, and because the job was finished we have eliminated the staff year.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, looking lower down at page - there is Supplies and Services. There is an increase of some approximately \$58,000.00. What is that for? Is this the additional cost of the TV production or as it relates to other matters in the Correspondence Branch as well?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, it is for print stationery and cost of instructors.

MR. C. BIRT: The cost of instructors, would that not be under professional fees, or are we talking term positions here - consultants, what are we talking about?

HON. J. STORIE: There is a slight correction here. It's not actually the fee-for-service people; that's in another line. It is actually writers, and also the general educational development test contract, as well as the printing that I referred to.

MR. C. BIRT: The writers for the TV program and perhaps the other material that is sent out are included in that line, Supplies and Services. What is in Professional Fees, what does that apply to?

HON. J. STORIE: Just so we are clear, Mr. Chairperson. If we are following on page 63, first line, Printing Costs, that's related to the courses; move down to Professional Fees, the increase from 59 to 70, that is the writers and GED contract, and other increases are just in equipment rental.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.
I have no further questions in this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you wish that we pass?

MR. C. BIRT: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are you on?

MR. C. BIRT: The Correspondence Branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm not sure where it surfaces, it's the adult ESL contract with the City of Winnipeg. I've received copies of correspondence, I believe, directed to the Minister, and he's replied about the number of teachers who were providing I believe this service on a contract basis. There was some concern about them getting off contract and getting on as full-staff teachers with I think Winnipeg School Division 1.

The Minister had written a letter to, I believe, the spokesperson for the organization, indicating that some steps or financing arrangements had been made to take them off, I guess, a contractual basis and put them on a full-staff basis. Could the Minister advise what has happened in this area?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes. The difficulty, of course, is between Winnipeg School Division and the staff. We have no . . .

MR. C. BIRT: I can appreciate that. The Minister sent a letter, seemed to be implying that maybe either some steps were being taken or that some arrangements had been done to either help them or change that or do something, and that is what I want to find out about.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, Mr. Chairperson, we stepped in, really, to play the role of the "good guy" immediately. What we had offered to do, and this is a long-standing offer, not something that developed since I assumed responsibility. A commitment was made to Winnipeg School Division to offset any additional costs as a result of the transfer from part-time casual to contract on an approved form, if you will, of the ESL teachers. That money was designated within the department and I indicated by letter to the Winnipeg Teachers' Association that that money was there and it still was available should the Winnipeg School Division and those teachers, the ESL teachers, be able to come to some agreement.

So our, I guess, involvement has been to assist, if you will, or offer assistance to the Winnipeg School Division in terms of some off-setting support for the transfer from - I don't know what they termed it - but casual to a contract position.

That money is still available. I have indicated that to the Winnipeg School Division and I assume that there are ongoing discussions with the teachers that are providing the ESL services to see if they can come to some accommodation.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that there was money available. Is it in this year's budget and, if so, how much is it?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I believe it's \$91,000.00.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate it's a local issue between Winnipeg 1 and the particular

individuals involved. You had indicated a commitment had been made some time ago and this is still there. You can't indefinitely carry money on your books for this sort of thing.

Has some deadline been set, or if you don't reach it, then this will disappear at the end of the year? Have you maybe put down a deadline to say either solve it or we're going to forget about it?

HON. J. STORIE: No, we have not established a deadline. It's simply money that would lapse and would have to be recommitted in future years.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the annual report touches on the InfoTech Centre.

Is it in the Department of Education or is it the responsibility of another department that has some educational input in it?

If it isn't in, I won't ask questions on it now.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the Infotech Centre is operated through the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology, although there is one component that is an educational component.

MR. C. BIRT: Then I'd like to deal just with the one component. Could the Minister then advise what that component is? Because I believe the information - there was a brochure or something sent out by it and it would appear that 50 percent of their operation is sort of educational orientated - at least that was the impression that was left with me.

Perhaps the Minister can advise what is the educational component and what is the department's role with the InfoTech Centre?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the program is called the Educational Technology Program. It certainly is a significant part of the centre. As I say, we really act as advisors to the centre and have loaned five staff, I guess, to that program.

I don't know whether the member wants to have an overview of what services they offer. Certainly, I can provide the member with an overview, from memory essentially.

The ETP unit provides a number of services directly to school divisions. They act as a training in-servicing resource to school divisions. I have attended the centre on Ness, where there have been training programs going on to improve teachers' knowledge of and ability to teach computer science courses; also teaching them to utilize the full capacity of the computers that exist in our schools.

They also offer a quite unique mail system, something that has been developed at the centre, called MINET, Manitoba Information Network, I guess. That service is available to some 200 high schools, also helping that particular division. It has been of assistance to school divisions, particularly Frontier, for example, in developing mail networks that are less expensive than regular mail networks. So Frontier, I understand, has connected many of its schools through the MINET network and now they have mailboxes and send mail from school to school, obviously breaking down the distance barrier and the time barrier for transfer of information.

I understand that some 2,500 teachers were in-serviced through the InfoTech Centre last year. In addition, they also have produced some courseware and, of course, the initial intention behind the InfoTech Centre was to bring those computer hardware producers, like Apple and Commodore and Sperry, together and get them interested in new tech, high-tech kind of industries. There are actually, I believe, two private companies who are now working at the centre, with the centre, developing courseware.

So it's been a long process. The ETP program has developed some services for teachers in schools but they're also working on the other side of it, and that is helping private companies get involved in the development of courseware and, hopefully, we will see some further spinoffs, apart from the two companies that I've mentioned already, developing courseware.

Then there's the other side of it which is the technology end of it.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has answered that this is the training centre for teachers who are involved in either the teaching or the delivery of computer programming, computer education in the province. I note in the annual report there's a fair number of people who were involved in taking courses throughout the province.

Is this sort of, then, the training centre for them or are there other centres as well?

HON. J. STORIE: This is certainly the main training centre because the facility exists with the hardware, as well as the expertise, I guess. But there are other consultants working in the area of computer science programming and computer-assisted learning. They offer courses in other parts of the province as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that five people from the department had been assigned to the InfoTech Centre.

Is that the only commitment of finances to the centre? In other words, is it otherwise funded totally through Industry, Trade and Technology?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that's our only commitment. I'm sorry, operating of \$100,000.00.

MR. C. BIRT: That leads me into the next question dealing with computers.

Does the department have a policy or an objective as to computer literacy levels for the schools, for teachers, you know, teachers being able to deliver a program, teach it from 1 through to 12? Is there a policy set down and a program that the government is following or plans to follow to get the whole question of computers and their operation into the school system so that most children will have at least some basic understanding in how they operate?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Manitoba is actually relatively well ahead of other provinces in terms of developing curriculum for our public school system - I think the only province with a K-to-12 curriculum which includes Computer Awareness at Grades K-3 level and going through to computer science courses at the Grade 10,

11 and 12 levels, along with data processing and other courses related to using computers. The curriculum that's in place obviously has been developed over the last few years and we're continuing to develop that material.

I think one concern that has been expressed to me about the whole area of computer use in the school is the question of keyboarding skills - that we're actually using computers right through the high school level without the ability to keyboard, without necessarily having that ability. That's been raised with me by a number of individuals and it's an issue that's been raised in other provinces as well and it's something that we're going to have to address.

I think, logically, these computers are going to be the pencils of the future and we need to be able to manipulate them efficiently. I think those are some manual skills that where perhaps we haven't addressed as well as we should have. I think, when we first started to get into computers, there was this initial enthusiasm for developing computer programmers, every student a programmer, and we forgot the fact that a computer is also like a tool. I had the analogy drawn for me once that we don't offer Telephone 105; we don't try to teach everybody how a telephone works or how to make it work. We teach people to use it. The same is true of a computer. It's a tremendous tool, and we, as educators, have to make sure that our students and we are using it effectively. It's not only a question of being able to manipulate it, but understand it as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, have we then reached a level of acceptable skills both from a teaching point of view and from a student point of view in the school, notwithstanding what the Minister just said about the keyboard problem? Basically, it's the old commercial course - if you know how to type you've got your keyboard skills because that's really where it comes down to.

If we're not at that level, does he foresee when we will be at some level that will be acceptable in the system?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, we have curriculum developed so that students are aware and can use computers. I think, with the keyboarding skills, it isn't enough to say well, it's like the old commercial program which started in Grades 9 or 10. The fact is that our students are using computers from the day they enter school now, and the "hunt and peck" method works for kindergarten students as well as anybody, but it's probably not an effective use of computers or an effective use of student time. So I think we've got some way to go in dealing with the keyboarding aspect.

In terms of the computer courses themselves, the computer science courses, those courses devoted to developing programming skills, I think they are fairly well developed and I think we have, over the last several years, developed sufficient skill amongst our teachers to say that we're offering a high level of competency and effective programming for the students.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, that concludes my questions in that area. I'd like to ask a couple of questions in the area of the - I was going to say the inner city but I can leave that for a moment.

The February 27 release put out by the Minister's department states that their support to rural and northern schools will be maintained and steps taken to improve teacher training opportunities in rural areas.

What programs or things are going to be put in place to improve teacher training opportunities in rural areas, and why are they being targeted as opposed to, say, all teachers in general?

HON. J. STORIE: The reason, I guess there is some targeting of effort because teachers who teach at Vincent Massey or Kildonan East or wherever have access to two universities and a community college - a whole array of upgrading, programming that rural teachers don't have access to. So the professional development opportunities for teachers in places like Winnipeg and, to some extent, Brandon are much greater than in other areas of the province.

I think you would only have to go to a Manitoba Teachers' Society executive meeting to hear those concerns expressed, that the opportunities out there for sharing information with other professionals for professional development courses and additional learning are fewer. So that's why the focus.

It wasn't but a few days after that announcement that the department sponsored the largest Small Schools Symposium Seminar in our history. Some 800 teachers, I think, were at the symposium and were really using that as an opportunity to share their experiences and develop strategies for meeting the needs of their students for this year and years to come.

In addition to that, one of the concerns that was expressed by the Teachers' Society and the trustees, as well as the Faculty of Education, is the need for, I guess, additional support for teachers who are interested in or who might be interested in teaching in rural Manitoba. Right now the training, the in-school experience at our Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba takes place in urban schools. There is little support for transportation costs and student placement costs in rural Manitoba. So you don't find the students going out and practising and adjusting and learning about rural schools and rural settings.

What those groups that I mentioned were looking for was some redirection of spending some dollars both on a rural practicum - that is offering students an opportunity to go to rural Manitoba to practise their teaching skills and develop their teaching skills - as well as offering in-servicing in rural Manitoba for the cooperating teacher, because being a mentor or someone who has responsibility for a student teacher is also a responsibility and requires a level of skill.

So we have been working with the faculty and others to put in place a program, a rural practicum cooperating teacher program. I'm hopeful that that may be possible for this fall. I see my staff nodding enthusiastically, which gives me some hope that maybe in 1989 it'll be ready. We're shooting for this fall and all things being equal, which they seldom are, we will be ready to do that this fall.

Also - do you want me to continue?

MR. C. BIRT: Yes.

HON. J. STORIE: Also, there is a new teacher training program that will hopefully be - I believe we're on track

for this as well - where was I? The North, yes. There is also a possibility that the rural practicum will include the north centres like Cranberry Portage. It's also true that through the Northern Development Agreement, there is the establishment of a teacher training program being suggested for Northern Manitoba, which would be a component of the Brandon University Northern Teacher Education Program. So Cranberry Portage may become, in fact, a BUNTEP centre for teacher training, training of northern teachers.

In addition to that, the department is working across divisions, I mean divisions within the department, to develop a new thrust in terms of distance education, pulling together elements of different branches and additional resources out there to focus the delivery of courses, delivery of educational materials into rural and northern parts of the province. So we're working on many fronts actually for the current year.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the symposium where some 800 teachers attended, is it planned then that this type of training facility or upgrading facility or program will be continued on a regular basis, an annual basis or perhaps every second or third year?

HON. J. STORIE: The small school symposium has been held for the last three years. There has been a small schools workshop which has been held some 10 years. The rural practicum issue, I think, would be an annual event supporting teacher training in at least two universities.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the rural and I guess northern practicum, I think the Minister indicated that hopefully this fall the rural practicum can be put into place. Then is there money in the budget for the program, and if so how much are we talking about?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand it's in the neighbourhood of \$25,000.00.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, under what line would that be found in the Estimates?

HON. J. STORIE: Small School Support Program.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

When is it anticipated that the northern practicum project will start?

HON. J. STORIE: We're still hopeful that that will occur as well this fall, '87-88, in conjunction with the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Education.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I would think really the thrust of both the rural and the northern program, is to try and get people out into these areas to show them what it's like. In other words, it's a recruiting program, hopefully, an encouraging program that it will get them out. So in addition to learning what they have to deal with in the areas it's probably . . . You say that the primary thrust is to try and encourage teachers to take positions outside of urban centres.

HON. J. STORIE: I think there are several different aspects to it. One of course is, I think, an underlying,

perhaps a secondary rationale for offering, as the member suggests - for a lot of different reasons, I guess, rural school divisions, and northern school divisions in particular, have a difficult time attracting new teachers into the area. This will certainly expose some who would not otherwise have been exposed to rural Manitoba - that exposure.

I think it's also true though that teaching in rural Manitoba and Northern Manitoba is a different experience than teaching in urban settings, and particularly inner-city urban settings, and that it perhaps requires different skill, different experience, different expertise to some extent. So that it's also perhaps a recognition that while teaching is teaching, the setting is part of the experience. So it's professional development as well as offering them an exposure to rural northern life.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister also made reference to something called, I believe it was called distance education, which apparently was bringing together some of the services, some of the disciplines from the different departments within the Department of Education. Is this the same thing as sort of electronic mail network we were talking about through InfoTech earlier, where I believe the Northern School Division or Frontier School Division had tied itself together? Is that what this is all about, or is it something different?

HON. J. STORIE: That's part of it but it also includes, I guess, tapping into some of the existing things the department is doing as well as other branches in the department, including the community colleges and the universities.

As well, there are several other companies, some associated with InfoTech, others which have some relationship to the department that have also expressed an interest in pursuing distance education opportunities. So it means using computers; it means using the MINET network; it means co-ordinating the print offerings through the Correspondence Branch with other possibilities. It really means making sure that all of the things that are going on in education, whether they're in the department or outside of it, dealing with using technology to deliver education are coordinated in a little better fashion. Perhaps a direction set for using technology.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, this is not Manitoba TV, it's something different, then what are we talking about? There will be a computer, a terminal in every school outside of Winnipeg and Brandon shall we say, throughout Manitoba that can access programs, material, student information, what? You could do anything or nothing with it? It sounds sexy but what is it?

HON. J. STORIE: I suggested that we were working on it, and we will be making an announcement over the course of the summer after all of the pieces have been put together, and all of the partners, all of the actors involved have had a chance to firm up their participation we will be making an announcement. I agree with the member; it is one of the many exciting things that are happening in the department, but we can't talk about it.

MR. C. BIRT: Given the Minister's reluctance to make ministerial statements now in the House . . .

HON. J. STORIE: I will certainly make one on this.

MR. C. BIRT: . . . perhaps he can elaborate a little more on it. Is it to be used . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Is this Twenty Questions?

MR. C. BIRT: Is it the intention to use the telephone system or is it to use satellite. How are you communicating because computers need an assured supply or at least the information flow. If you're talking about, has to have guaranteed supply so that there is no interruption or glitches, and you've got a mess coming out at the far end. How is it going to be transmitted?

HON. J. STORIE: I think probably we're going to be using all of the methods that are currently being used. It's a matter of developing software to facilitate that. The fact is we are using the telephone; we are teleconferencing; there are tele-courses offered on TV. Individual schools are offering courses by using computers; computer-assisted learning, computer-managed learning but none of those things currently are being coordinated in any direct way.

What we're talking about doing is (a) using the resources the department has at its disposal in a number of different branches; using the resources facilities that are at the disposal of our community colleges and universities, as well as using the expertise, facilities and resources of some other companies, some other organizations that are involved in learning, particularly computer-managed learning; and we're working that out and hopefully we'll have a package ready for the fall.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, what is the cost of this going to be and where would I find it in the departmental budget?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, the cost of course I think I've already referenced is in the ongoing activities of those branches and those different areas of the department. If there's any retargeting or redirection, it will probably be fairly minimal.

There are other actors again who have budgets and who are interested in supporting, or may be interested in supporting our activities and, if we can draw that to a conclusion, I will certainly be prepared to make a Ministerial Statement on it.

I'm really just whetting your appetite, that's all I'm doing, Charlie.

MR. C. BIRT: It almost sounds like a thought that hasn't been carried all the way through and the Minister doesn't know how to give all the information on it. So the Minister is saying there is no new money being allocated within the budget; it's just using existing resource dollars. Is that it? The Minister is nodding his head in the affirmative.

Another question I have is that a fair number - and I will ask some of these questions later in the Community

College area - but a fair number of the colleges have opened up branch centres, which is Portage la Prairie and things like this, and the Minister on this Distance Education thing made reference that there was going to be the tying in to the community colleges and universities.

A fair number of the communities, especially in the North I know, have sort of branch offices, or where they get this additional training. Will these then close? Will the need for them be eliminated if you get into this Distance Education?

HON. J. STORIE: No, I don't think so. Probably many of the centres, the regional centres that exist both in the North and in Southern Manitoba - I mean, we just opened one not too long ago in Winkler - would also be centres where you could deliver additional courses using computer-assisted, computer-managed learning. So, no, I don't think that's the case at all. Although I do think that we are moving to a point where much of what we're doing at universities, at community colleges, can be delivered almost to individual homes - and I'm not going to make that statement yet - but the time is coming and we can see the future in that respect, where much of what we're doing can be delivered to the home, can be delivered through PC's in our homes, all kinds of potential there, I think, for development.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is talking about delivering of the system in using computers and all kinds of other electronic processes to help the information flow. The cost of the equipment, who's paying for it and is it in our budget or is it going to be picked up by school divisions? Who's paying for all the hardware?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the hardware that might be required over the next few years, much of it currently exists.

The fact is that there is probably not a high school in this province without access to a handful or more, in many case 15 or 20, personal computers already existing. Most of them, if not all, with disk drive. So the hardware in many instances is there, exists for school divisions because of the improvement in technology and the changing of products will be there as school divisions continue to upgrade their own product.

And I think the member is aware of the fact that what the school divisions bought in 1980, which may have been a VIC 20, is now available virtually for the same price, with 10 times the capacity. So it's an interesting development and I think the investment, in terms of hardware, is not going to be as great as one would imagine.

MR. C. BIRT: The next line, and we may have been dealing with it, says, "Curriculum options will be increased in the outlining areas using new technology," and that's the euphemism for Distance Education, isn't it? Is that what it's for or are we talking about something else?

HON. J. STORIE: No, I think you've sufficiently covered it in our previous conversation.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you.

I just want to assure the Minister that some people do read the news release, so they're not all wasted.

HON. J. STORIE: That doesn't do my heart nearly as much good as it does our director of Communication at this time.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a couple of questions on the Inner-City Education Initiative and I guess the Core Area Agreement; it's probably part of one and the same.

I note in last year's discussions the Minister advised me that a small group of individuals were being used to deliver the services and some of them were direct assistance programs to the Winnipeg 1; others related to the Core Area Agreement. And I note in the supplementary financial material this year that it shows six staff years, or six people being employed by it. But when I checked the telephone directory there seems to be more than just six people listed under that whole area.

Now, where do they come from? If they're not into this area, are they Core Area Agreement temporary? I'm curious.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, one additional staff may be Core Area within our division, group, whatever we're calling it. The other people who are referenced there may be people that are on contract, or hired by the Core Area, other people. I don't know. Perhaps the member could share the directory with us and then . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Okay, I'm just looking. Hang on.

HON. J. STORIE: Is that a Manitoba Government Services Directory?

MR. C. BIRT: Right. I'm just trying to find the page.

HON. J. STORIE: Oh, Mr. Chairperson, the member may be looking at the names of the Core Area Training Agency, all of the staff. Those aren't all staff of the department. They may be referenced in the directory.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay. So they're just being listed for convenience sake. Okay.

Is it the intention of the department to carry on with this particular - they call it an Inner-City Education Initiative - that's what the line is in the budget book - after the Core Area Agreement terminates, or will it sort of disappear with the conclusion of the Core Area Agreement?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm just going to go back and clear up for the member. I'm just reminded that the other people that are listed in the directory are not part of this branch, but are in fact part of post-secondary, the PACE Division. So there are additional staff; they're simply not reflected in this sub-appropriation, just to clear that up.

This is part of the department and not part of the Core Area Initiative. The answer is yes.

MR. C. BIRT: It will terminate?

HON. J. STORIE: No, it will continue.

MR. C. BIRT: Fine. Last year I believe the Department of Education gave some funds to CIDA, which is an independent organization in the core area. I believe Winnipeg 1 has discontinued its funding of this project. Is there funding for this organization in the departmental estimates this year?

HON. J. STORIE: No, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. C. BIRT: Has there been any request to find funds or allocate funds for CIDA in departmental Estimates for this year?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. I did meet with a number of representatives, one of the members of the Board of Directors and other representatives, to I guess discuss their current situation.

As the member knows, the Winnipeg School Division has eliminated their support as a result of their budget exercise this year. Obviously, of major concern to that group, they have approached the department and I guess are looking for financial support. I've indicated, and in fact I think the previous Minister indicated, that the activities of CIDA are certainly supportable and worthy of support.

In fact, when the initial decision was made by the department to provide additional financial support to Winnipeg School Division in the amount of a \$2 million special grant, which occurred in 1983, I believe, or perhaps '82, reference was made to the activities of groups like CIDA in terms of their special commitment to the inner-city scene.

So I indicated that I would certainly be prepared to review with the Winnipeg School Division, and have had informal conversations with the chairman of the board about the activities of CIDA and the role they played. I understand that just after the decision was made in terms of the budget reduction that the board received an evaluation of the activities of CIDA which was quite positive. I have no way of knowing whether, in fact, the board will review their decision, but I certainly intend to take it up with the board in an informal way and I think identify I guess the province's initial interest in the activities of CIDA and indirect support of their activities as well.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise how much CIDA received in last year's Estimates? That's one specific question, but I guess it also points out the problems that one deals with a block grant for general purposes, that you can sometimes later on get yourself into trouble or other recipients can from the giver for perhaps misconstruing what the intent of the block grant is for. Sometimes it may be advisable to put little lines with the block grant to make sure that it's spent at least in the areas it's intended to.

HON. J. STORIE: I accept the member's advice, and in fact I think probably in retrospect, some of the programs that were originally discussed as part of the special circumstances of the Winnipeg School Division probably should have been identified with dollars more closely attached, and we're going to have to discuss,

I guess, the interests of both parties, all parties, with the Winnipeg School Division and see if we can work something out.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to deal now with some specific questions relating to the Supplementary Estimates. Some of them are an attempt to try and understand what it means when it's laid out.

If we go to page 51, under Salaries, you've three categories and then it says, "Plus Other Benefits," and it goes throughout. What do those "Other Benefits" refer to?

HON. J. STORIE: What page are you on?

MR. C. BIRT: Page 51 in the Supplementary.

HON. J. STORIE: In every set of Estimates, Mr. Chairman, there's one good question and that was it. We will get back to the member when we have a good explanation or a palatable explanation for that.

MR. C. BIRT: Okay. The next question, while that's being looked up, I'm assuming the same things apply for each of the sub-divisions. There's five or six that each one has at least some money allocated to it. But while that answer is being looked up, there's another line, and if you go to page 53, it says, "Less Allowance for Staff Turnover." Why is that appearing here now when it wasn't in other areas?

HON. J. STORIE: I think when a format for the Supplementary Estimates was developed, there is always provision made for turnover, and in large branches, large sub-appropriations, that amount is simply identified. In this case, it's . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Well, on page 53, you're showing 20,000, which is down from 110,000 the year before. Does that mean that if there's a guesstimate, that one or two or some positions are going to be vacant for the year and this is a so-called saving?

HON. J. STORIE: That's right. And as we have tightened up over the last few years, as you know from reviewing the Estimates, we are down some 30 staff year-over-year and it simply means within each branch there is less flexibility in the numbers. The allocation for turnover is simply less each year. . . .

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I note on, I believe it's page 59, when one looks at total salaries, last year it was 3.7 million, almost 3.8 and then we're at 4 million. Now there is in excess of a \$200,000 increase, yet I don't see the increase in the salaries up above for managerial, professional and administrative. The only way I can figure out why there is a large increase is you've cut down from 249 of the previous year for staff turnover to 148,000. That's really where you're saving here . . .

HON. J. STORIE: That's the other half of it, yes.

MR. C. BIRT: Can we have the answer to the other benefits now, or . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I understand that the other benefits refer to secondments, term contracts that carry over from one year to another and then are terminating, or whatever, so that this \$22,000 represents funds, the remainder of the dollars required to fulfil a secondment in the PDSS area.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm not clear on that. If we looked at that page, there's four staff years, does that mean it should really be five because the year before there were five - mind you, the note says there is elimination of one. Is there one position on secondment?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that's the one. It's not calculated in the normal staff years. It's a secondment, and the dollars, for some reason, the finances determined will be carried over as other benefits. I guess because it is ending before the end of the year.

MR. C. BIRT: My question then is to the Minister, if we go to next year's Estimates, will we just have four staff years in this position?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that's correct.

MR. C. BIRT: Further down the page, Mr. Chairman, it says, other operating, note no. 2, it was 127,000 last year going to 129,000 this year and the note says the quality education initiatives and then High School Review, are these, what? Salaries, honorariums, or payments to people that are involved, or does that represent something else? If so, what does it represent?

HON. J. STORIE: They're operating costs associated with delivering those initiatives and they may be publications, for example, the quality education initiatives have produced various and are producing informational pieces for dissemination to school divisions, one on self-planning, professional development papers and so forth that are being circulated. The same is true of the High School Review. They're exceptional in the sense that they're attached to new initiatives.

MR. C. BIRT: For example the High School Review produced the pamphlet, some 20 odd pages, now the cost of that would then be in this area, is that what you're saying?

HON. J. STORIE: That's right.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm curious. How does the Department of Finance know that the High School Review will be completed on schedule?

HON. J. STORIE: Pardon me?

MR. C. BIRT: How does the Department of Finance know that the High School Review will be completed on schedule, the bottom line on the left-hand page?

HON. J. STORIE: I may have said that at some point.

MR. C. BIRT: Going to page 53, there is the other benefits again. Is this a secondment? I see there is a

deletion of at least six positions. Now, is that line referring to secondments as well, so all of these lines then deal with seconding of people?

HON. J. STORIE: Either from secondments or in this case you can see that there are consultants' positions being eliminated, essentially those ones that are not staff years but have a carryover from year to year. I guess that's normal accounting practice, I'm not familiar with this arrangement.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, this is where it begins to show up. There was 24,000 in this line the year before, this year we're at 34,000. I would have thought they would have been phased out or eliminated or something. If you're getting rid of staff years, are we just playing musical chairs? You're not an SY, you're now a contract person - are we eliminating positions? It would appear that you've got a growing elimination here. It doesn't make sense.

HON. J. STORIE: Well, no. The staff years are down as the member can see by six and what we've seen here is probably carryovers because we're eliminating consulting positions. The previous year we may have only eliminated one position so the amount of money carried over in from the '85-'86, '86-'87 was less this year because we're being more . . . there are unfortunately further reductions, the amount carried over is larger.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, the Minister touched on this, I think when he said that perhaps 30 SY's have been eliminated over a period of time. Is this governmental policy, to cut positions, or is it that we're just not filling them as people retire or their job function terminates and you're not allowed to fill them. Which is it, which of the two policies?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, where it's possible where we can, if we're faced with reductions in a branch or in other departments, obviously we're doing it by attrition where possible. The next step would be to not renew term contracts or term employment positions, casual positions, and then secondment, the last obviously is to eliminate permanent positions existing. In some cases, in a larger department such as the Department of Education, it's sometimes possible to eliminate through attrition or elimination of consulting contracts. That's the priority.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, going down to professional fees. What are they, who are they paid for, why are they so large because I think in all of the sub-sections we've looked at so far, this is probably the largest area. Usually they're running 60,000-70,000 or 8,000-10,000, here we're talking a quarter of a million dollars.

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think this reflects the fact that in this area there are a considerable number of policy review committees that are structured to assess and implement curriculum change. So this money, the majority of it actually, the vast majority, is for service for work on and with the committee structure in the curriculum development area.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, is this then monies paid directly to the people or is it compensation to the school division when you take a teacher out to do a review, or is it both?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm told it's both.

MR. C. BIRT: Then there's a small item in this line for capital, of \$29,000.00. What's the capital for?

HON. J. STORIE: That was last year.

MR. C. BIRT: I'm sorry, okay. Do you know what it was for?

HON. J. STORIE: I understand it was for computer purchases and furniture.

MR. C. BIRT: Looking at page 57, an explanation note at the bottom, could the Minister expand on it? It says, "Recoverable from the Department of Community Services for meals provided to the Manitoba Youth Centre."

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, we actually sell meals to the Youth Centre from the Manitoba School for the Deaf cafeteria kitchen and we recover the costs from Community Services.

MR. C. BIRT: There's an item for professional fees, a small amount, the same as last year. What are they for?

HON. J. STORIE: I'm told it's the same as the previous one. It's basically committee structure, advisory groups that work with the School for the Deaf.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, going to page 59, when we look at Other Expenditures, going down to Other Operating, there's Computer Related and then it says Other. There's a drop of 60,000. What is the saving; what caused the saving or reduction of 60,000?

HON. J. STORIE: Perhaps we could move on, Mr. Chairperson, and I'll get the details.

MR. C. BIRT: There's also an indication of \$90,000 for capital. What's that for?

HON. J. STORIE: I could only make a guess but obviously it's related to the Manitoba - I was going to say it was for the School for the Deaf but it isn't. Mr. Chairperson, I understand it's for furniture for the branch, special equipment and furniture. To test kids, was that it? Mr. Chairperson, we're both right. It is for furniture and for equipment. The furniture is for the staff, the 115 people who work in the branch or whatever, and the equipment is specialized equipment that we purchased for the disabled, such as special typewriters and so forth.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, looking at the correspondence finances which are on page 63, when we were talking earlier about Manitoba TV, the Minister indicated that a fair amount of money had to be spent

on acquiring rights to films and programs, etc. How much is being allocated for this coming year and in what line would it be?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, that's the problem we have with jumping around. We have staff from Child Development and now we - the sum is some \$51,000.00.

MR. C. BIRT: Is that higher over last year or is it running about the same?

HON. J. STORIE: The same.

MR. C. BIRT: Thank you, I have no further questions on financial matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: If I may, I want to leap back to the School for the Deaf. When I was asking about the university, I didn't have last year's Hansard and the Minister was talking about finding the numbers in Western Canada who were hearing impaired to see if there was a possibility of a university or a branch of a university in Western Canada. Then he went on to say there's already an advisory board, a group looking at the possibility of a western Canadian centre for specialization for the deaf. "So I certainly will be able to provide you with some information about the feasibility of this institution, its potential support by other jurisdictions and ours."

HON. J. STORIE: The Co-ordinator of Hearing Impaired Services, Ms. Gayle McKay, actually continues to meet with representatives from the three other western provinces to discuss, I guess, to look at possibilities in terms of services for the hearing impaired. There have been no, I guess, concrete arrangements at this point but they continue to meet, first of all, to identify need and try to arrive at some understanding of the scope of services that might be required. They're not in a position I guess at this point to make any recommendations but it is being pursued.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister give me an idea of how many students we're talking about in Western Canada?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I understand from staff that the numbers probably would be in the 100 graduates per year area in terms of hearing impaired. So if we're going to tell you about an institution with a three- or four-year program, it would mean a reasonably large institution.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Are they anywhere close to having some sort of affiliation with any of the universities in Canada?

HON. J. STORIE: I don't think it would be fair to leave the impression that they're close. The discussions that are going on at the current time, I think, largely are at the governmental level. There are some I guess interesting, some would say, exceptions to the current

circumstances. I know that the audio-visually impaired, for example, have a program for physiotherapy that's offered by the University of Manitoba. So there are individual cases where universities or other institutions have taken on a special project, but there's no overall consensus, I don't think, at the post-secondary level yet to implement something like this, and governments are only at the discussion stage.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Yes. Are all the western provinces involved and possibly the territories? How long has this discussion been going on? How many years?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think I indicated last year that there had been a new initiative. To my knowledge, it's a quite recent effort.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: It says - I just want to quote you from last year. You said, there's already an advisory board, a group looking. Who is in this group? What does it consist of as far as personnel are concerned, and at what level of government, and who are they reporting to?

HON. J. STORIE: Well, I can only tell you who our representative is, and that's Ms. McKay. I've indicated who is the coordinator of hearing-impaired services for the province, so I'm not sure who's representing the other provinces.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: And then what happens? Is it Ms. McKay, did you say? Who does Ms. McKay report to then after she's been to these meetings, and how often are they held?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the representative reports to the director of Child Care and Development. They meet two or three times a year, the committee.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I guess what I'm trying to find out from the Minister and from the department is just what kind of a commitment we have to actually establishing something in the western provinces, or if this is just sort of a get-together to find out - and I don't mean get-together in a derogatory sense - but that they are meeting to maybe exchange ideas and what services are being presented in each of the provinces, or if there's an actual goal in mind to set something substantial up.

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, I think all we're committed to do is exploring it at this point. I think, when we talk about the number of graduates from the School for the Deaf graduates, generally with hearing-impaired graduates, we're not talking about a large number of students. So, I think that we've indicated that some of our graduates are going to Gallaudet College.

(Mr. Deputy Chairman, D. Scott, in the Chair.)

The cost to the province of sending students out and having a reciprocal or a training agreement, as we do with the veterinary college in Saskatoon for example, is a much less expensive option. If it meets the needs of our students, then I think we would go with that option.

The question is: Is there room for some kind of approach to this problem amongst the provinces so that we could have an institution which would not be so prohibitively expensive that we couldn't do it. I think we are providing a service and some opportunity for a future educational development to hearing-impaired children. Those are our fundamental requirements.

If we can do something in Canada and develop some expertise here, I think that would be desirable, but I wouldn't want to leave you with an idea that this is a priority and we're going to go out and develop an institution for the hearing impaired, come hell or high water. That's not the approach that we're taking. We're interested in looking at what the cost might be and how our students might benefit, how the province might benefit, and I expect that it will take some time.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What is the actual assistance that is given to students to go to Gallaudet College?

HON. J. STORIE: Mr. Chairperson, the tuition fees are paid and there is a student allowance as well, a living allowance. That, I understand, is paid by Community Services.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: The living allowance, does that take into consideration then the - is that paid in American dollars then if they're going to an American college?

HON. J. STORIE: Their living costs are paid.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: So their total . . .

HON. J. STORIE: Yes.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Oh, all right.

I just have one question and it may not be in this area. I received a letter from the Minister about the Winnipeg Education Centre. Does that come in here or is that in the next section, under the Core Area Agreement, the employment and training? Is that where it would come in?

HON. J. STORIE: Yes, that's post-secondary.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Okay, thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)(1) to 4.(k)(2), inclusively, were each read and passed.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, would there be an inclination of the committee to call it six o'clock because we've finished one section . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 50: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,087,300 for Education, Program Development Support Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

MR. C. BIRT: Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering, we will start with 3. on Monday next and then, when we're through that, we'll go then to 5. But I'm wondering, in anticipation of the discussion under 3. on Monday, last

year the Minister gave us a breakdown in the grants. There was about six or eight, or there was a page of them. I'm wondering if he could do them for us this year, the amounts.

HON. J. STORIE: For each division?

MR. C. BIRT: No, you're paying X amount for A program; you're paying X amount for B program. You gave us a simple page, I think, a breakdown. Is it the General Support Grants.

HON. J. STORIE: Is that not done in the Supplementary

MR. C. BIRT: Oh, was it in there? Okay, I'm sorry, I hadn't got to that yet.

HON. J. STORIE: I think it may be in the Supplementary Estimates. I think that's what we said, that the following year it would be available.

MR. C. BIRT: Great.
Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour now being six o'clock, committee rise.

SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: The committee will please come to order.

We are considering Item No. 9., Wildlife, 9.(a)(1) Administration: Salaries; 9.(a)(2) Other Expenditures.
The Honourable Minister.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, just some information that we agreed to present yesterday in terms of numbers of elk in the different locations, we have a copy for distribution for the members opposite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister for the additional information. The majority of the questions that we've asked, the Minister has provided the information. I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, the area I'd like to just pursue a little bit is on the trapline allocation. I forwarded a copy of a letter that was written to the Ombudsman that I had received. I don't know whether the Minister had the copy beforehand. There are three pages from Leonard Abramowitch. This is an issue that I raised last year with the Minister, and we've had ongoing dialogue with the individuals involved regarding the trapline allocation to the point when the Ombudsman's Office has been involved. There has been consistently more information coming forward.

There is another case, I think the Minister is aware of that as well, a David Dick from the Thompson area who also has had some concern that's been there for a long period of time.

I want to raise a concern with the Minister about the policy regarding trapline allocation. It seems to be relatively vague and it seems to be inconsistent. I want

to indicate to the Minister - first of all, I want to ask whether he will review both those cases because, in both cases, the Ombudsman's Office has been involved. I think for anybody to go to the extent where they have to appeal to the Ombudsman's Office for fairness in some of these allocations leaves some doubt in one's mind as to whether the system is working properly and whether they have been handled properly.

I want to indicate to the Minister, I would like him to give an undertaking to maybe review personally, instead of just basing his information on some of the information that maybe has not all got to him, whether he will give an undertaking to maybe reconsider both applications and, if then in his mind he is assured that people have been treated fairly, well then that's his decision. But I doubt whether the Minister has at any stage of the game taken the situation seriously enough to make himself totally aware of all the circumstances. It is for that reason that I forwarded the additional information again to the Minister.

I think the concern, Mr. Chairman, that I want to express is that it seems to me, from the information that I have, inconsistencies in terms of the way these traplines are allocated. I'm sure the Minister would not want to have that kind of a situation remain or, if that is the case, and I would strongly urge him - first of all, the guidelines are relatively loose and I would like to first of all see the policy guidelines in terms of trapline allocation defined in such a way that there is no further confusion.

In the particular case of the Abramowitch case which I raised last year, there was some conflicting information come forward between the department and what happened in the area, because of poor counsel initially was supposedly not supporting the position of the Abramowitch's, and later on it showed that they had supported the application of the Abramowitchs for the trapline. It goes on and on in terms of where the department had come forward with certain information, based on the individual out in the field, and then it seemed that the information had to be changed or it was not factual and then there was a revision of these things. That creates a lot of concern.

In view of fairness, I would ask the Minister whether he could undertake to look at those two cases again, take a personal interest in those two cases to make sure that fairness has been achieved; then also, that he would give an undertaking that a proper policy and guidelines will be established so that we don't always run into this situation in the future?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: I think this particular issue demonstrates again the kind of problem we face in terms of competition for the resources that we have in our charge. The problem that we are dealing with here, as identified by the Member for Emerson, is really a matter of allocation of an opportunity to harvest a resource between competing users.

I want to indicate clearly for the record that I have had a personal involvement in dealing with this. I think I spoke on at least four occasions by telephone with the Abramowitch family. So for the Member for Emerson to suggest that I have not taken a personal interest or dedicated any of my time personally to this matter is incorrect. I think if he checks, they will see that there

is written correspondence over my signature and that there were a number of telephone calls that were placed to try to deal with this issue.

The member asks that I review this matter again. I have reviewed it. I did indicate that I felt that it was dealt with fairly, recognizing that some uncertainty perhaps was caused by the fairly general wording of the statements in the policy. We made a commitment to resolve that.

It was reviewed by the Ombudsman, and I want to quote from the Ombudsman's review. This is a letter dated from the Ombudsman to Mr. Abramowitch, dated March 31, 1987, and I quote: "It would appear that your application was given fair and equitable consideration in accordance with the criteria established by the department."

What is being suggested by the member, that I would now go and review the decision of the Ombudsman, I think would not serve a meaningful purpose.

The case of Mr. Dick is being reviewed by the Ombudsman. If there are matters that I can assist with in terms of that review, I'm quite prepared to dedicate the time to doing so.

The key point that I want to make is that we are reviewing the policies, and we indicated last year in dealing with these matters that there was need to be more explicit in terms of the policy so that it did not lend itself to misinterpretation. That revised policy will be presented to me by the 1st of June of this year.

So I want to indicate that we are cooperating with the trappers. We have cooperated with the Ombudsman and, despite the difficult decision that there was and recognizing that there are some who will be disappointed when they are competing users for a scarce resource, we feel we have dealt with it fairly. But we look forward to the new policy which perhaps will reduce the possibility of this kind of disappointment in the future.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, the reason I raise this issue again - and there has been much correspondence and phoning going back and forth, but it seemed as if there was inconsistency in terms of the two cases. In one case, certain criteria were used; in the other case, those criteria were not applied. That is what has created a lot of the confusion in this case, and that is why I ask you now whether there was a possibility that the Minister would maybe make sure that the issue had been dealt with fairly. That is the only concern that I have.

Some of the decisions of the Minister and his department affect people's lives quite dramatically. In the elk-ranching situation, it's a dramatic impact on the people involved, the same thing with Mr. Hampshire from Lac du Bonnet with the live-bait issue. You know, the decisions of the Minister and his department have some dramatic impact on people's lives, and then the same thing with the trapline allocation.

I think it is very important that the Minister doesn't hang his hat on the fact that the Ombudsman has said so and so. I think he has to be convinced totally that it is a fair way that it has been dealt with, and I raise that question.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I agree wholeheartedly that any system we have for the

allocation of our resources, whether it be the fur resource or whether it be a fishing resource, water, land, whatever, it has to be fair, and I think it is fair in this case.

I want to point out that we recognize that, where we have limited opportunities and decisions are made, there will be some who will be disappointed. But if we were to try to please everyone - and as I said in a comment earlier this week - that in fact would ensure that we would fail in all respects of management of our resources.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm still getting numerous complaints in regard to the beaver dams in the Cooks Creek area on the Cooks Creek itself. Is there any kind of a progress report that you can make on that situation?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, I am aware of the situation that existed in Cooks Creek. We do have that problem in other locations, the matter of problem beavers and removal. The problem that arises is in some cases gaining access to the property. One of the problems that we have experienced in the Cooks Creek area is that the landowners were not wanting to provide access to those who would remove the beavers and the beaver dam. It did require a ministerial order on my part on two occasions last year, I think.

So there is a process in place for dealing with the problem beavers. Depending on the stream locations, some of the work will be done by the Department of Natural Resources. In other cases, it will be done by the municipality or whoever has jurisdiction for the waterway at that point.

MR. G. ROCH: The way that some of the departmental staff treat the landowners, it's no wonder they don't want to give permission in some cases. They certainly are less than polite, to put it mildly.

The dam was manually opened in early December 1986. However, it was after that heavy snowfall that this happened, and the dam was rebuilt as soon as the spring flow was down. After a heavy summer rain, water levels get very high around the Ford Crossing area, which is located on the Oakwood Road, and that's a sign that the beavers have rebuilt the dam. In the meantime, water in the roadside ditches stagnates and basically it does not drain. It remains at high levels. By the time the request is in and the order is obtained, many field crops are ruined, as has happened in several years. It's very fine to protect the beavers but, given the difficulty that farmers already have, we need a bit more action than that.

Maybe you're aware that in Saskatchewan, for example, they have increased the quota of individual traplines in fur conservation areas. They direct the trappers through trouble spots. They assign special management trappers to underharvested traplines. They issue permits to shoot nuisance beavers at specific sites, and they also install culvert protection devices.

Are there any such plans or the possibility of such plans going ahead in Manitoba?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, there was some activity around me just at the point where he was posing

the question. I wonder if the member could repeat the question as to which plans he was looking for specifically for Manitoba.

MR. G. ROCH: Specifically, I was asking about any of these other plans that are happening in other provinces. Are there specific plans to try and control those beaver, apart from what's going on right now?

Right now basically, the department goes in there and, whether they have permission or not, they often blow up the dams which seem to be rebuilt shortly after. You know, it's just causing numerous problems in that area, flooding, etc.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, we are working with different groups to try to manage the problem beaver. There is a particular group that I've had considerable experience with in the Duck Mountain-Porcupine Mountain area where a number of municipalities have organized to try to resolve the problem, and what we see that is necessary is primarily to increase the level of harvest of beavers in those problem areas.

I think many of the members would know that simply to blow the beaver dam does not solve the problem, because I know from my own farming experience that blowing the dam in one day simply means that the next day you have a dam rebuilt perhaps to a higher level.

So what we have encouraged is a process wherein we would communicate or set up channels of communication between those who are trappers in the area and those who are having a problem with beavers as landowners. We think particularly this last year there was a significant increase, and I know the interest in harvesting beavers is sensitive to prices as many of the other activities are.

We said that we would undertake to improve the communication between the trappers and the landowners in the northwest region. The municipalities indicated that they would want to do that. I think we've seen some success in that area. We have, as well, offered our services to landowners where landowners, perhaps not having had experience at trapping, would want to develop their skills in that way to deal with the problem on their own. We have offered to conduct schools in that respect. We have also said that we would work with landowners and others, the municipal people, in terms of dealing with obstructions to waterways as well.

So I think we are moving in the right direction, and I would certainly be interested in hearing from other parts of the province. I know it's not an isolated problem. It exists generally throughout Manitoba. I would be pleased to work further on this.

MR. G. ROCH: It's not an isolated problem, but obviously I'll get the complaints from my area, because I have to agree that just blasting the dams or removing the dams will not solve the problem, that we have to somehow get rid of the nuisance beavers.

At one time there were no beavers in that area, and the problem seems to have increased greatly in the last few years. It's just kept on and on. Despite the efforts of the people in the area, there still seems to be a need to do more. Do you foresee any specific

time in the near future where the problem can actually be solved where the beavers can be removed from that or any other area where it's causing a problem?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: I guess that again points out to one of the problems we face as managers of the resource. Certainly we would not want to take the approach that we would exterminate the beavers to remove them totally. What we want to do is see that their numbers are managed so that there is a stock of those animals for those who simply enjoy having them, and there's certainly value in having the beaver as part of the landscape. There are those who have an interest in the fur industry, and we certainly want to see healthy stocks for them, but we do not want to see the stocks at a level that they create a hardship for those who farm in the agricultural areas.

I just want to point out for the member some information from the area I'm from, Dauphin-Swan River, and the relationship between harvest and complaints. For example, in the Swan River office in 1984, we had 198 complaints; in 1985, we had 193 complaints; and in 1986, we had 27 complaints.

At the same time, what was happening in terms of the harvest, the harvest was going up. So I think it is clear to us that, as the harvest levels increase and the beaver numbers are managed, the incidence of problems in the agricultural areas will become less noticeable. But we know full well that it's related to other factors than beaver numbers. The amount of water flow and so on will have an impact on it.

MR. G. ROCH: The Minister seems to be saying that, given those numbers from that Swan River office if the same procedures are followed, we can expect the problem to diminish, if at least it's not completely solved, because it's been going on for quite a while now steadily in that area.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: I agree with you that it is a long-standing problem and it will always be there to some extent. I would never want to suggest that we will never experience a problem with beavers anymore, so then we will never have a problem with wildlife or waterfowl. As long as we have these on the landscape - and I hope that will be forever - there will be some interactions and competition between the wildlife and ourselves as occupants of the same land space. But I think what I'm pointing out is that it is by way of managing the numbers, harvesting the beavers, that the probability of difficulty for the landowners will be reduced and that clearly is the direction in which we want to move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I'll try and be brief. I wrote a letter to the Minister last week on behalf of a constituent who was making application for a game outlet licensing in the town of Waskada, a man by the name of Mr. Lloyd Lee, retired from business. It's a fairly busy community when it comes to big game hunting, white-tailed deer; when it comes to goose shooting; when it comes to upland game bird hunting, duck hunting.

Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister if he has in fact informed Mr. Taub of the Comet Motel if he has been

issued a licensing outlet. One of the concerns that was brought to my attention, Mr. Chairman, was the fact that it appeared one of the criteria for a game outlet or a licence outlet was that it had to be a sporting goods shop or something like that. We have liquor outlets throughout the province at drug stores; we've got all different kinds of outlets to accommodate the public, Mr. Chairman. We've got a motel that accommodates sportsmen when it comes to staying in the community. There's probably a longer service provided at a motel than there is at most sporting good shops.

I don't want the excuse that, yes, they're trying to cut down on outlets. I think that it's incumbent upon the Minister to proceed with the licence, and I would hope that the decision has been made to accommodate Mr. Taub in Waskada and give that community the service and the sale of game licences. Could the Minister respond, please.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I have received the memo just handed to me by staff, which indicates that there has been the letter referenced by the Member for Arthur - in fact, been received at the office. I'm quite prepared to review that matter. There are guidelines for the issuing of permits but, if there are unique circumstances in a given community, I think that we do have to look at those guidelines, remembering that they are in fact guidelines. If we can accommodate the users of the area and not be in conflict with what are the general guidelines, I will be quite prepared to look at that.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Minister's response - and I appreciated his quick response in his letter of April 29 where he said that I'm reviewing Mr. Taub's application with staff and will ensure that he is informed of the department's decision as soon as possible. Mr. Taub may anticipate a decision within the week. So I appreciate his response. He is a motel operator; he will be able to provide the service probably at more hours than a sporting goods shop. There are a lot of hunters who come into the area who he could service. There's a lot of local demand there, and I would appreciate a positive response.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague from Emerson, I think, has probably asked these questions, but I want to be clear on it. The information can be provided on this issue at a later date. A quick response would be all right.

I've had a couple of people bring to my attention their concern about moose hunting, allowing of moose hunting in the Turtle Mountain this coming fall. I would like to know - and my colleague said he's probably dealt with it to some extent - if the decision has been made, what the moose herd is, and will he talk with local wildlife people, or will the department or has the department talked with local association people, whether they be wildlife or people who are interested, before the issuing of moose hunting licences. I know it's excellent habitat; I know there's an increase in the moose herd. I'd like to know how many. I would like community consultation on moose hunting in that community before they proceed with it. Will the Minister give me the assurance that will take place?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: We did have a brief discussion on this yesterday, in terms of the numbers. The numbers indicated that there were fairly healthy stocks of moose in that area. We have had representations, as I indicated, both for and against the hunt. So it's again clearly an example of competing use or competing interest in terms of allocation of a resource.

We have had input from the Wildlife Federation in the area; we've solicited information. There has been information that has been sent to us without being solicited. A decision, to be precise, has not yet been made, but there will have to be a decision made on that in fairly short order. - (Interjection) - We feel that there has been discussion already with the groups and certainly, if there was an indication that there was need for more public discussion, we would be open to that kind of suggestion. But we are getting fairly tight in terms of time to make a decision so that it can be incorporated into the requirements for next fall.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Could the Minister tell me what status the elk damage claims are at? Are there many to be paid out yet? I have a constituent who said that they are still being owed money and they feel that, when they get on the phone and complain about it, then they get a payment. But they seem to have to complain in order to get it, and I wondered what the holdup was.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Just a couple of points before I come to the question of elk damage raised by the Member for Gladstone, I wanted to go back to a point raised by the Member for Springfield wherein he indicated that perhaps there was some unacceptable conduct on the part of departmental staff in dealing with people of the area. If in fact that is the case, we would want to know about it, and we would ask that specific information be provided to us.

Clearly, I think our staff presents themselves in a very acceptable manner generally, but we are not beyond reproach. I wouldn't say we are beyond reproach and, in those circumstances where perhaps someone has not been dealt with well, we would want to know. But I want to state at the same time, recognizing our role has a component of enforcement, there are going to be undoubtedly some circumstances in which in the application of that, despite our best efforts with verbal judo and so on, someone will feel that they have been offended in some way. But I want to state clearly for the record, if there is any feeling that our staff has not conducted themselves in an appropriate manner, we should be made aware of it, but we cannot respond to general statements. We have to have the specifics, and we would appreciate those.

Again, following on the question from the Member for Arthur in terms of the moose management in the Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, there is a document that was prepared and circulated which is a summary of the guidelines surrounding the management of that particular resource. It received wide distribution and, if any of the members opposite are interested in the document, we could make a copy of that available as well.

I would just take a moment to get the answer on the elk damage. We have to take a few moments on that. We may have it here today, but Bill Podolsky who is on our staff would most likely have that information, and he's not here right at the moment. If he does not have it when he arrives, we will get that information and pass it back.

These claims should, I think, have been paid. Where there are some disputes, some questions of that sort, there may be still some outstanding. Later if the member had a specific name, if an individual was concerned about a specific outstanding claim, if the member wanted to share that name, we could follow up on that specifically.

MRS. C. OLESON: I thank the Minister. I probably will do it that way.

I notice on page 127 of the Estimates Book, on (j)(4), Big Game Damage Compensation, \$200,000 or slightly over. Last year, I noticed there was a press release put out where \$155,000 had to be added. I know that, in the area of Sprucewoods Park, the reports that I'm getting are that there is a great increase in that herd this year. They had a good winter; it was a mild winter. There were lots of calves and very little problems with surviving. (Interjection)- Yes, the farmers are feeding them well, as my colleague said. So, there very well may be this next season more damage, although it has, I'm told, decreased in 1986 from 1985. But I'm told by one person of sighting 83 elk in one particular field right near Glenboro. That's a large number of elk. So the Minister might want to comment on whether he thinks that funding will be adequate or he'd probably be having to add to it again this year.

I also wanted to ask about the five-year wildlife report. My colleague may have asked that in my absence, but it is due this year, I believe. Is that being prepared, and is it ready to be circulated? Also I may as well, while I'm on my feet, ask as well - I did ask earlier in the Estimates of Natural Resources if there could be a breakdown given to me on the wildlife damage claims paid out in the Sprucewoods area. You did that last year for me, and it was very useful.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, on the matter of the five-year report, that is due this year, as the member points out, and should be made available in the fall of this year. So, it is being prepared. We will be preparing that information if the member would like it again in terms of the big game compensation paid in different areas, or maybe if the member could clarify it. Was it for the Sprucewoods area by species and to be broken down, or just simply all of the big game compensation?

MRS. C. OLESON: Last year, you gave me a listing of all the farmers in the Sprucewoods Park area who had qualified and how much they were paid. That is what I'm meaning.

Also, I understand there was not an aerial elk count this year, and I'm wondering how often you do those. It seems to me that the last time they were done, they appeared very small numbers and we thought that the count was rather low. I understand that, when the elk count is done in an aerial procedure, they don't go beyond the boundaries of the park. Well, of course, if

the elk happen to be out visiting somewhere else that day, they don't get counted, but they can still do a lot of damage. So I'm wondering if that could be taken into consideration when you do your count.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Perhaps just on a personal note, I would want to share with the members that I had the opportunity to participate in a survey of elk in the Duck Mountains this year in February, I believe it was. It was very interesting to go up with the helicopter and we were reviewing, and I spent a couple of hours with the staff from the Wildlife Branch who were in the area counting. It was a good experience. We did see a couple of larger herds of elk and we had the opportunity to see a number of moose. In that case, we were seeing a lot of cow-calf pairs, and there seemed to be a very healthy population in that area. So if I'm doing that on another occasion, I would invite the critic and the deputy critic to join us. I must warn though that some people get a bit queasy in the helicopter when you start to drop down and flush the herds to separate them for the cow. So it is not without its risks.

In terms of the count for Sprucewoods, we did not do a survey this year. We, in past years, have been able to get some assistance from the armed forces at Shilo in terms of doing the flight for Sprucewoods. I guess they are faced with some of the same pressures that we are, and they had to eliminate that in the past year, but I'm told that they are reconsidering it again so that perhaps it will be made available.

The last aerial survey for the area indicated that there were 403 elk. We feel that the population probably does not exceed the 400 at this time, so it's in that range now. But I want to share with the member that the incidence of complaints reported to and actioned by field staff declined significantly during the last fiscal year. These complaints were primarily of elk or deer causing problems to haystacks. Very few complaints were received of elk causing problems to standing swath or stored special or cereal crops. As far as field staff are aware, few complaints were registered with the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation for big game damage compensation. So the level of damage did not seem excessive but again, on that matter, we know that relates very closely to conditions for harvest, so they are related.

If the member was wanting to follow up specifically on a case of outstanding claim, we would be prepared to follow it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wildlife, Item No. 9., 9.(a)(1) to 9.(b)(3), inclusive, were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 126: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,530,900 for Natural Resources, Wildlife, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

No. 10., Surveys and Mapping, 10.(a)(1) Administration: Salaries; 10.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Honourable Minister.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We've had a brief conversation with the critic and think we can cover this area in fairly short order. I want to introduce the staff member who has joined us, who hasn't been here previously. At my immediate right is

Dave Crandall, who is the Director of Surveys Branch for the department.

I want to just cover briefly the role of this area and indicate to the members some of the material that we have available, and then we will answer any questions.

The Surveys and Mapping Branch of the department, I think, is often perhaps not fully appreciated in that their role is often done in a very quiet and inconspicuous way, but they lend a great deal of support to the activities of not only the other branches of the department, but indeed to various departments of this government, and there is a relationship with other levels of government.

They are involved in the maintaining of the interprovincial boundaries, maintaining the township land survey under The Survey Act. As well, they administer and control the surveys for Crown lands and provide a legal survey service to the government departments, as I have already indicated. The branch also monitors and maintains Manitoba geographic place names and ensures that the basic surveying and mapping system and geographical positioning information are available to support the effective management of the provincial land mass. It maintains a provincial distribution network for maps and aerial photographs. I think some members may have seen in the newspaper as recently as two days ago, perhaps three days ago, where there was a photograph of a large white cross that was on the ground. It was one of the targets that was placed there for the purpose of establishing a survey mark.

One of the interesting components of the work that is being done in this branch now is the automated mapping equipment, and I would encourage all members of this House to take the opportunity to visit the branch. In fact, what we will do at a later date is perhaps establish a date for an open house, and I think members would be very much interested and surprised at the extent of the service that is available from the branch. The branch is in the process of converting from a manual to a computerized mapping operation. Until now, maps were basically drawn by hand from aerial photographs and had to go through numerous time-consuming stages before a finished map was available for distribution.

In the new computerized operation, information will be transferred directly from the aerial photograph to the computer which will then perform much of the work. This will result in significant production economies, and as well meet an increasing need in the province for land information in electronic format. Churchill, and an area from Winnipeg to Lake Winnipeg, will be the first two projects undertaken with the new system.

As well, resource managers, engineers and planners in the agricultural community are continuing to expand the use of remote sensing technology in their operations. This technology collects and analyzes data from the earth-orbiting satellites.

In the past year, 16 major projects have been undertaken which resulted in the production of 1,200 land cover maps for various purposes. I just want to indicate briefly that some of those were involved in the forest fuel mapping, wild rice mapping and the mapping of the Ashern area dealing with soil conservation. The first one that I mentioned, forest fuel mapping, is to assist in the firefighting operations, and only today there

was some concern expressed as to whether we were as effective as we had previously been in our firefighting effort.

Well, I want to again take this opportunity to reinforce that, by way of the new technology and the support provided by this particular branch, we are as effective as we have ever been and in fact more so in terms of firefighting. We appreciate the support that this branch provides.

Just in conclusion, I would like to point out in terms of some of the services that are provided to various groups, maps are of interest to hunters, fishermen, prospectors, people involved in the harvest of forest, and there are approximately 150 different types of maps produced both for government and private use. We have the map index, angling maps, lake depth chart. This is one of the many charts to assist fishermen to locate catch. We have coloured relief maps and we'll be distributing one of those today for the members who are present, and as well we have the satellite maps in this one that we have distributed today produced from satellite data utilizing the automated image analysis equipment and automated plotters. This is produced for Manitoba Hydro to assist in corridor selection. As well, we have the aerial photographs. We have the most recent works, and I think we do have that included in the photographs, is an aerial photograph of Virden, one of approximately 1 million photographs on file in the Surveys and Mapping Branch.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that we have these maps for distribution. We have a map index, and we would encourage the members to enjoy them and we will keep the members posted when we are having the open house at this particular branch. I think you would find it most interesting and we will announce it in the House to indicate clearly how the new technology can be used to serve the interests of all Manitobans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I thank the Minister for the comments as well as for the maps. I won't bother looking at them now but we'll have a good look at them and . . .

A MEMBER: We only got one.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Well, I think that's a fair distribution. The rest of mine can stay on this side.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Bring them over here, for the rest of the members here. You can distribute them. We can get more of those, Mr. Chairman, there are plenty of them around.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I have very few comments on this section really. I suppose a lot of information could be drawn out if we had time to pursue it a little further.

The Minister in his opening statements made comments regarding information that was received by the Federal Government in terms of mapping or aerial photographs. I believe there was some reference made. I wonder if he could clarify that.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: What we had indicated - I believe this is what the member is referring to - is that we had transferred the negatives which were previously stored in Ottawa in a vault. We can store, we have the proper vault here. It has to be a climate-controlled vault, so we have the negatives for the aerial photographs in storage here in Winnipeg and our turnaround is much shorter in that respect, so we can serve the interests of people much more effectively with that process.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can give an indication whether the open house that he was referring to would be taking place before the end of this Session.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, the director has indicated that probably it would be better - we are in the process of placing some of that equipment in now and rearranging the facility to quite a large extent, and they're suggesting that it probably will be better to leave it to the fall of the year. But certainly if someone wanted to, on an individual basis, take a look, we would invite them to contact us. But in terms of the open house I think when we've completed the installation of the new equipment in the fall of the year, we would give ample notice and invite members to attend.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that. I would just like to suggest that possibly we will not be in Session in the fall and, because many of our members are from all across Manitoba it's not that easy. I wonder if there could be some consultation maybe taking place. Maybe we could tie that in sometime when we have, let's say, a caucus meeting in the city and work it in, because I'm sure mostly the rural members - well, everybody I believe - would find it very interesting. Maybe we could consult on the matter, and then maybe we can work out some kind of an agreeable date.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: We'd be quite agreeable to that. I should point out that we had earlier indicated our desire to have an open house in the Forestry Branch, another branch which has utilized, adapted the technology to quite an extent. Certainly what we could do I think, before this Session is over, perhaps have that open house session this spring while we're on, in June; and then the other session, yes, we could communicate with the critic and the House Leader for the Opposition and establish a date where we could set that up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 10.(a)(1) to 10.(f)(2), inclusive, were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 127: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,174,300 for Natural Resources, Surveys and Mapping, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Item No. 11., Resource Support Programs, 11.(a)(1) Manitoba Water Commission: Salaries; 11.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Honourable Minister.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I think we had an agreement to revert to some of the other items, and I would seek concurrence from the critic, but we had

skipped over Engineering and Construction and Water Resources, and this is a relatively straightforward item on the Resource Support. If he wants to go through that, that is fine but if - as the agreement was earlier to revert, I would seek advice from the critic.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate to the Minister, I have just a few questions on this section. We could maybe pass this section and then work Construction and Engineering and Water Resources and Capital all in one shot, if that's agreeable.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: That's quite acceptable to me. Perhaps before we go into the section - and basically it's Conservation Districts Authority that I think members will be interested in - I want to introduce the staff members who have joined us now. Tom Weber is at my immediate right; he's the director of the Water Resources. Next to him is Umendra Mital, who is the director for Engineering and Construction. Immediately across from him is Ian Dickson, who's the executive director of the Conservation Districts Authority. Previously we had at the table the assistant deputy, Derek Doyle.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate, under the Manitoba Water Commission, there's a reduction in - in fact, the Salaries have been done away with. Is the Manitoba Water Commission disbanded? Is there still a board in place? Do they meet once in awhile yet? Do they still have regulatory powers over water levels, for example, on the Saskatchewan River?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: We still see that there is a role for the Manitoba Water Commission. There are some outstanding issues, but we are looking at a different way of providing support services for the commission, rather than having a staff for the commission apart from the department as part of our attempts to deliver the services in the most economical fashion.

The two staff people will be assigned to the department and then the administrative support for the Water Commission will come from the department. So the Water Commission will still be in place to address some of the issues. We do have some questions arising out of the licensing for the dam on the Reindeer Lake, as an example, and there were other works that were considered previously. So those are issues which could yet be addressed by the Water Commission.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I assume there is still a board and that the board is meeting from time to time.

Could the Minister indicate when the board last met and how often they do meet?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, the last issue that the commission was dealing with was the matter of regulation on Reindeer Lake. That was in the fall, during the course of '86. There was to be a meeting, I think, in November of '86 in Thompson, and I think that meeting was cancelled. So there has not been another assignment for the Water Commission at that time.

We've had contact with community groups, particularly those that would be impacted by the

regulation on Reindeer Lake again, so there is an anticipation that there will be need for further hearings but that was the last assignment that the Water Commission had.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask some questions with respect to the conservation districts - not the ones that have been set up - and indeed the program whereby Mr. Dickson - and I've come to learn that this is funded under the Agri-Food Agreement. I understand that this thrust of encouraging the development of conservation districts takes its funding from the Agri-Food Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I've now seen the fruits of those labours at least in bringing people together to talk about developing conservation districts in two locations within my riding. One of them is the area south of Portage, north of St. Claude, in the infamous Overhill Drain area, and also in the early stages of development, I suppose, in I think it's the Tobacco Creek area, including the Rural Municipality of Morris.

Mr. Chairman, I'm a little bit concerned about the approach that seems to be taken. I have no difficulty with the department through its employee and messenger, Mr. Dickson, going to various groups and municipalities and trying to have them look at the feasibility of banding together and forming a conservation district. However, I think it's highly incumbent upon the Minister today to stand in his place and tell us what commitment his department is going to make to these groups of people who are coming together in good faith, I might add, and are preparing - they're planning accordingly - to try and expedite the solution of their problems.

Mr. Chairman, I'm well aware that particularly the group from the Overhill Drain - and I think this government is over the hill - but nevertheless, the Overhill Drain has been expecting something on paper from the department as to what commitment the government is going to make towards that project.

I do know that it has been engineered. I do know there has been at least a preliminary attempt at engineering that has been provided to the residents within the area, and there has been some global cost figure, I'm told, associated with that. Yet what is missing very much, Mr. Chairman, is some further statement by the department as to whether or not they are prepared to enter into an agreement to move towards completing the problem or attempting to resolve the problem in that area.

It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that what we have here is a case where Mr. Dickson, in performing his duties - and I have no quarrel with the manner in which he is doing it. I sat in attendance at a meeting in Roland, and I thought there was a very open, frank discussion, and there was a real excitement there, I sensed, of people wanting to deal with their drainage problem or their water retention problem, however you want to look at it. I think Mr. Dickson did the proper thing in telling people that, look it, the main caution I bring to you is you just can't jump into these things without thinking about them well ahead, thinking about them for some period of time. Also, I think he almost

encouraged them to realize that there would have to be some major infusion of dollars locally, that it was important to them, that would be required. Mr. Chairman, I don't question the approach that was taken in that case.

But when I look at the Overhill situation, I sense a little bit different item. There I think, with the various visits they had with this Minister, new in his portfolio, there certainly was an unwritten understanding, in my view, that there would be some movement within the short term, however defined. Yet, Mr. Chairman, here we are now, a full year later, and nothing really has occurred other than the engineering plan. That's important; there is no question. The municipalities out there and the citizen's group are trying to determine whose move next it is.

I know the Minister is cognizant of the problem. He's probably been updated in not too long-time standing as to the present status of that project, but I want to know from the mouth of the Minister whose move is it next with respect to the Overhill Drain project because, quite frankly, now that we have sort of an onslaught of drier weather, I know the department is hoping that the problem goes away and doesn't have to be dealt with.

Mr. Chairman, in fairness not only to the Minister and those people who are out there, but also to the attempts by Mr. Dickson to go throughout the province and to encourage groups to come together and form conservation districts, I think in fairness to that whole process that it's incumbent upon this Minister to say specifically what he is prepared to do in dealing with the Overhill project.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: I guess I want to recognize, as the Member for Morris has, that the executive director of the Conservation Districts Authority has indeed done a very good job of going out and communicating with the different interest groups and developing interest in the conservation districts, because I feel that we must go further in our efforts to utilize the land in a way which will show that we see it as a resource that has to be managed by future generations, and manage it in a way which will not have a negative impact on others in the environment.

In fact, about a year ago now when I was assuming my responsibilities, I think that one of the first phone calls I received was from the Member for Morris who indicated that there was a concern about the Overhill Drain. Very shortly after that, I had the opportunity to view the area, courtesy of the Henry brothers, who took me up in their little two-seater aircraft and we viewed the area.

I did have several meetings after that point, along with the executive director who had several meetings in the area, and we indicated that, if in fact we were to participate in a solution for the area with the Overhill Drain which, we have to remember, the Overhill Drain itself is a municipal drain and a municipal drain which had not been maintained by the municipality over the years. It was allowed to deteriorate, and that is part of the problem. They were now suggesting that we should participate in the solution to the problem, and we said the only vehicle through which we could participate would be a conservation district.

An earlier study had been done which indicated that perhaps for the expenditure of some \$640,000 the problem could be resolved. There was some resistance to the notion of a conservation district. Many of the individuals seemed to be concerned only with the question of drainage. We said that there was no way in which we could participate simply in the restoration of a municipal drain. If we were prepared to do that, in fact, we would be opening ourselves to many other claims, which I'm sure there would be many other municipalities which would be interested in having us take over the responsibility that they had for a drain.

So we then did proceed further to the point of a survey and design for a solution to the problems of the area. I think the Member for Morris is aware that there are some fairly fragile soils, the Almasippi sands, and that the design of the project had to be such that it would not adversely affect the area by lowering the water table excessively. Any of the drains had to be of such a nature that they could accommodate the runoff without erosion.

After the completion of the survey and the design work, the estimates of the cost for the best solution to the problem came out at \$1.5 million to \$2 million. So clearly, at that point, I indicated that there were not the resources within the department to undertake a project of that sort at this time. That was communicated, and I accept that there was disappointment on the part of the people in the area, and there was disappointment on our part in that now the cost had escalated to nearly three times what it had been earlier when we were initially talking about the project at about \$640,000.00. Now we had figures ranging up to \$2 million.

And very frankly, I would not want to mislead people to suggest that I could deliver that kind of a project when, in fact, it was not within the financial resources of the department to do so. And that was communicated to the people of the area.

We have had meetings subsequently. Only within the last two weeks, I met with some of the people. The executive director has met with some of the municipalities, and we have indicated to them that we are still open to the concept of a conservation district. We've sent that forward and they have yet to respond. But we said what we would be prepared to do is, on their commitment, to form a conservation district that we would provide them with some assistance for immediate relief of the project, but it would be part of that commitment to a conservation district. We have not had a response from them but, when we do have that commitment, then we can proceed.

Clearly, I want to point out that we are facing a bit of a dilemma. We think the conservation districts are an approach that we should follow, because the conservation districts concern themselves not only with land use for agricultural purposes. They concern themselves with land use for wildlife, for fisheries, addressing the broader issues of soil use and water management. So clearly, it is that kind of an integrated approach that we want to take.

But for my part, I want to state here, as I've stated elsewhere, that the capital projects related to water drainage are but one component of a conservation district. Frankly, I would like to see and I am encouraging an approach wherein there will be more emphasis on adapting our activity to the landscape, rather than trying to shape the landscape to our needs.

Now, there has to be some middle ground. We can do that to some point. We can put in place some drainage projects but, clearly, I think the emphasis has to be on the non-capital kinds of projects. I think it's clear when we are reviewing the Estimates that in terms of our own capacity to undertake these works we are going to be increasingly tested. We have a system in place that has to be maintained. We are under some pressure in terms of our capacity to maintain the existing system, whether it be the existing drains. We are falling behind, I say to you, in terms of our bridge replacement program, and that has to be addressed.

So clearly, we will not be able to - if the view of people on the landscape is that a conservation district will mean automatically large capital works, that is not my vision of conservation districts for the future. The drainage projects will be but one component of an approach to managing the resources of the area.

I want to table for the members a couple of documents which I think clearly illustrate the kind of approach that can be taken. I reference two of them, the Turtle River Watershed Conservation District and the Turtle Mountain Conservation District, the background report. These are developed primarily by the boards of the conservation districts with support, and we are providing funding for support to develop longer-term plans for the conservation districts, because I think it is crucial that these kinds of undertakings have a long-term plan, that they are not in fact sporadic efforts.

These two, which I think are very excellent examples of people at the grass-roots level, at the community level to develop plans for the management of their own resources with some support from the department, and the two documents that I'm tabling are the plan for the Turtle Mountain Conservation District, the background report, and the other is the Turtle River Watershed Conservation District Report.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Natural Resources leaves a lot on the record that could be rebutted. However, some of it, I have no difficulty agreeing with when he talks about integration. He conveniently takes some of the specific comments that I made with respect to the Overhill Drain and moves into the general discussion of conservation districts and talks about integration, and I have no difficulty with that. But I'm asking him to be a little bit more candid, Mr. Chairman. I'm asking him firstly - I don't need the help from some of my colleagues. It would probably expedite matters a little bit more quickly.

A MEMBER: You don't even take lectures from them?

MR. C. MANNES: No, I don't.

I'm wondering if he could tell us specifically, firstly, whether he believes that Overhill area should be drained because obviously that's, in my view at this time, the most urgent solution to a problem. Now when I'm saying draining, I'm not meaning wholesale draining. I'm aware of the frailties, soil types through that area as the member. Am I supposed to get out of his remarks the fact, when he talks about not changing the landscape, that indeed he feels and the department feels that area should sort of fall back into a semi-state of wilderness or whatever.

Because when the Minister talks about integration, quite frankly, he's going to have to tell me how the citizens in that area, given the fact that they've had three terrible years of excess moisture - and they may or may not continue in that sense, Mr. Chairman. Maybe dry years will be upon us again, and it won't be a major problem. But he's going to have to tell us how indeed, when they're paying school taxes at the rate they are and other things, how it is that they can make a major contribution to a conservation district. And I guess behind it all is the main question. What commitment - is it spelled out on paper; is it written? - is he prepared to make to that conservation district once it responds to his request? Has he indicated anywhere in what the department is prepared to direct towards a \$2 million project that uses the vehicle or the instrument of a conservation district, because I think the time is gone? We can't wait any longer for the discussion dealing with integration. I think all the work has been done. It's now decision time, and I would ask that he reply specifically to those questions, if he will.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, yes, clearly I recognize that the farmers of the area do have a problem, and we have been working with them to try and develop a solution to it. What they need is some immediate relief on the Overhill Drain which, I want to point out again, is a municipal drain, one which was not maintained by the municipality over a period of some 20 years, was not adequately maintained, and it has deteriorated to the point where it is causing a problem. We want to help them with that but we, as well, have to be sure that we are doing it within an acceptable framework and that framework, we feel, is the conservation district.

The offer to them has been put in writing. It has been submitted to the municipalities, so there's no doubt to what we are committed to. I've said it here and have stated to the people who have visited my office, the project as we had originally envisaged is not one that we can afford at this time. So that is not what is in the package, but the package that we have identified as one that we can deliver has been put in writing. It has been delivered to the municipalities, and I'm assuming that we will hear from them shortly.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I haven't dialogued with the municipalities over the last two weeks. Can the Minister make public what it is that he has offered? I can't see the problem in making that type of commitment public at this time. Would he care to do so?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I would prefer to deal with the municipalities directly, but we did have some of the ratepayers in the office and we shared some of the information with them. Because it has already been sent to the municipalities, I think it is quite in order to state it in this Chamber.

We had indicated to them that we still saw the need to establish a conservation district, and the support that we would provide to them was on the understanding that the conservation district would in fact be established. That is the goal they were working toward. In anticipation of that, we were prepared to spend

\$100,000, plus provide the engineering and support for the relief project.

MR. C. MANNES: So I just want to recap this, Mr. Chairman. Then out of a \$2 million project, the department was prepared to spend \$100,000, plus donate engineering services in support of that project.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, I don't want to leave the impression that what we are undertaking at this point is the \$2 million project, Mr. Chairman.

I think there is general agreement when we said that we do not have the resources to fund a \$2 million project. In sitting and discussing with the municipality and some of the landowners who were in my office, they said let's look at that project which we require some relief on, and I believe that's a \$240,000 project for providing the relief. It is on that relief project, in terms of their commitment to the conservation district, that we will participate to that extent, \$100,000 plus the supervision and the design.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, with the agreement of the Minister, I'd like to just maybe raise one or two questions under this section and we can pass Resolution 11., and then go into the three areas that are left, which are basically Capital, Water Resources, Construction Engineering.

The comment I want to make under this section here, before we pass Section 11., is the Minister's been talking extensively about the Habitat Enhancement Fund and the aspect of we need to work with other people, we need to work with other organizations to establish habitat retention, and here we have \$250,000 that is going to be expended by the government for that kind of thing. I find that passing strange in terms of the comments that the Minister has been making in the last number of days in terms of habitat enhancement.

Could the Minister explain what that \$250,000 is for, basically?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I think the member is referring to the \$250,000 for the Habitat Heritage Corporation?

MR. A. DRIEDGER: It says here "Habitat Enhancement Fund."

HON. L. HARAPIAK: That's correct; that's for the Habitat Heritage Corporation.

I want to point out for the member, that is but one of the efforts in terms of habitat enhancement. I yesterday spoke of the HELP program, which is a new initiative which is apart from this. Much of the funding that goes into the conservation districts, for example, if the members would review these - and again I point to Turtle Mountain as an excellent example of where a component of their efforts is directed towards habitat projects. Built into many of these efforts are the concerns for dealing with habitat and the environment.

The Habitat Heritage Corporation, there is a board that has been established which we provide funding to, in this case, .25 million. It is a board that operates

independently and reports to me as the Minister. Their efforts are to conserve, restore and enhance the habitat for fish and wildlife. They can undertake fund-raising projects on their own.

I only last week talked to one of the board members, and they were going to have a meeting in Brandon. They have been meeting in the field; they have not been operating out of a central location. Last fall, they met in Swan Valley and they met with a particular group that I referenced on a couple of occasions now, the Swan Valley Fish Enhancement Corporation.

They met, went into the field, looked at different projects and received advice, and the Habitat Heritage Corporation is spending some money in that region and other parts of the province on habitat enhancement programs. So it is a grant that we make to the corporation, then those funds are administered by that board independently. They can as well undertake fund-raising efforts, if they wish, or people can simply make contribution to that board for the purposes of habitat enhancement.

I want to point out clearly that is but one avenue through which we make a contribution to habitat enhancement.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to pass Resolution No. 11. with a proviso that under Water Resources we can talk about the conservation districts and continue along that vein. Then we'll pass this, get this out of the way, and then we'll deal with the three items together. Pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 11. Resource Support Programs, Items 11.(a)(1) to 11.(e), inclusive, were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 128: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$780,600 for Natural Resources, Resource Support Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Reverting back to Item No. 3.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: For clarification, maybe I think the Minister and myself understand what we're trying to do and, for your clarification maybe, we'll be dealing with Item No. 3., Item No. 4., and Item No. 12. all concurrently. We're talking about Engineering and Construction, Water Resources, and I thought we'd deal with Capital at the same time, so that we're dealing with three resolutions, because members have various concerns that they want to express and we'll deal with it until we feel that we've exhausted it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I understand it, we shall consider together Item No. 3., Item No. 4. and Item No. 12.—the Member for Pembina.

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

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister some specific questions, and these will relate to the capital program description. When we go to 12-12B-4(e) on page 4, we have Town Dykes. This program, which is in its fifth year of construction, is intended to raise and upgrade ring dykes in eight Red River Valley communities. Now, I'm interested, Mr. Chairman, in

knowing, with the addition of Ste. Rose in that particular program, as to whether a cost-benefit study was done by the department to determine the cost benefit on the Ste. Rose project?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, I'm advised that a cost-benefit study was done on that project.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that answer.

Could he indicate whether, when we get to page 6, Item 12-12B-4(g), Flood Control Works, Town of Gimli and R.M. of Gimli, a three-year program estimated to cost \$1,376,200 this year, a cost benefit was done on that one, Mr. Chairman?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised again that there is a cost benefit on that. It should be noted that it is in fact a project involving two components, one within the rural municipality providing agricultural drainage and the other component providing protection for the Town of Gimli.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, my question is to the Minister, in developing the cost benefit, was the same criterion used in Ste. Rose as was used in the Town of Gimli?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, the same criteria were applied. The cost benefit, in order for the Federal Government to participate, if there's to be Federal Government participation - and of course that applies, I'm told, to urban settings - the cost benefit must be one or greater. If the cost benefit is less than one, there would not be any federal participation in it.

MR. D. ORCHARD: In each case, Ste. Rose and the Town of Gimli, was the cost benefit greater than one, and is the Federal Government participating?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: The Federal Government is participating in Ste. Rose where the cost benefit is one. The cost benefit for Gimli is less than one, and there will not be any federal participation in that one.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, has the department done a cost benefit study on flood protection for the Town of Carman?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm told that there have been, I believe, three reviews of that particular flooding problem, and the cost-benefit ratios, using the Federal Treasury Board guidelines that we were speaking of, in each case they were less than one. That is under review again at this time with PFRA to update the cost-benefit ratio. It should be noted that, in the last Estimates, the cost of that project was \$8 million.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, have the identical criteria been used in determining the cost benefit for flood protection in the Town of Carman as were used in the cost benefit studies that exist in his department for the Town of Ste. Rose and the Town of Gimli?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the same criteria were used.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be so kind as to provide me a copy of each of those cost-benefit studies: the Town of Ste. Rose, the Town of Gimli, and the most recent one the department has done in terms of the Town of Carman?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, those are public documents and we can make those available.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I note the Minister said that the Town of Gimli was not a cost benefit at unity, and the province decided to move ahead and provide that flood protection. He made the specific point in reference to the Town of Carman, that flood protection was estimated to cost \$8 million, the latest estimate. It also, according to the Minister, is not at unity in terms of cost benefit.

Is the Minister saying that, because the project in Carman may cost more than the one at Gimli, that is the reason they are not being provided with flood protection at this time at the entire expense of the Province of Manitoba?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, Mr. Chairman, there are limits, as we were indicating only a short while ago in the discussion on the conservation districts. We had looked at a project for the Overhill Drain, which we then recognized was beyond our capacity to deliver. The \$8 million is clearly beyond the provincial capacity to deliver. If that is what the Member for Pembina is asking, whether it is beyond our capacity to deliver, I would have to say yes.

MR. D. ORCHARD: So in other words, Mr. Chairman, what the Minister is saying is that a town, if the project has less than unity and it may be \$1 million, \$1.5 million and is represented by a Cabinet Minister, the less than unity, that it is within the financial capacity of the NDP Government. If the town exists in a non-NDP riding, such as Carman, and happens to cost more money, it is not within the fiscal capacity of this NDP Government. That's what he's saying this afternoon. Is that correct?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: No, Mr. Chairman, clearly that is not what I am saying. I am saying that we will not purport, as some people will, to deliver a project that is beyond our means.

We had discussions; I had a discussion with the Honourable Jack Murta within the last year - I believe it was during the summer months in July and August - where he stopped in to discuss the possibility of joint federal-provincial participation in the Carman diversion project, recognizing as he did that it was a very costly project, very much in need for the community of Carman. In fact, I had a delegation from the community of Carman, they made a presentation on that particular project. They had photographs indicating the extent of the flooding pictorially, so clearly it is not a matter, as the Member for Pembina would suggest - and perhaps it is a reflection of the basis on which he would make decisions.

It is not a matter of whether it is represented on the government's side or not. It is clearly a question of what is affordable because, though we indicate that we are able to participate in a project to the extent

of, say, \$760,000, we could not participate in a \$7 million or \$8 million project without some kind of federal-provincial cost-sharing. It is simply a reflection of that.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, my MP, the MP for Lisgar, has attempted over four years now to negotiate with successive NDP Ministers of Natural Resources to no avail. It has gotten him nowhere and it has gotten the community of Carman nowhere in discussing their flood protection.

I ask the Minister to tell me and to tell the people of Carman what it would take, in terms of participation from the Federal Government, in order that he might consider this project of flood protection for the Town of Carman to be within the fiscal means of this NDP Government in Manitoba when the unity in cost benefit is less than one, the same as it is in Gimli, where they are able to find the money to provide flood protection. What would it take from the Federal Government to make this Minister and his Cabinet colleagues listen?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Well, let me suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that we had a very reasoned discussion with Mr. Murta. He recognized that there was a very serious problem in the community, that we did have to address that. He recognized that there were different projects that had to be considered. He was concerned about the project, and he said he would take it forward. Now it is incorrect for the Member for Pembina to suggest that the province has not accepted an offer put forward by the Federal Government through Mr. Murta.

Mr. Murta was sincere in his effort to deliver the project. He said he was going to go and discuss the matter with the Ministers responsible at the federal level to see what level of participation there would be. Unfortunately, I think, for the people of the Carman area, very shortly after that Mr. Murta was relieved of his Cabinet responsibilities.

But clearly, there was never a figure put on the table from the Federal Government which we, as a province, refused. So let the Member for Pembina not suggest that it is the Provincial Government that is refusing to participate in a program that the Federal Government has said, here is some money, here is the level of our participation. That is not the case.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, if the Minister was listening, he would clearly have understood that I never put that case to him. I asked him what would it take in terms of a proposal from the Federal Government to make him, as an NDP Cabinet Minister, sell the Town of Carman's flood diversion to an NDP Cabinet.

What would it take? Would the feds have to provide 90 percent of the funding, 80 percent of the funding, 50 percent of the funding, 30 percent of the funding? What would it take to make you interested in providing flood protection to Carman, which isn't represented by an NDP Cabinet Minister?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, let the record show clearly that we are participating in projects for flood protection that are not represented only on the government side. The Member for Pembina insists in his reference that it is somehow the government is tending only to those areas that are represented on

the government's side. We are participating in projects on a cost-sharing of 45 percent federal, 50 percent provincial and 5 percent in terms of the municipality.

Clearly, let the record show, we participate throughout the province, not as suggested by the Member for Pembina that we would be selective or perhaps even vindictive as some might be in their decision-making.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister might answer a simple question. Those projects in which there was 45 percent, 50 percent and 5 percent participation by the three levels of government, are the cost benefits on those projects above one?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, they meet the criteria set out, the Federal Treasury Board guidelines, where the cost-benefit ratio has to be one or more.

MR. D. ORCHARD: And that, Mr. Chairman, is exactly why I make the point to this Minister, because Carman is less than one in cost-benefit ratio as is Gimli. Only in the case of Gimli, there's an NDP Cabinet Minister and they get flood protection in that town. In Carman, there isn't, so they don't from this government.

I ask the Minister, and I repeat the question: What does it take from the Federal Government to provide flood protection in the Town of Carman? How much do the feds have to offer you - 30 percent, 45 percent, 20 percent? What does it take you to get you interested in providing flood protection to Carman, where the cost benefit is less than one, where you provided it to the Town of Gimli at 100 percent taxpayer costs in Manitoba?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, the figures are being reviewed and if the cost-benefit ratios come to the point where the Federal Government is prepared to participate, all they need do is put the offer on the table.

I don't think the member is suggesting that we would deal with Carman in isolation of the other projects that there is interest in. The Member for Pembina and the Member for Turtle Mountain are interested in Pelican Lake as an example, and I've suggested that perhaps what we should do is identify a number of these projects in different locations in the province and develop a federal-provincial agreement to bring these forward where clearly we, as a province, cannot do it independently.

Now let the member state for the record, if he will, though we participated in the project for Gimli which, for a town protection, though the cost benefit was not one, clearly there are projects in other parts of the province which are 100 percent funded by the Provincial Government which are in ridings which are not represented on the government benches at this time. So let him not suggest in his comments that the funding for water-related projects is dedicated to those areas represented only by members on the government side.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister attempts to get out of the quagmire that he has dug himself into, because those projects that are funded in other than NDP ridings have a cost-benefit ratio above one. That is the difference. And they fall within the Federal Government criteria.

Where this government, this NDP gang, has made decisions is in the less than cost-benefit ratio one, and there they decide to put the projects in NDP constituencies and not in Conservative constituencies. That is the point I make. That is the point this Minister cannot refute, because that is exactly what they have done.

Mr. Chairman, now that we're on the second subject of the chain of lakes in the Pembina Valley - Swan, Rock, Pelican - can the Minister indicate whether it is now government policy, as he suggested at a meeting with the councillors out there, that work might be able to go ahead if the municipal councils and their ratepayers contributed to the cost of improving those lakes? Is that now government policy that water improvement projects go ahead, providing local councils kick in some money?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: On the matter of the Pembina lakes, the tri-lakes committee - Improvement Committee, I believe it's called - invited me to a meeting in Killarney on the 4th of December. I attended; I had the pleasure of the company of the Member for Turtle Mountain, and we attended the meeting, but I thought we had a very reasoned discussion with the people of the area.

The suggestion of municipal government participation came from the municipalities. They said we were looking for ways in which the project might go forward, and one of the suggestions that was brought forward by the municipalities was the possibility that they would make their equipment available, and we said clearly perhaps we should be exploring those kinds of possibilities. We did also make reference to the interest in the sharing agreement between the Federal and the Provincial Governments.

I note in a letter that I received from the Member for Pembina last year, in fact, that there was concern on his part that I was suggesting that he and the Member for Lisgar should make up their minds. Let me indicate to the member, I made no reference to his absence or presence at that meeting.

I did make reference . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: You said that Jack Murta and I should make up our minds which we want, the Carman diversion or the lakes, and I told you "both."

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. D. ORCHARD: Did you not say that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, we are under some rules of procedure. If you have the floor, you have the floor. If you don't have the floor, you don't speak if somebody has the floor.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, Mr. Chairman, I indicated to the group present - and they themselves said that they had had meetings with Mr. Murta. We had had a discussion with Mr. Murta about Carman, but I made the comment at that meeting, just as I did in this Chamber, that perhaps what we should be doing is looking at a larger agreement within which we would identify several projects that could be incorporated into

a federal-provincial agreement on water management issues.

I said Mr. Murta had spoken to the question of Carman. He had, at their meeting, spoken to the question of the tri-lakes, and I did not suggest that it had to be one or the other, but I said that we needed support for both of those projects.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has put an interesting synopsis of that meeting on the record. He's indicated that the municipal councillors, in an effort to get improvements to the lakes in the Pembina Valley, offered the use of their equipment.

I want to tell the Minister why they did that is because they are totally frustrated in trying to get anything done with this NDP Government. Parks in Northern Manitoba -(Interjection)- Oh, now my honourable friend talks from his seat, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The same rule applies to the Honourable Minister, with respect.

MR. D. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, in 1981, equipment and supplies were in place to make improvements to Pelican Lake and, if this Minister does not know that, he should study the department's budget. That equipment was removed from Pelican Lake and not spent there and it was moved, I believe, to a water project in an NDP-held constituency in 1982.

That's what happened when a Conservative Government was in. We moved to improve those lakes. When the NDP came in, in 1981, they cancelled the project, they moved the supplies to an NDP constituency to take on a water project. That is why municipal councillors now are so desperate to get something done in the tri-lake improvement that they offer to put up their equipment.

You don't find anybody, any councillors in this member's constituency of Swan River, ever saying, well, we'll put up our equipment if you'll just do something. No. When you're in an NDP constituency with an NDP Government, you don't have to do that, because you get your water projects when you're an NDP constituency with an NDP Government. But when you're someone else who is in Opposition, represented in Opposition, you have to, out of desperation, offer the equipment and the taxpayers of your municipality's monies to initiate a project to improve those lakes in Southern Manitoba, because an NDP Government has written off Southern Manitoba in Highways and Natural Resources and in many other areas.

That is the basic problem with this Minister and this government and, if he doesn't understand that, take a look at your map and find out where you're doing projects. Where you're doing projects in Southern Manitoba is where the Federal Government is putting in 45 percent, otherwise there's nothing happening.

If you want to talk about tourism, take a look at those three lakes. There are the only three major lakes in Southern Manitoba; their quality has gone down. This NDP Government, which as been in power for all but four of the last 17 years, has done absolutely nothing except remove improvement projects to Pelican Lake, and move them and the resources to an NDP constituency, where they have a water project they want

to do. They cut projects approved in Southern Manitoba and moved them elsewhere, and that's why municipal councillors, out of frustration, offer their equipment to try to initiate and get this government off their duff so they'll do something in Southern Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm just wondering if the Minister - there was some reference to the Gimli flood diversion, and I'd like perhaps the Minister to respond to some questions. Can the Minister confirm that in fact sod was turned for that diversion plan in 1981 under the Lyon Government?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, in fact that sod was turned by the previous administration in 1981. I'm told that there was another occasion on which the sod was turned for this project, but I will get the date for that.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Another question I would like to ask, can the Minister confirm that, in 1981, when the photograph of the Premier, the Mayor and the Reeve were taken at the sod turning, there was no federal cost-sharing in the project, in the same case as exists today?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: That is correct, Mr. Chairman, that the same ratio existed at that time. The Federal Government was not prepared, or the guidelines did not allow for their participation. But the government, the members opposite of the day were government, and they were prepared to fund it; they did turn the sod.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: One final question, can the Minister confirm that in the proposed agricultural and flood protection at Gimli that in fact the local municipality from the Town of Gimli will be contributing towards the project, which I believe is something that hadn't even been agreed to in 1981? In other words, under this administration there is not as high a proportion of the cost to be picked up by the province as would have been done under the Lyon administration in 1981.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, we will obtain the information for the cost-sharing as it was outlined in 1981, and compare that to the cost-sharing formula that was here.

But clearly, Mr. Chairman, before we proceed with further questions, I want to reference the comments from the Member for Pembina again, as he demonstrated in his style, to harmonize relationships here in the Chamber. I think it illustrates as well why there are some of the difficulties at the municipal level when we try to get groups to work together. In his absence at the meeting in Killarney in the presence of the -(Interjection)- I'm referencing a meeting in Killarney, not a meeting in this Chamber.

The Member for Turtle Mountain was present; we had a very frank discussion with the people at the

community level. They talked about the level of funding that was required for the different projects because of their cost estimates for each of the three lakes, for Pembina, for Swan and for Rock. We indicated that we did not have the resources, and I would not mislead them and suggest to them that we had the funding available for that.

So we said, what approaches are there. How can we work together to perhaps bring some of these to be? It was the municipal people who threw out some of the ideas, that I was very pleased that they would indicate their concern, their level of support, that they were prepared to undertake this kind of an approach. But we said clearly, what we have to look at is if there is support available from the community level, if there is support available from the province, and if the Federal Government is prepared to support, perhaps we can have this project under way. It should be pointed out that when the project was considered at one stage at Pelican Lake, there was resistance from some of the cottagers. What was required was an easement from some of the cottagers, and some 120 cottagers were not prepared to give the easements to raise the level of the lake.

So I'm wondering what the Member for Pembina would suggest, that we ignore the interests of those cottager5"ld we simply raise the water level and bear the risk that goes with that. So we said we cannot proceed. One of the key considerations before we proceed is to put in place not only an inlet structure, which would allow you to raise the lake but, in the absence of an outlet structure to control the water level, there would have to be easements from the cottagers. Perhaps that can be obtained; perhaps at the municipal level that can be obtained. But surely, surely we should not be proceeding without regard for those cottagers who are there. I think it would be irresponsible for us to do so.

I appreciate the concerns of the members, the communities in those areas; they want to see tourism develop. It used to be a place of significant attraction, that's correct; it used to be a significant attraction. There are changes, there are concerns for water quality, there are changes in traffic patterns. It used to be a popular area for many of the visitors from the U.S. Those visitors are now going to points further north.

But let us point out for the record that this is not a problem which has been there only for a short period of time which this administration has not addressed. That problem has been there since the 1950's. It was there in the Fifties; it was there in the Sixties. In that brief term of office, the members opposite indicated some willingness to deal with the issue, and we have indicated that we are prepared to deal with it as well. But there are concerns about water quality in that area because we do have the run-off from the agricultural land, and there's a nutrient loading in those lakes. So there is no simple solution.

But let the Member for Pembina not indicate that there is some viciousness on the part of this government that we would deal only with seats represented on the government side. I think that is just a reflection of the attitude that he would bring to government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to get into the regulations that come under The Water Rights Act that was gazetted. Now it's going to take a licence for just about anything that anybody is going to do on their property, whether it's running water off their property or just running it within their own property. Can the Minister tell me how long it will take to get a licence to carry on these changes to the water or whatever?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: What we have to point out is that there are many kinds of activities on the landscape for which a permit will not be required. We are undertaking that consultation with the regional water managers to put out information so that people clearly recognize that there are many kinds of drainage activities for which they will not require a licence. The regulations will require that anybody who is draining a permanent or semi-permanent water body, having an impact on water levels in the area, having an impact on downstream users, those would require licensing, but others would not.

Now for those that require a licence, we anticipate that we can deal with those certainly within a 90-day period.

MR. E. CONNERY: I don't know if the Minister read the regulations. By your regulations, you say you're going to have control over anything that we do on the farm. I haven't seen anything that's going to suggest there's going to be relaxation. Is the Minister going to put out a memo saying what is not going to require a licence? Because the farmers out there, first of all, I don't think a lot of them know what the regulations are; and secondly, if they ever read them, then before they even dig a little puddle drainage they're going to have to get a licence. To do any of these works, are they going to have surveyors and go to a high cost for any little project? This is a scary document.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, Mr. Chairman, if the Member for Portage finds it is a scary document, I hope by way of the conversation that we can have here that we can alleviate some of his fears. He can, in turn, rather than perpetuate the fears out in the community, help us set some of those aside, because that is what we want.

Clearly it should be understood, Mr. Chairman, that what we are doing by way of these regulations is responding to problems that are already out in the field. We have had representation from municipalities wherein municipal officials have indicated that there have been drainage projects undertaken which should not have been undertaken by individuals. The resulting erosion and siltation in the waterways, drainage ditches, simply then unloads the cost onto someone else.

So I'm not sure if the Member for Portage la Prairie is suggesting that we should not have any regulation of those activities. We want, by way of these regulations, to ensure that the land is managed in a responsible way, and also to ensure that there aren't those kinds of activities that will pass costs onto the general taxpayer.

Because if, in fact, the activity is such that it results in erosion, siltation of ditches, and those have to be

upgraded, just as the Overhill Drain now has to be cleared out, who pays those costs? They are asking the Provincial Government, through the general taxpayers, to restore the Overhill Drain. It is the activities of the people in the field that have contributed to those costs. So clearly, if we can manage those activities, we can avoid some of the costs into future years. So it's not only a cost consideration in terms of maintenance, but ensuring that the land and water resource is well managed.

There are clearly activities which have no impact on the water regime, that will not impact people downstream, that they will not require licensing. We will continue in our efforts to help the people better understand that. I'm not suggesting by way of these regulations that, because the regulations have been published, immediately it should be understood.

I've said in this Chamber and I've said elsewhere that one of the key factors that we have to develop is that of communication with different resource users. We're open to suggestions in terms of improving our communication with landowners, so that they can better understand not only what the purpose of the regulations are, but in fact which circumstances in which they would require a licence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I guess I share the same concerns as my colleague, the Member for Portage la Prairie, in this respect. I read the regulations also. I take some solace from the answer offered by the Minister saying that there are some clarifications to come with respect to drainage licences required, particularly - and I'm thinking of my area - on the flat clays where those of us who have built drainage into municipal ditches are under the impression that there may be licences required. The Minister says no.

I don't know if that was spelled out in that detail in the regulations. I went through them quickly; I did not see that exemption. I would ask him, firstly, why weren't those exemptions spelled out in the regulations so as to put people's minds to rest right there and then?

And, secondly, Mr. Chairman, I did detect another regulation dealing with dugouts, saying that indeed on my own farm, if I want to build a dugout, I have to apply for a licence. Now maybe the Minister is going to put my mind at rest and say, no, the big hand of government isn't going to have that much control over what you do on your farm in your own land. But, Mr. Chairman, I didn't see that exemption either.

I ask him then to clarify those two issues. Where are the exemptions, first of all, dealing with drainage on flat clay lands; and, secondly - (Interjection) - Well, I've got them on my desk because I pulled them out, and I'm glad that this question was brought out. But there's also a regulation dealing with dugouts, and I would ask him to direct some commentary toward that and why that had to come forward.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, we want to point out that for domestic purposes, we've indicated that anyone drawing less than 25,000 litres per day for household and sanitary purposes or for watering lawns and gardens and watering of livestock and poultry, it's

considered domestic use and a licence would not be required. If that is a well from a river, from a dugout, that would not be required.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I'm not talking about drawing water from an existing dugout; I'm talking about creating a new dugout. What the Minister read me does not indicate that I don't have to pay a licence fee because I want to create a source of potable water. The regulation, as I read it here, says that I'll have to pay a licence to dig a hole on my own farm to pond water.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, Mr. Chairman, when a water supply is created, for example, if you drill a well, the well may have far in excess of the capacity required for domestic purposes, but whether or not it has to be licensed is determined by the extent to which the owner uses it. So that - (Interjection) - That's correct, it's a well.

If, say, agricultural use is exempted and if it is not to be used beyond the point indicated, beyond 25,000 litres per day which is 5,000 gallons a day, even though the capacity of the well may exceed that, there's no need to license it.

The same would be true for a dugout. You could have a large dugout; it's not the size of the dugout which would determine it, but the extent to which the water supply would be used.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, let me ask a specific question.

I come in the flat from the area west of the river. We don't dig wells. We dig ponds, dugouts, 10-15 feet in depth. They hold water, Mr. Chairman. Will I have to pay a licence fee? Will I have to make an application to some department level to have the right to dig a 15-foot deep pond or dugout on my own property?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Let me answer as clearly as I can. If it were to be for domestic purposes, no. If it were for industrial purposes, yes.

A MEMBER: Are farmers exempt?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Agriculture is exempt.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, I hear the chiding by the Member for Rossmere saying read the act. Mr. Chairman, we read the act, and that's why we fought it so bitterly in this House when it was introduced. We're well aware of the act.

Mr. Chairman, the act at the time did not spell out the fact that we would be charged a licence for incorporating or, indeed, for building a pond, a water-holding retention of surface run-off water on our own property. That was the intent of the question.

Finally, I ask the Minister: Then why wasn't that exemption spelled out clearly within the regulations and then there wouldn't have been any trouble?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. E. CONNERY: Can the Minister tell us how far back dated there are licences or requests for licences for irrigation today? How old are the oldest ones that haven't been approved?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could seek clarification. Is the member asking how, in terms of applications that are outstanding for approval, much of a backlog would there be? Okay.

The degree of backlog or the time delay would depend on the region. For example, along the La Salle River where there was a shortage of water supply, in fact, the permits were not being approved, permits were not being issued; but subsequent to the program being put in place to divert water from the Assiniboine to the La Salle, the permits were being dealt with on a first come, first serve basis.

There was the one case that the member has pointed out to me, someone from La Salle, a Mr. Mosiewich is it, I believe. He mentioned his name to me earlier. I don't know the current status of that one, but clearly there was a bit of a backlog where from previous years they were not in a position to allocate because there was no water to allocate.

MR. E. CONNERY: Would the Minister agree that there are some licence applications that go back to '82 and '83?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there well could have been some licences from that period of time but, in that there was no water to allocate for irrigation purposes, those would not have been approved. Now that has been overcome, I would hope that some of the licences that were requested were in, in that period of time, should surely have been amongst those that would have been dealt with first. If those are still outstanding, I would ask him to bring those to our attention.

MR. E. CONNERY: How far back would Ducks Unlimited structures have been put in place and not been inspected or licensed or authorized by the department? How far back would those Ducks Unlimited projects be?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised by staff that in fact there could be some of those that are not yet licensed. To get the specific date, if the member were to give us the location, and if he was interested in knowing whether a specific project was licensed, we would share that with him.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, Mr. Chairman, my information tells me that there are structures back to 1981 that haven't been approved or licensed by the department.

My whole line of questioning goes back to you've got a whole new set of regulations that are all going to require licences and inspection. You have a backlog now - and I personally can go back to other licences that now I have, so I'm not in a conflict of interest when I talk about this - but that long period of time where there was water, the Assiniboine River and all of these things, and the tremendous backlog in getting them processed.

Now you've got a whole new set of regulations that cover a tremendous area, a whole lot of new users and, in your Supplementary Information for your Estimates, you show that last year you had 10 staff and you've got 10 staff this year. Now how in God's

help are you ever going to get these licences processed? You're way behind now. You throw in a whole bunch more regulations that require licences, and you don't increase the staff.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I think it's important to note that some of the cases where a licence has not been granted, there may be a question of some deficiency in the structure that we are saying we're withholding the licence until such time as that deficiency is overcome. That is a possibility.

But when the member raises the question of staff and timing, I would certainly, as somebody who has a close relationship with the land and understands some of those frustrations, not want to see an extended time frame for approval of these.

I think what we have to consider - and if the member is passing on the concern to make sure that we have appropriate staff in place to deal with these in a timely fashion, I accept that. I have no difficulty with that but, if what he is suggesting is that we should not proceed with this because of some of the other costs involved in terms of staff and time, I would disagree with him.

I think it is a direction that we have to go in but certainly, in terms of providing proper staff and timely service, we would take advice on that and, if there are experiences that they can convey to us and if they can bring specific cases to our attention, if we can clear those up, we'd be delighted to do so.

MR. E. CONNERY: Mr. Chairman, they tell us that they are going to be 20-year licences. What if somebody got a licence within the last one or two years and it's a 20-year licence, are they going to be required to pay for water in a case where there is a fee required? Will they be required? Because the new people coming on stream, after the act, would then have to be paying. So would there be a difference or would the other people who were licensed earlier have to pay a fee also?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, if I understood the question correctly, it was in terms of charges. The existing licences will run their course, so we will not apply a charge on the basis of the existing licence. I'm told that some of these licences may run for a period of 10 years and, when the existing licence runs out and they convert to a new licence, then the charge, if applicable, would come with the new licence.

MR. E. CONNERY: Well, I guess I shouldn't complain too hard because I've got my licences in place, but it does seem like there's going to be some inequities with people coming on stream as is this Mosiewich application. It's exempt, but in the case of if it wasn't exempt, he would be having to pay because the licence was delayed.

Are there several cases similar to this Mosiewich where fees will be tacked on that should have been approved before the regulations came into play?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Let me point out clearly, Mr. Chairman, that there is no charge for irrigation. So when you're speaking of that, there need not be a concern about the timing in that respect because there is no charge for irrigation purposes. Now if the member

is concerned about the licence application, keep in mind that licence fee is \$50 for a period of 20 years. That is two-and-a-half dollars per year. Is that an unreasonable fee?

MR. E. CONNERY: I was just using the Mosiewich one as a case. I know that it's exempt and he won't have a charge for the water, but if there was a similar situation where there was a charge for water, in the case of irrigators, a licence is required. There is no charge for the water but a licence is required. The act says that everyone with a licence shall keep a record of their water use.

Are you saying now that the irrigators are going to have to put a meter of some sort on all of these pumps to meter the water that we're using?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, the metering would apply only in those situations where there was a charge. Clearly, if there is no charge for the water, there would be no need to meter it.

Again, I just want to comment briefly on the Mosiewich case. There was no water to allocate to the person, so in fact if we did provide a permit for him to pump water, I suppose it would then have meant taking water away from somebody else who was already using it. So I would want the Member for Portage to be aware of that and perhaps put that forward as well. If there is no water to allocate, there is no point in giving a permit, because then you conflict with those who already have their operations in place.

MR. E. CONNERY: The answer of the Minister indicates that he is not fully aware of the operations of his department and, recognizing that it's only been a year, that will give him a little more time to get into the detail, to understand some of the problems.

One of the areas that is a concern to me is there is

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Member for Portage would be more specific on the point which was not understood.

MR. E. CONNERY: The Minister is not sure about the licensing, Mr. Chairman. He doesn't realize and know the backlog and the problems that the department has in that area. So what I'm saying is that maybe he'll spend a little more time and get involved and give them some help because, with the 10 staff, it's not going to happen. They can't do it.

The other worry that I have is that there is an area for damage if a person with an irrigation permit, licence, is not high in the category of importance, so somebody comes along and they want to take away that licence. There is an area for damage claims which would stop somebody from frivolously wanting to take away that licence.

But what of the case of a situation where an irrigator is selling his farm and, because the regulations say that the licence doesn't go with it, then at that point somebody applies for more water at a higher classification, would that farmer then have to give up his licence and because his farm is not worth a darn without an irrigation licence - you can't sell a vegetable

farm if you don't have irrigation - would that farmer, under a circumstance like that, be out to lunch and not get compensation and then, therefore, not be able to sell his farm as an irrigation or a vegetable farm?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Let me point out, on page 14 of The Water Rights Act, Mr. Chairman, the priority for water use is designated. The member is describing a hypothetical case. Clearly, where there was not a need to allocate, if there were sufficient water supplies available with the transfer of the title to the farm, the new owner could have the water supply allocated.

But let me point out that municipal purposes is the second priority and surely, if there was a shortage of water for municipal purposes, then we would have to consider withholding that to meet the municipal needs. I know it's a difficult problem that we're facing, but I think that points out the need for this kind of an approach where we manage our water because, surely, I think even the Member for Portage la Prairie would agree that, if the Town of Portage la Prairie did not have adequate supply, it would be irresponsible of us to allocate water for irrigation purposes at the expense of the residents of the town. So clearly, there would be circumstances in which some of those decisions might have to be made, but I think it's purely hypothetical at this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gladstone.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Could the Minister tell us if, with the water licensing, would town water systems be covered under this? What about golf courses that irrigate and what about, for instance, the potato plant at Carberry and the one at Portage and the Springhill Farm Hog Processing Plant? Would they all be under this act, have to get a licence, and then meter their water and make all these reports on water use?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, before I respond to the Member for Gladstone, I'd wanted to distribute the information that we had available, and I think the question was asked earlier by the Member for Emerson as to what data we had to indicate that there were in fact water shortages. There is information here on different aquifers, different regions, so I would table these copies for distribution.

Now in terms of the question that the member raised, municipal supplies are chargeable. In terms of industrial use, there would be a charge; industrial users would be charged. A golf course again, as with others, if it's in excess of the limit of 25,000 litres per day or 5,000 gallons a day. If they didn't draw up to that point, there wouldn't be a charge; in excess of that point, there would be a charge.

MRS. C. OLESON: The material that's being distributed may answer this question, but I was wanting to ask the Minister what source he got his information from that dealt with the answer he gave me in question period one day when I asked about the sand points. He said that we would be in a severe water shortage by the year 2000. I was wondering where he got that. I was wondering if he got it from the Assiniboine-South

Hespeler Report, and if he has that report ready to table yet?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, in terms of the information, a lot of the water data is gathered by our department. There's funding with the Federal Government. PFRA as well collects data on water supplies, this is shared. So there is not one single source of information, but it is shared information gathered to a large extent by the Water Resources Branch of our department. The report on the Assiniboine-South Hespeler is in the process of being printed now so, as soon as the printing is completed, we will share it with the member and any others who are interested in it.

MRS. C. OLESON: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Maybe, Mr. Chairman, to conclude the debate on the Water Rights Act, I raised the question with the Minister earlier one time as to the differential between the Winnipeg water supply, which is considered international, and the Red River, whether the Red River was considered international waters or not. I want to know, how do you define the differential between the water the City of Winnipeg is getting and the water that is coming along the Red River and the municipalities are pumping from that.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, the source of water for the City of Winnipeg is, in fact, an international body of water.-(Interjection)- In terms of the definition of an international body of water, it borders the two provincial jurisdictions and the U.S. So it is, by that definition, an international body of water. We have a stream flowing through the City of Winnipeg, the Red River and waters drawn from that, but the point at which the people would draw their water along the Red River it is not considered to be an international body of water at that time. We do have the jurisdiction for charge at that point.

I guess what I want to do, Mr. Chairman, is just add a comment in this area. I think some members may have seen this article, but I want to read from Tuesday, May 5, the Winnipeg Free Press, some statements that say: "Canadians face a drinking water crisis because they have taken a precious resource for granted and squandered it. Having ignored the problem for so long without planning for the day of reckoning or budgeting for it, they now expect the Federal Government to help bail them out. Water is the single most heavily-subsidized commodity in the Canadian market." That, I want to note for the record, is a statement by the Federal Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Tom McMillan.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, that's fine.

I want to try and establish how the decision, or who made the decision, in terms of what is international water. The Minister refers to interprovincial - it's international water. I know where the water source is for the City of Winnipeg; I also know where the water comes from along the Red River, as well as the Assiniboine. But we want to use the terminology of

international water. I want to have the Minister explain the difference between the water that's coming from Ontario or the water that's coming from the American side or from Saskatchewan.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Clearly, Mr. Chairman, it's more a matter of the point at which the water is drawn. Because as the member himself indicated, water flows across provincial boundaries; it flows across international boundaries, as does the Red River. But it is really a matter of the point at which the water is drawn and the body, in the case of the Lake of the Woods, it's a confined body which is turned over for administration under the jurisdiction of the International Joint Commission. It is recognized as an international body, so we do not have jurisdiction over that.

Very frankly, I'm disappointed that there would be such focus on what some people see as a discrepancy or discrimination between those who draw their water from the Lake of the Woods and those who draw elsewhere. Would the Member for Emerson suggest that we should try to impose our jurisdiction on the City of Winnipeg and all those residents within? It would be interesting to see what the Member for Charleswood would say in that respect. Or is the alternative then to say we shall not do anything on this matter, despite the support that we have for our approach from the Honourable Tom McMillan? We can only deal with those issues over which we have authority, that's all I can say.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I won't belabour this too much longer.

The only thing that I'm looking for is who has made that distinction between what is international waters and what isn't. For example, in my opinion, the Red River water would be international waters because if that is not international water, does that mean then that the Americans could take and dyke off that water and keep the water on that side? No, it is part of international water and part of, I think, the International Joint Water Commission or something like that.

To have jurisdiction over the Red River, when we consider the activities that have taken place over the many years about the Red River, it's always been on an international basis with the Americans. Here all of a sudden we're starting to differentiate and say, no, the moment it hits Manitoba it is not international water. But every discussion about flood protection and all the activities that have taken place about the Red River have always been on an international basis. Now I want to know, who makes that decision? Did the Minister make the decision that the Red River is not international water or who made that decision?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I have more specific information from staff who is present. They indicate that it was by international treaty of 1909 that the body was designated as an international water and turned over for administration to the International Joint Commission.

In the case of the river that the member references, the Red River, it is not an international body in the sense that it is not confined. Water flows over different jurisdictions. We do have water flowing from

Saskatchewan into Manitoba. We do have water flowing from Ontario into Manitoba. I suppose in many respects we're fortunate in that way because it does provide an opportunity for us to develop, as we have already, some of the industries around that precious resource, but a resource which does have to be managed. Again, I reference the support of Tom McMillan. I don't know that there'll ever be another occasion on which I might be able to draw on that support, but I will draw on it today.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I just want to indicate to everybody here that in my opinion it is a discretionary call by the Minister and his staff in terms of what is international water, because I want to indicate to the Minister that the water that Winnipeg is drawing is drawn from Manitoba. If he wants to apply that kind of rationale, then he is way out in the left wing. Because the water from Shoal Lake is being drawn in Manitoba. The same thing with the water that's coming down the Red River, so it's a discretionary call. If the Minister wants to keep it that way, that's fine. But accept the responsibility that you've made a judgment call, that Winnipeg will not have to pay this fee, and everybody else in the province will have to pay that.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: A couple of points, Mr. Chairman, it should be noted that the City of Winnipeg has to get permission from the International Joint Commission to draw water from that source. What I would suggest to the member, if he feels that we have been derelict in applying this, why does he not, with his colleagues from the City of Winnipeg, bring forward a resolution of some sort to say to this House that in his view and in the view of the other members, including the Member for Charleswood, the application of that fee should be to the City of Winnipeg?

MR. A. DRIEDGER: One final comment, the Minister is derelict in his responsibility; he was asking for us to deal with it. You're the one who's dealt with it, you passed the regulations, accept the responsibility. If you can't do that, step down.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate to the member opposite and indeed all members of this House, I do not feel that I have in any way been derelict in my duties. That is our interpretation of the existing law with respect to jurisdiction over bodies of water. Clearly, if what he wants to do is challenge that, let him solicit the support from his members opposite.

Clearly, I don't know why the member, as the Member for Brandon West did earlier, try to pit rural Manitoba against the City of Winnipeg. I think it was the Leader of the Opposition, who indicated in comments in this House that what we needed was a pulling together rather than a drawing apart. What we have is the Member for Emerson and the Member for Brandon West trying to pull apart, posing rural Manitoba against urban Manitoba, and I think that's regrettable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to just ask the Minister a few informational questions, because I'm really not sure what the

jurisdiction of the Provincial Government is over river banks.

The area I'm specifically referring to is along the Red River in North Kildonan where the Bergen cutoff is, where the old CNR track goes across the river. I want to know whether the Provincial Government has any jurisdiction over the riverbank property there.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid this is one that we can't answer precisely at this time. There's some uncertainty as to who has jurisdiction and responsibility for that specific site. We can have some other staff pursue that further and, when we establish, that we will get back to the member.

There is just one other point I was going to make. Perhaps the member has another question. I was going to suggest to the Member for Emerson that, if in fact he wanted the users in the City of Winnipeg to be charged for their water, he could advise them to draw from the Winnipeg River and they would be charged.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Might I just ask the Minister then, when there is some information available, I wonder if the Minister could provide that information for me, or we could get together and discuss it so that I can let my constituents know what's happening?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we will share that information as soon as it's available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Springfield.

MR. G. ROCH: The Minister mentioned awhile ago that he was not playing favourites, but I recall that last year after a Minister of that government was defeated that a project was cancelled in the Springfield area after \$1.9 million of federal funding had been spent already.

And now we see in the program, the Expenditures Related to Capital Assets, where the Cooks Creek Diversion will receive 1.5 miles of additional channel, but we need 4.5 miles to complete the diversion. Right now, with having no work done last year, it's slowed down the whole process and it's causing, as you're probably aware or your officials are aware, a lot of problems out there. Ninety percent of the flooding problems can be attributed to the lack or the non-completion of the Cooks Creek Diversion.

I note that it says on here "complete 1986-87 Earthworm (phonetic) contract." How much more needs to be done on the Earthworm contract?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, perhaps, before I answer that question, there is a correction on page 4 of the Capital Projects under Water Resources Branch. The Canada-Manitoba Agri-Food Agreement, that top line should read \$780,000.00. The figure that is there is \$1.18 million. That figure is \$780,000.00.

The Cooks Creek project is a project into which a considerable expenditure and commitment has been made. I think the expenditures to date have been in the range of \$3.5 million. We recognize, as the member has said, that there is need to complete that main channel. We are allocating \$400,000 to a portion of the channel this year and we will work toward the completion of that channel.

But I think this again is an example contrary to that approach suggested by the Member for Pembina that we do not allocate our efforts to those areas represented by the government side of the House. We are pleased to be able to carry on with this project, which is well under way. It's represented now by the Member for Springfield, and we will be proceeding with that project, unlike some others might be doing.

MR. G. ROCH: Does that mean that the additional three miles, assuming that the one-and-a-half miles completed this year, does that mean that the additional three miles will be done next year?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: It's impossible to predict precisely, because we would have to take into account the needs on a year-by-year basis and, as the member knows, the budgets are cast on a year-by-year basis. I would hope that in the next two years that we would be able to complete this project.

MR. G. ROCH: The Earthworm contract, how much is there left to do on that? Does it go along with the amount of miles which have to be constructed to complete the channel?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate that the design work and the land acquisition, that is all completed. There are approximately 4.5 miles to be done. This year's work, we would see about 1.5 miles taking place. That would leave approximately three miles for subsequent years.

MR. G. ROCH: What I asked, is the Earthworm contract directly related to the construction of the additional channel miles?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Of that sum, Mr. Chairman, about \$300,000 is allocated to new excavation and \$100,000 would be to complete some of those works, to do some of the trim work on excavation that took place earlier. So it's broken up in that proportion.

MR. G. ROCH: I want to get back to Cooks Creek, but before I do, we're on the subject of projects, I notice there's nothing in there in regard to the Medika Drain. When will that particular diversion be completed?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, we're having some trouble with the name of the drain. Could the member repeat that?

MR. G. ROCH: The Medika Drain. It's slightly south of Elna. It was started some years ago and is still not completed. It causes a lot of flooding in that area too.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: The Medika Drain?

MR. G. ROCH: South of Elna, north of Hadashville, there's a little place called Medika.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Medika? Some people might pronounce it as Medika?

MR. G. ROCH: M-e-d-i-k-a.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Okay, that's fine.

Mr. Chairman, that drain we believe is in the LGD of Reynolds, and it is a third-order drain which is the responsibility of the local government district. They have asked to have it surveyed or an assessment to be made in terms of upgrading it and we are in the process of doing that. That information is going to be conveyed to the local government district, I think, during the course of this summer.

MR. G. ROCH: To get back to the Cooks Creek Diversion, there's been a lot of problems due to this lack of completion in flooding. Various areas in and around Cooks Creek itself and areas where the diversion would go have been flooded. The Cooks Creek Conservation District has numerous complaints all the time about the flooding. There's been also cases of property damage because of these floods.

Will this government compensate those people who have suffered property damage because of the non-completion of the Cooks Creek Diversion?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Just briefly on the Medika Drain, we want to point out that the responsibility for that is with the local government district in that case, and we are acting as a resource to the local government district. So it is not a provincial responsibility. We are trying to be of assistance to them.

In terms of any damage that people may be experiencing as a result of the drain, these drains come under the authority of the conservation district or perhaps, depending on the specific location, it would be under the jurisdiction of the municipality. If there was a question of liability for damage, I think firstly, we would have to assess who has responsibility for the stream at that point. I think the individual should pursue that first and the liability, if in fact there is a liability, may well be with the conservation district or the municipality.

MR. G. ROCH: This district, they get their funding from this department. Would that mean that they would get increased funding to cover those liability suits?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, we make a grant to the conservation districts but they have the boards. The boards make decisions; they have the authority to make decisions. So they would have to make decisions and work within the funding that is available to them.

MR. G. ROCH: Mr. Chairman, that's easier said than done. For example, the Department of Highways will require that certain bridges will have certain specifics as far as bridges to go over a certain ditch and certain drains, and yet if they do follow those requirements, they have to go over and above their budget. So they're caught in an almost no-win situation. One arm of government says it must be done a certain way, which costs more money. If they use a less expensive alternative, Highways won't accept it but Natural Resources says you can only get so much money, this is your grant for this year. So how can we resolve this?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I think there may not be a solution to the problem. It's no different than

the situation we faced in the Overhill Drain, where we had to say to the people, though the project is a \$2 million project, we don't have the funds for it. There are limits to the funding and the same will be true for the conservation district. There are limits to the funding and the organizations will have to work within those limits. We do not have extra funds.

I appreciate the problem that creates for them but I'm not sure what the member would suggest that we do, whether we would take money that we have allocated to other programs within the Department of Natural Resources and make them available? Clearly there are limits, yes.

MR. G. ROCH: . . . the Minister of Resources can get together with the Minister of Highways or maybe officials within the departments and possibly look at alternatives to the requirements which are being made of these conservation districts when it comes to these bridges. Possibly he could have alternative ways of crossing those particular drains or ditches.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm really not in the position to suggest that the Department of Highways, for example, should modify their standards on the bridges. We note there is a need for a certain level of service to those areas and, if the conservation districts were involved in the project which changed the nature of the bridge and their responsibility was to replace it, I am not going to suggest that I, from Natural Resources, would change the standard. The Department of Highways has their standards. I think if there is some concern about that, the conservation district should meet directly with the Department of Highways to try and resolve that.

MR. G. ROCH: But there lies a problem, it's two different departments but you're still all the same government and when one arm of government is telling them that you've got to do it a certain way and the other arm of the government is saying, well, we can't fund that, they're caught in a dilemma. Their main priority right now is completion of the Cooks Creek Diversion and, until a diversion is complete, that's the main cause of all the problems.

They're faced with these property damages in alfalfa fields; they're faced with problems on building sites; they are faced with flooding all over the blasted place because of this government's lack of action. To add to their troubles, Highways says a bridge has to be built a certain way and then they go to Highways and they go to Water Resources and they don't know which way to turn anymore. They are not getting any kind of direction anywhere from this government.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: I again see an example from members opposite, rather than trying to work and reconcile differences and resolve problems, they are trying to agitate it would seem. I indicated clearly and the Minister responsible for Highways is here, he has just indicated with a nod that he is quite prepared to meet and discuss with people the problem that they may be facing. But I will state here that there are limitations on funding, and I'm not sure, when we look at the funds, what we should do in order to meet the

needs of the people in Cooks Creek where we have spent considerable sums of money already. Would he suggest taking from one or the other conservation districts? Perhaps what we have to do is simply pace the work and in due course that can be met.

MR. G. ROCH: . . . alternatives that possibly the two departments along with the officials of Cooks Creek Conservation District could possibly - and I know the Minister nodded - but you were saying, no, that wasn't possible. They have their standards; they cannot expect to be modified, and your department will not interfere, but yet you both sit around the same Cabinet table. I'm glad to hear now that you're stating this different and I'm glad the Minister of Highways gave you direction on that because it obviously was needed.

There's also the case of the - I'm sorry, did you want to . . .

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I guess what I want, what I was indicating to the member is that we were dealing with the Estimates for the Department of Natural Resources and I had no authority to change that. But clearly I indicated, and the Minister of Highways indicated that they were prepared to meet to discuss that issue, but I in my place today cannot say that I will change the requirement. It is not within my jurisdiction, within my realm of responsibility to change that requirement.

MR. G. ROCH: Okay, well something that is entirely within your jurisdiction is the case of - again we go back to the flooding due to the lack of a completed diversion. For example, on Springfield Road, a bridge has been washed over the Prairie Grove Drain. This was not a high flood year. The main reasons for this flooding was because, again, the waters in Cooks Creek rose, flooded and washed those bridges away. The Conservation District hasn't got the necessary funds. Like you said awhile ago, they're given so much funds and, in the meantime, people in those areas have to make detours because the bridges are not available. How or when will these bridges be replaced?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I guess I want to see clarification from the member as to which particular waterway he was referring to, because if he was talking about the Cooks Creek channel, the natural channel, that is a natural waterway, and the responsibility there would be with the rural municipality.

If they were experiencing some difficulty they could apply to the Disaster Assistance Board perhaps for some help with that project. As I understand it here, it is not a structure that is the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources.

MR. G. ROCH: The Springfield road bridge is over the Cooks Creek itself, and it's now closed due to having been washed out. It is a yearly problem.

The other one is over the Prairie Grove Drain and, in talking to the municipal officials again, the bottom line is because of the diversion not being completed. They will be replaced regardless, whether it's municipal money or conservation district money or however it's going to be done.

But again I want to urge the Minister that the highest priority has to be the speedy completion of the Cooks Creek Diversion because, once that particular diversion is complete, like I said earlier, it will solve 90 percent, maybe more, of all the problems because many of these problems, whether it's property damage or bridge damage, municipal damage, flooding, etc., they all relate back to the root cause of that particular diversion.

I note that we've gotten this information recently. Has the conservation district itself been advised of this? And if not, will they be advised soon, because the last I talked with them, they still did not know what was happening with this project.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: No, Mr. Chairman, on that point, these figures were just tabled in the House yesterday, so now that they have been made public. I tabled them with the critic yesterday, there will be communication. But this was not communicated prior to being tabled in the House.

MR. G. ROCH: One last point for clarification, therefore, in terms of those people who are seeking compensation because of damage, if it's neither municipal nor conservation district's responsibility, you're saying then they should go to the Disaster Relief Board? Basically, what I want to know is how do you determine who's responsibility it is and where do these people go to put in their claims.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I guess my suggestion would be that perhaps they make an approach to the Disaster Assistance Board, but one of the things that I want to point out is that I think there's a certain element of risk that every one of us, as residents in a particular area, assume. I would not want to suggest that somebody else is liable for any kind of inconvenience or damage that is caused. In some cases there is just - I've had it happen in my own farming operation where you suffer losses due to natural disasters which nobody was really responsible for and that I was not insured against, and I have to face that. I would not want to leave the member with the impression that there is somebody identifiable as being responsible for the effects of water in a particular case.

MR. G. ROCH: I realize it's natural disasters but it all goes back again - I'll repeat it one last time. It all goes back to the lack of completion of the Cooks Creek Diversion. So these people have to have somewhere to turn to, to be compensated, because of the fact that this diversion has not been completed.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, what the Member for Springfield seems to be ignoring is that the project was undertaken to alleviate a problem. So clearly, I'm not sure if what he is suggesting is that we should restore it to its original state. No.

And clearly, during the process of construction, it has to be paced. There are limitations in terms of funding. It could be technical limitations and during the course of our dealing with that problem, the conservation district dealing with the problem, there are going to be some inconveniences. But is the

alternative then to do nothing? I would suggest that is not the alternative. We will proceed, but the benefits are accruing to the people of the area. So I have some concern that, while some are involved in providing benefits to the people of the area, those very people would want to hold somebody liable for the impact. That would not be acceptable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, in reviewing the department's capital assets, I notice again another appropriation for town dykes. Could the Minister tell me specifically what is being contemplated on the Valley Dyke system?

I see an appropriation of \$580,000.00. The item says that work will continue in the following communities, and Morris is one of the ones listed. I always did believe that dyke had been risen to 1 percent flood level. Can the Minister tell me specifically the work that will be directed towards the Morris dyke?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised by staff here that the money that is to be spent in Morris is not on the dyke structure itself but on providing a building for storage of equipment and I think a radio site. It will be involved with the other communities in terms of servicing the needs of the other communities, so it is not intended to indicate that there will be a change in the dyke structure itself.

MR. C. MANNES: Mr. Chairman, that's fine. Maybe the Minister will undertake to provide a further breakout of that \$580,000 and what portions of it will be directed to the towns that are so listed. - (Interjection)- Yes, do you have that? - (Interjection)- Well, maybe the Minister will provide that for us.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to pursue a discussion that I had with the Minister in the House the other day, and that was dealing with the Red River Drive along the Red River just south of St. Norbert.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know if the Minister is aware, but there are constituents of mine within that area that since the 1979 flood were encouraged, through the incentive of the government program of the day, to invest a very large sum of money into their own ring dykes protecting their own property. I can think specifically of the Bartmanovich family, Peter and Rita, who put upwards of \$30,000 into their own ring dyke, and now are finding that the Department of Natural Resources is saying that the best solution to the problem of the road sliding into the river is to knock the road down 10 feet, immediately approximate to their property. I dare say, my constituents very gravely fear the fact that that ring dyke that they've put up is going to be the next thing to slide, because then it becomes the highest surface within the area.

Mr. Chairman, I think that it's important that the Minister and his department take some very active involvement in what's happening there and try and provide some major direction. I know it's an R.M. of Ritchot responsibility, but the Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Division, has actually been at council issuing some orders with respect to what should happen in that road for the sake of safety. And

obviously the municipality is going to obey those orders and I don't have any difficulty with that but, Mr. Chairman, the individual's property is beginning to slide too and they put a massive investment into it.

I'm further told, Mr. Chairman, that once that road is cut down, it itself acts as a dyke and there's a potential for high water, again another spring, to break out from the river. I want to know specifically whether the Minister is cognizant of these facts and, furthermore, whether he's going to give some priority within his department to deal with a very urgent problem within that Red River Road area.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: This issue has been brought to my attention, again only yesterday by the Member for Morris, and on earlier occasions when I was meeting with the municipalities. In fact, I met with the group of municipalities, the additional zone municipalities during the course of the winter months and this was brought to my attention by the people from Ritchoy.

We want to point out, and as the Member for Morris recognizes, that the responsibility does rest with the municipality, but we are quite prepared to provide additional technical advice, if we can be of assistance in that way.

The dyke was, I understand, constructed by way of pooling of resources wherein individuals received assistance from the - I'm not sure if just the Provincial Government or perhaps other levels of government as well - to build the dyke. The agreement was that they would maintain the dyke. Now, there is a problem with it; if we can provide some technical support, in terms of seeking a solution to it, we would be prepared to allocate staff time to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: One question, Mr. Chairman, I would like to have an update as to whether or not Saskatchewan, North Dakota and Canada or Manitoba are going ahead with the Rafferty Dam. At what stage is that at? Is it proceeding? Is Manitoba participating? Is it in the study stage? Is the Province of Manitoba supporting it?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: The Rafferty Dam does not involve Manitoba directly, in terms of participating in the project. It is a project of interest to the Province of Saskatchewan, North Dakota and the Corps of Engineers. It will have an impact on water flow. We have been party to meetings where we have expressed that concern. We have indicated that, if necessary, we will pursue this to the International Joint Commission.

The issue is really: What will the impact be on the flooding along the Souris River? It appears there is a risk, that the level of flooding will be reduced, but the duration of the flooding will be extended. Clearly that concern has been conveyed to the participants in the project. We will see that the interests of Manitobans are not offended.

I'm just advised that there's an additional meeting coming up at the end of May dealing with that specific issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to indicate to the Minister that it would be our intention to try and complete the Estimates before six o'clock. It is my understanding in talking to the Clerk of the House that, if we go past six o'clock, special provisions have to be made. So maybe we can try and gear it so that we finish at about six o'clock.

I have some questions, Mr. Chairman, and I think the interests shown by members and on the Opposition about the various concerns, illustrates - and I'll be addressing some of those concerns in my final comments under the Minister's Salary.

Looking under the Capital Program, Mr. Chairman, we have a figure of \$10.2 million that is there. In the information that the Minister gave to me last night, I understand if I'm correct that the Parks Program is part of that Capital Program. Am I correct in that? The Minister is indicating that is the case. When I see the list that is presented under the Parks Program in the various areas, it would seem almost in many cases, by the amounts being expended, that a lot of that is probably maintenance. But I would like to request the Minister, and he's been relatively good in forwarding information, whether he could give a breakdown because we have realms of regions here and when we talk of capital, my perception of capital always is on a little bigger scale than what is being shown here. When we talk about places like the Moose Lake Provincial Park, I use that as an example, or our St. Norbert Provincial Park, \$2,000 and things like that.

I'm wondering if this is all capital, whether there must be a breakdown in terms of the projects that are going to be dealt with under this. I'm not asking for it now, I'm asking whether the Minister could within the next few days or beginning of the week maybe forward us a breakdown of the capital that is involved because it would be my impression, looking at it, that a lot of this is basically housekeeping and maintenance and not capital programs as such.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if in fact the member has seen this sheet with the detail and he's wanting some finer detail yet than is provided in this one. If the member could identify those projects within this that he wanted some detail because, if in fact each of these was to be broken out into fine detail, it would mean recreating all of the plans but, if there are specific components of this sheet that he can identify, we will be pleased to indicate to him what is included in those efforts and pass it on.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, if we could get that ex-Minister of Natural Resources out of there maybe you could recognize me.- (Interjection)- Well, okay, we'll take it from there.

The reason why I ask because to illustrate my point, Mr. Minister, it would be my impression a lot of this is basically maintenance work under the Capital Program under parks and that is why, if it's all considered capital, surely there must be a breakout of that because the Minister indicated that \$10 million includes - these are all capital projects under that. To me, it looks more like maintenance that's taking place.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, again just to clarify, there is one sheet which summarizes, about a four-

sheet document, the regions and then there is another sheet which has about, I would say 10 or 12 pages which gives more detail. That was distributed so that - (Interjection) - Yes, it was, so if it wasn't, it was in error but it's intended that there be two sheets, one which is sort of a summary and the one that is attached is a detailed sheet so that is there already.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Is that both on Parks because I have one here on Capital Programs under Expenditures related to Capital assets under the Water Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: And there's one for Parks.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Okay, but in the Parks, it just has the basic sheet that indicates the amount was spent, but not any breakdown of that at all.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: There is another one, Mr. Chairman, at least 10 pages, perhaps 12 pages, which indicates in quite some detail, so it will . . .

MR. A. DRIEDGER: If the Minister can give me that. I don't know whether I have that one. Ah! My apologies, I do have that one. Okay, fine. We'll leave it at that then.

My next question, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister is, the Minister made reference to Capital Programs that are done in conjunction with other organizations and he referred to Ducks Unlimited, one specific project. Can the Minister indicate how many projects are in the mill so to speak with Ducks Unlimited in terms of major projects?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate that there are a few projects in which we are participating with Ducks Unlimited and others, but it should not be assumed that, because we are participating, they are necessarily cost-sharing, because often there is just a sharing of information and in some cases we can provide technical support.

We are looking at the one project in the southeast part of the province. The Member for Emerson is into my office last summer with a delegation. There was some work done in that area by Ducks Unlimited this past winter, and I understand that they did complete their field work this year and they are going to be submitting a proposal for the development. So when we talk about submitting a proposal, they're not necessarily seeking financial participation.

As well, Ducks Unlimited has an interest in the Tom Lamb Wildlife Area. They're going to be doing some work in that region. The Oak and Plum Lakes are being considered, as well as the Hecla Marsh area. Those are about the four areas where they come to mind for me now with major efforts on the part of Ducks Unlimited.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: I wonder if the Minister could be a little bit more precise about the Rat River project, which is one of the biggest projects that possibly Ducks Unlimited has been considering in this province, I believe, based on initial information.

The flooding problems that we face every spring relating to the Rat River breaking out of its banks,

everything is sort of involved with that. We have people who had to be moved out of homes again this year and the roads being washed out again. I want to talk about the compensation yet, too, which hasn't even been paid to the R.M. of De Salaberry for last year's undertakings under the flood compensation program which I hope the Minister can address as well.

It was my understanding, from the latest information I had, there is a possible agreement being considered somewhere between May and June, and I wonder if the Minister could update us as to where it's at because the people and municipalities involved certainly are very concerned and we'd like to know.

Is the project still healthy? Is it still moving forward and, basically, maybe the time frame that we're looking at?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Yes, the Member for Emerson is correct. There is a joint effort between different agencies. We have Water Resources and Wildlife from our own department working with Ducks Unlimited, and I understand the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, as well, are participants in this study to investigate the feasibility of a project in the upper regions of the Rat River.

We expect that study will be in the early part of June, and from that point, I think a further determination of what form that management project might take will be made, but we're waiting for that report to come at this time.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I'll be looking forward to hopefully getting that information once it comes forward to the Minister so that there can be full participation and an update as to where we're going with that.

I just want to once again draw the attention to the Minister that the flood compensation, which was a result of the water spilling out of the Rat River last year, where it did a substantial amount of damage to the R.M. of De Salaberry, that compensation still has not been paid. I would like his staff to look into that aspect of it. I would like the Minister to look into the fact that the R.M. of De Salaberry still has not received compensation for the damage from last year.

One other item I'd like to raise with the Minister, and I'm trying to move along pretty fast and throw a few things at him at the same time, is that we had a major problem developing in the Vita area this year on the Vita Drain, which is a third-order drain. I would hope, under the maintenance aspect of it, that some work and consideration could be given in that area during the course of this summer, because we'll be facing a major problem again there next spring if this doesn't happen. I think it's a matter of clean-out which hasn't happened for 25 years or something like that, so I'm drawing that to the Minister's attention, hoping that he can maybe give some consideration under maintenance in that area.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Just a couple of quick responses, Mr. Chairman, because I too want to move this along.

In terms of compensation not being paid, I think we would refer that matter to the Disaster Assistance Board. We will do that.

In terms of the work on the Vita Drain, I understand there's a delegation coming in to see me, but I will say very frankly, at this point, that we have not made an allocation for the maintenance of the Vita Drain this summer. So I state that to the member now.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: There are two areas under the Capital Program for dyking. It says Town Dykes, and the Member for Morris raised that. There's one on the first area, \$1.3 million. Then there's another one for \$580,000.00.

Could the Minister indicate what portion of this is going to be for the completion of the Emerson dyking around the Town of Emerson?

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, we had earlier indicated to the Member for Morris that we would break that information out by communities, so we will share that with the Member for Emerson as well.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, given the opportunity, and unfortunately I'll just make reference to it and you can correct me then, that some of my country colleagues aren't here. They're out busy seeding at this stage of the game and the time element being such as it is, I'm sure many of them would want to bring concerns forward to this Minister about anything in the Department of Natural Resources.

However, maybe the Minister is fortunate that circumstances are such as they are, but we will want to try and keep on top of this Minister in terms of the activities that take place, and we have a few comments that we want to make under the Minister's Salary. So, Mr. Chairman, we're prepared to move those three areas of resolution and then deal with the Minister's Salary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(1) to 3.(3)(c), inclusive, were each read and passed.

Resolution No. 120: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$6,854,700 for Natural Resources, Engineering and Construction, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Resolution No. 121: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$8,822,800 for Natural Resources, Water Resources, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Resolution No. 129: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,206,000 for Natural Resources, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Back to item No. 1.(a), the Minister's Salary - the Member for Minnedosa.

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

I've been waiting patiently to get my two minutes worth with the Minister, and I'm travelling back and forth to committees, I may have missed the item that I wanted to cover. It was to do with wildlife depredation.

Now, the Minister may have covered that earlier. But I have concerns in my area where the crop has been partially damaged, and with the wet fall season the Crop Insurance people were alerted and were out there.

They said, well, just leave it; that's really wildlife depredation. When the Wildlife people got there, they said, well, it's been standing out all winter and the elk have been running through it, and sort of threw up their hands on it. I just wondered what liaison the Minister's department has with the Crop Insurance people who are in the field, and with the Wildlife people and his people who do the inspection to inspect for wildlife damage.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Mr. Chairman, I guess we have to be aware that there are two separate programs: one being the Big Game Compensation Program, and the other being the Waterfowl Compensation.—(Interjection)—That's correct, yes. The assessments are done; they are reported to the department. The assessments are done by the Crop Insurance Corporation, then they are forwarded to us in terms of disbursement of funds.

MR. D. BLAKE: If the Crop Insurance people hadn't inspected that in the fall of the year then and seen the damage that was there, it will be up to them to report to the Wildlife people who handle that particular type of crop damage. They should be able to work it out with themselves. It shouldn't be up to the landowner or the farmer who did report it. Even though the crop stood throughout the winter, it was naturally damaged more because the herds came out then and, of course, in the winter months, so he should go back to those people and try and sort it out then.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: The program really works very well, but if there is a specific case where someone is having a problem, if the Member for Minnedosa wants to bring that to our attention, we would pursue it and try and solve it.

MR. A. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, on the Minister's Salary.

It's actually unfortunate, I suppose, to some degree that arrangements were made by both sides of the House and by common agreement that we set a limitation on the amount of hours that could be used in the debating of the Estimates.

In an area of one that I consider very important, which is Natural Resources which covers such a broad scope of the things that happen in Manitoba, when we consider wildlife, fisheries, parks, a water situation like there is, an endless realm, and it affects the people from all walks of life. It's most unfortunate that this is an area - I think probably the Highways Department went through the same thing. We raised this already a year ago, the fact that both Highways and the Department of Natural Resources are sort of the departments that get the kicking when it comes to the financial aspect of it.

The Minister, in spite of his flowery words, and he tries to explain and he says we're the guardians of the resources; we're going to be looking after them. He makes it sound sort of good and he's concerned. When it comes down to brass tacks, you look at actual figures, we have the increase in the wages that has to happen because that's part of the system. We have a cutback in services all over. In spite of what he says, like in some areas, with the firefighting, for example, that

wasn't a realistic representation that he has under Forestry either in terms of what is happening in the Forestry end of it, but we have just a continual cutback in the actual services.

We see that even in the Capital programs that have been taking place or supposed to be taking place, the increase in Capital programs is actually less than the rate of inflation. So what we have is two departments - and I didn't have a chance to get to participate in the Highways Estimates, being involved in these Estimates over here, but these are the two departments that this particular government feels that this is where they can take and cut and knock the dickens out of it. I'll tell you what bothers me most is the Minister of Natural Resources, the one who's sitting on Treasury Board making these decisions.

I indicated last year that he didn't have the intestinal fortitude to get up there and fight for his department. He's being snowed all the time, and then he gets up in this House and with flowery words is explaining all the great things that he's done. When we do a real analysis of what's happening in the Department of Natural Resources, virtually nothing is happening, very little.

He is trying at best, together with his staff, trying to keep a sort of status quo to some degree, but it's not happening. It is not happening. The status quo is not being maintained and this Minister, I think, is abdicating his responsibility. The fact that he, as I indicated before, can get up here and make his flowery speeches about all the good things that are happening, it's not so and I know, as I indicated in my opening remarks, that there's unhappiness with this Minister and with this government, the way they treat Natural Resources, the way they treat Highways. We can see that in the performance of the whole government.

We scarcely get through one week with one scandal and another scandal surfaces next week, and that shows the performance of this government. They do not have a proper perspective of what is required, how to run government. So it's sort of a knee-jerk reaction, that is what's going on.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague from Niakwa is a little unhappy with me as well because he had a few issues he wanted to raise, and I unfortunately have to apologize to him that he did not get on. But he will be dealing with some very important issues maybe on a private matter with the Minister and raise the issues.

However, I just want to indicate, Mr. Chairman, that I found it frustrating to some degree. The Minister is valiantly trying to justify his non-action and his non-money that he can expend. It's a very, very important area that we're dealing with and just the fact that every one of my colleagues wants to get involved in the debate with this Minister is what illustrates the problem, because when something happens, when something good happens, people are going to sit back and they're going to appreciate that, but when nothing is happening, that's when the frustration is there and I illustrate it the Minister.

And the same thing with Highways. Both these Ministers, use the justification that their increase in revenue, because it's not revenue-bearing yet but, given a few more years and hopefully that won't happen, they'll have both these departments being revenue bearing and it will go into the public coffers. It's a total reversal of what should happen.

I indicated initially 103 percent increase in revenues since '81 in this department and a 16 percent increase in expenditures. That illustrates exactly the problem that we have. That illustrates why things are not going well and that illustrates why we're going to continue to keep nagging this Minister. That's why he's going to keep on getting into trouble because he's trying, with the reduced capital expenditures that he has available to him, he's trying to make it sound like he's doing something.

I personally feel strongly that this government is not capable, nor this Minister in terms of doing a proper job for the people of Manitoba, and the people of Manitoba feel that way. It's just a matter of time until we have our chance to take and remove them.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 118: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,163,400 for Natural Resources, Administration and Finance, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1988—pass.

IN SESSION

The Committee of Supply adopted certain resolutions, reported same and asked leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. D. SCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee be received, seconded by the Member for Elmwood.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. L. HARAPIAK: If I could have leave to make a statement with respect to the fire situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there leave? (Agreed)

HON. L. HARAPIAK: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I just wanted to report a further update on the serious fire situation that we have in the Wallace Lake area. The following actions are now being taken: Access to Wallace Lake has been closed using road blocks two miles east of Bissett and one mile north of Long Lake, and access through road block by permit only to the cottage owners, the Wallace Lake Lodge employees and the Wallace Lake Lodge guests.

The campground has been closed until further notice. The situation will be reviewed daily and, if the situation warrants, permits will be cancelled and people asked to leave.

The media has been advised, and we are following up on the situation and our public information line will be open until 10:00 p.m. tonight and 8:00 p.m. on Friday to provide the public with this information. So the situation is very serious and we may have to place some restrictions beyond the restrictions that were in

place today where already we had no open fires in the wooded districts.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hour now being 6:00 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. (Friday)