



First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIBERAL
ANGUS, John	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BURRELL, Parker	Swan River	PC
CARR, James	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIBERAL
CHARLES, Gwen	Selkirk	LIBERAL
CHEEMA, Gulzar	Kildonan	LIBERAL
CHORNOPYSKI, William	Burrows	LIBERAL
CONNERY, Edward Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
COWAN, Jay	Churchill	NDP
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James Hon.	Arthur	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Emerson	PC
DRIEDGER, Herold, L.	Niakwa	LIBERAL
DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	LIBERAL
ENNS, Harry	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Laurie	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
EVANS, Leonard	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen Hon.	Virten	PC
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
GILLESHAMMER, Harold	Minnedosa	PC
GRAY, Avis	Ellice	LIBERAL
HAMMOND, Gerrie	Kirkfield Park	PC
HARAPIAK, Harry	The Pas	NDP
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HEMPHILL, Maureen	Logan	NDP
KOZAK, Richard, J.	Transcona	LIBERAL
LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.	Inkster	LIBERAL
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANDRAKE, Ed	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
McCRAE, James Hon.	Brandon West	PC
MINENKO, Mark	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
OLESON, Charlotte Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ORCHARD, Donald Hon.	Pembina	PC
PANKRATZ, Helmut	La Verendrye	PC
PATTERSON, Allan	Radisson	LIBERAL
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Rhineland	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren	Lac du Bonnet	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Turtle Mountain	PC
ROCH, Gilles	Springfield	LIBERAL
ROSE, Bob	St. Vital	LIBERAL
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
TAYLOR, Harold	Wolseley	LIBERAL
URUSKI, Bill	Interlake	NDP
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
YEO, Iva	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, October 31, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Mr. Mark Minenko (Chairman of the Committee of Supply): The Committee of Supply has considered certain resolutions, directs me to report progress and asks leave to sit again.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I have a statement for the House.

I have stated in the House on numerous occasions that we face a crisis situation in not having an adequate number of psychiatrists and, most particularly, an adequate number of psychiatrists in some areas outside of the City of Winnipeg.

This lack of sufficient numbers of psychiatrists has been with us for decades at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. This shortage became particularly acute this summer when extraordinary arrangements were needed to provide psychiatric coverage at the Brandon Mental Health Centre by psychiatrists employed at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre. The necessity to adopt this short-term measure was brought about in part by vacations and illness.

The plans, which were put in place this summer, to meet what was considered to be a temporary shortfall of psychiatrists has become exacerbated by illness and an apparent decision by a designated psychiatrist not to return to service at the Brandon Mental Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday of last week, my Deputy Minister met with the senior staff of the Brandon Mental Health Centre to ascertain details of the current situation. This was followed up on Friday of last week with meetings between the deputy and psychiatric staff of the Selkirk Mental Health Centre to solicit their help and suggestions in dealing with the immediate problems in Brandon. This meeting included the psychiatrist who provided psychiatric services at the Brandon Mental Health Centre this past summer.

As a result of the concerns expressed by staff of the Brandon and Selkirk Mental Health Centres, I decided it was necessary for me to make a trip to Brandon

today to meet personally with those who are involved in providing care to the patients of Brandon Mental Health Centre so that I could gain first hand a greater appreciation of the situation and determine for myself the extent of the crisis.

* (1335)

Despite the best efforts of Dr. Gary Sloan, who travels from Winnipeg to provide services three days per week, the levels of psychiatric care being provided to these people is woefully inadequate and falls below the standards that Manitobans have a right to expect. As a result of my trip to Brandon, I have instructed my Deputy Minister today to second two of the most experienced psychiatrists currently employed at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre to provide services to the Brandon Mental Health Centre. This secondment will be on a temporary basis only for a period of 90 days.

I have asked that these experienced and dedicated psychiatrists be posted to Brandon, so that continuity of service will be provided and that the problems we face will be dealt with effectively in the shortest time possible. I will be turning to these individuals for recommendations after they have had a chance to assess the situation and provide services.

In spite of any inconvenience this may cause, I must and have weighed the inconvenience to loyal and dedicated civil servants with that of the 300 patients at Brandon and their families. I am also confident that, as psychiatrists, they share my concern for the safety and well-being of the patients at Brandon.

I am assured by the Chief Provincial Psychiatrist that, on a temporary basis, the remaining psychiatrists at Selkirk will be able to provide adequate service there. I have been advised by Dr. Sloan that the Brandon Mental Health Centre requires at least four full-time psychiatrists, in addition to the services that he already provides. However, given the existing number of qualified psychiatrists employed at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre and the need of patients in both facilities, seconding the services of two individuals is the maximum resources that can be provided to the Brandon Mental Health Centre at this time.

But this is no long-term solution, Mr. Speaker. We need to develop such a long-term solution. The Selkirk Mental Health Centre currently has a patient population of 300, which is served by six fully certified psychiatrists, as well as other physicians. The situation in Brandon is different. It has a similar in-patient population with an average monthly admission rate of 50 people, served only by one certified psychiatrist who is only able to provide part-time coverage.

The actions that I have put in place today are only temporary solutions to a long-standing problem. Because of the gravity of the situation, I will be in contact with the Manitoba Medical Association and the Manitoba Psychiatric Association to share this

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information and to obtain their support and assistance to expedite short and long-term solutions. I am confident the Manitoba Medical Association will be fully supportive of these measures, in that we share the common interest for patient care and safety.

I have also instructed my Deputy Minister to commence discussions with the Civil Service Commission in the matter of salaries for Government-employed doctors. I believe that the levels of pay and the scope for advancement for these professionals has been neglected and allowed to fall behind appropriate standards. Unless we address this problem, we will almost certainly encounter more and more serious problems. Although there is a current contract in place, I think we must begin now to work together to deal with this problem.

The situation at Brandon is the worst example of failure in the mental health area. That it should have been allowed to deteriorate to this point is shocking to me. I know it is shocking to the psychiatric profession, and I believe it will be shocking to Manitobans.

I am both determined and confident that working with the dedicated men and women who make up the psychiatric profession in this province and with the hundreds of others who work in mental health and share our concerns, we will find a stable and satisfactory solution at Brandon. We will build a more effective and compassionate mental health system for Manitoba.

Finally, I have announced in the House as an introduction to the Estimates of the Department of Health that this Government is committed to making mental health services a priority.

We will soon be putting in place a reorganized mental health system which will assist in the long-term goals of providing more appropriate mental health services to the people of Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): We are pleased to hear the Minister's statement. It took him six months to bring in these measures. We have not solved the problem; the problem still exists. We are just shifting psychiatrists from Selkirk Hospital to Brandon Hospital, and what is going to happen at Selkirk Mental Hospital? We are just getting two psychiatrists. They are going there for 90 days. We have pointed out in this House for the last nine weeks and we have raised several questions but the problem still remains the same. We need about 38 psychiatrists in Manitoba. By just shifting two psychiatrists, it will not solve the problem.

* (1340)

A second question, the Minister is saying that he is going to meet with MMA. I have indicated to the Minister there is a report ready, as of February '88. That report clearly indicates the number of psychiatrists, what other measures should be taken. The Minister should meet with them as soon as possible and go with the recommendations. The recommendations are very clear. We are losing at least 60 percent of the psychiatrists who have been trained in Manitoba.

A second problem exists with the fee differential. A third problem exists with the consultation services and

with the resources applied in the community mental health area. We will be addressing those issues in the Estimates, but certainly the problems still remain the same and I would encourage the Minister to meet with these people and have long-term planning so that we do not lose more psychiatrists. I will be bringing further questions in this House today that indicate the clear lack of direction this Minister has taken to solve this problem.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I rise to speak on the statement produced by the Minister today in the House. There is absolutely no question that the psychiatric situation in North America is a real problem. The resources of the psychiatric profession and the professional psychiatrists have been terribly depleted in terms of the traditional institutional care in psychiatry. Although we all support community reintegration in terms of mental patients and mentally handicapped patients, the whole area of psychiatrists has been left radically behind for those who are left behind in our institutions. I have mentioned in the Speech from the Throne and before that, Mr. Speaker, that we will work in a constructive way with the Government.

We cannot be afraid of the one-day headline that inevitably occurs if Governments raise salaries in this very important area. We will side with the Government to raise the salaries and benefits for psychiatrists because our mental institutions do not have psychiatrists working in them to the number that we need, because we simply cannot compete with the fee-for-service system outside of the traditional mental health system and in the teaching hospitals that have the fee-for-service system on top of that.

So collectively we have failed those who are left behind in our institutions. Those who need the greatest resources and greatest psychiatric resources have, quite frankly, the least amount of facility in terms of attracting those psychiatrists. So I pledge to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) that we will work in a very cooperative way to help him recruit for those institutions, the Selkirk and Brandon institutions, because we are competing against ourselves and losing with the money we put out with the fee-for-service system, and that is the same in Ontario, Mr. Speaker. That is the same in Quebec and it is the same, quite frankly, all over North America, that same phenomena.

I would also say that we will work with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) in terms of community mental health programs that he will be introducing to return more mental health patients to their own communities with resources in their own communities, and again we know that the resources have not flowed with patients over the years. Notwithstanding partisan politics and Governments that have been in power, collectively resources have not flowed. If we look at the Pascoe Report, some 270 staff were to flow to the community and did not flow to the community. I think that is a criticism we can all take some lesson from.

Finally, we would encourage the same kind of plan and the same kind of community integration with our Welcome Home Program for mentally handicapped

people, as well, who are on the other side of the Government spending in departments. We do not want to stop and freeze in time the progress that has been made in terms of integration back in our communities and we will work in a cooperative way with this Minister as well to move more of our people back to their own communities. Thank you very much.

* (1345)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL NO. 38—THE MENTAL HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General) presented, by leave, Bill No. 38, The Mental Health Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la santé mentale.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct attention of Honourable Members to the Speaker's gallery where we have with us today the Honourable Colin Maxwell, Minister of Parks, Recreation and Culture from the Province of Saskatchewan; and the Honourable Gilbert R. Clements, Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs for the Province of Prince Edward Island.

Both Ministers are here to attend the Federal/Provincial Territorial Conference of Ministers of Sport.

On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Wescott Fashion Ltd. Closure Government Intervention

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Another major employer in Manitoba will soon bite the dust resulting in 470 employees being put out of work. After 18 years in this province, Wescott Fashions will be closing its doors, another devastating blow to Manitoba's garment industry, indeed to the entire economy of this province. It is becoming clear that Manitoba businesses are seeing that they have no future, regrettably, in our province under the present economic climate.

Can the First Minister tell this House today, has he had any meetings with Wescott officials to attempt to avert this unfortunate closing?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I regret that the Leader of the Opposition takes such glee in talking about the potential loss of jobs for 470 people in the garment industry who need to have our encouragement, our support and the assurance that we will do everything we can to assist businesses in Manitoba, unlike our predecessors the NDP, who did everything they could to drive business out of this province with the payroll tax, driving up the deficits so

that the cost of operation of all of our businesses were unnecessarily high.

Getting to the point of her question, the fact of the matter is that both the Minister responsible for Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst) and his staff and myself and Members of Cabinet have been aware of the circumstances facing Wescott as a result of a highly leveraged buy-out that took place in 1986 that altered the economics of the operation of this company.

We are concerned, not only to ensure that the jobs are protected, but that the corporation does operate in a successful way in future. I can tell the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) that not only have we been in touch with the former management in ownership, the present management in ownership, but a potential buyer for the firm who is actively attempting to put together a package to buy the firm. We believe that, given the support and the encouragement that we are able to provide, as well as some staff assistance, it will result in a positive result for the workers.

Free Trade Agreement Impact Garment Industry

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), the Minister has been saying that free trade would be good for the garment industry here in the Province of Manitoba. Union leaders are telling us that Wescott could not compete with the products coming in from the United States, and the Bank of Nova Scotia is telling us that the garment industry is a poor risk under free trade.

A supplementary question to the First Minister is, what cogent evidence does he have that free trade will be good for the garment industry in the Province of Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I am glad that I read this morning's papers so that I could anticipate the questions of the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs). I have here a letter that is addressed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Mr. Ernst), as a result of a meeting that took place last week, as a matter of fact between representatives of the garment industry, The Manitoba Fashion Institute Inc., that represents all of the garment industry in Manitoba, expressing their strong and complete support for free trade in this province.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

* (1350)

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, they indicate very clearly that this is the industry position and that in their judgment free trade was not a factor in any way in the closure of this plant. I would suggest that they are in a better position to know and understand the ramifications of free trade on the garment industry in Manitoba.

I will, for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), and indeed all Members of the Legislature, table this letter that will inform her on this issue.

Free Trade Agreement Impact Wescott Fashion Ltd.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), perhaps he could also speak to the 470 people who have been told they will not have jobs. Can the Minister inform the House today if he has data from Wescott Industries, the company itself, to indicate that the reason for their closure is in fact not related to the supply of cheaper garments from the United States?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, rather than enter in and engage in cheap politics at the expense of 470 workers in this province—and that is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) is attempting to do. She is so desperate to try and put across her wrong-headed view on free trade that she is willing to put at risk, gleefully I might add, the jobs of 470 people in the garment industry in Manitoba. I think that is a despicable thing for her to be doing in this Legislature. I am not going to play politics with the lives and the future careers and the incomes of 470 people.

What I am going to say is that we are working to ensure that industry, that employer, Wescott Fashions, remains in business because it would be good not only for the 470 workers but indeed for all of us in this province of ours. We are working positively towards that goal. I can tell her that all of the information from those who are in a position to know, and let us not enter into the details of the difficulties that this company has, but rest assured that everybody who is in a position to know has indicated that free trade has absolutely nothing to do with it. There are management problems. There are finance problems. None of them are related to free trade. That much I can assure her, Mr. Speaker.

Federal Sales Tax Tax Neutral Program

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with a new question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), earlier this month, the chairperson of the House of Commons Finance Committee stated that the proposed national sales tax would raise \$10 billion in additional revenue. That figure was decreased to \$8 billion by a consultant for the Department of Finance. On October 17, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) said that Mr. Blenkharn was off the mark. Now we are told by the Ontario Treasurer that this tax grab will in fact not be \$8 billion, will not be \$10 billion, but will be \$14 billion.

Sales taxes are the most regressive form of taxation. They hit hardest at the lowest-income Canadians who will be forced to pay additional taxes on goods and services such as groceries, haircuts and some types of medication. Can the Minister of Finance tell this House today how he still considers this tax on basic necessities to be tax neutral?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, what we have here today is part of the Liberal conspiracy across this country to try and instill great

amounts of fear into consumers across this country. I have tried to determine Mr. Nixon's, the basis on which he has made his comment, and I cannot find that. He again was making basic assumptions somehow, I believe, tied into the attempt by Liberal Parties throughout the land to try and again scare consumers.

* (1355)

For the record, national sales tax reform that is indicated being brought in in maybe two or three years as Phase 2 of tax reform, this tax neutral. By that, it means that Ottawa will receive no additional taxes from what they are today. Food and pharmaceuticals will be non-taxable under that at present. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, provinces across this country over the last three or four months had very little involvement at all with respect to the details associated with this because the whole process has been on hold for this period of time.

And I say, from the Province of Manitoba's perspective, where we are today is very similar to where we found the whole situation when we took over when we took over from Mr. Kostyra in May.

Mrs. Carstairs: I do realize it is Halloween, but I have never thought of myself as being particularly scary.

Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness)—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Manitoba Rate

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), the Treasurer of Ontario says it will be 17 percent in his province. What will it be in our province, Mr. Finance Minister (Mr. Manness), through the Speaker? Will it be 17 percent? Will it be more than 17 percent? Will it be less than 17 percent? What does your study tell us it will be for this province?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, right now, the rate in effect in the Province of Manitoba is 19 percent; 12 included within the price and then a 7 percent provincial sales tax. Today the rate is 19 percent. Under the conceptualized new tax reform, it indeed would be less. It would be somewhere around 16 percent or 17 percent.

An Honourable Member: Less.

Mr. Manness: Less, less.

Mrs. Carstairs: It just shows, Mr. Speaker, that they do not even understand their own tax that they are going to apply with their federal counterparts because it will be on so many more goods and services.

Retail sales are down in this province as a result of high unemployment and a lack of confidence in the

economy. New taxes at the retail sales level are the last thing that retailers need in this province. For the sake of the Manitoba economy, will the Minister today state his opposition to any increases in sales taxes, particularly those covering services never before covered by tax?

Mr. Manness: Again I reiterate what I said before. This, in a proposal sense, is revenue neutral. There will be no additional tax revenues to Ottawa. Further to that point, Mr. Speaker, the Province of Manitoba in no way is looking at expanding its base of provincial sales tax, none whatsoever. So I do not know again what it is that the Member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs), is trying to do on Halloween Day, 1988. Mr. Speaker, if she is trying to scare the living daylight out of Manitobans, she will not have me being party to it.

Interprovincial Trade Free Tendering System

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Two years ago, on Halloween Day, Manitoba probably received the worst treatment ever by a federal Government with the awarding of the CF-18 contract. Notwithstanding the fact that we had the lowest bid in this province and the best technology, we still were victims of the gerrymandering of that contract by the Tory Prime Minister.

I want to ask the First Minister a question. In his meeting today with Mr. Bourassa, did he make it clear that Manitoba finds it is unacceptable that we have a free tendering system with the Capital Grants on urban bus purchases in this province and the Province of Quebec does not have a free system of tendering? They have a preferential treatment that totally loads the dice for the Province of Quebec and excludes other trade in terms of this country.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I went even further than that. In the presence of all of the media who were gathered at the news conference, I made it absolutely clear that we have been consistent, we in the Manitoba Progressive Conservative Party. We said that under any circumstances, under any Government, we believe that the only acceptable means of awarding contracts was to the lowest qualified bidder. That was something we had been consistent in, unlike our predecessors, the NDP, who brought in all kinds of biases into tendering processes in Manitoba, who themselves entered into the process of raising up interprovincial trade barriers and muddied the waters to make it difficult for Manitoba producers and suppliers in their relationships with other provinces.

• (1400)

Then in the presence of Mr. Bourassa, Mr. Speaker, I said that we, in the Progressive Conservative Party in Government, and I, as Premier, had made it a point in both the Western Premiers' Conference and in Saskatoon in August at the Premiers' Conference to fight against interprovincial trade barriers of all sorts,

from all provinces, to ensure that all of us opened up our provinces, reduced the barriers to ensure that we could trade into each other's provinces for the benefit of all Canada but in particular for the benefit of Manitoba suppliers and producers.

Agreement Quebec

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, of course, the item of interprovincial trade was placed on the agenda some three years ago by our Government, and my question to the First Minister is, where is the beef? Did you get an agreement? You stated that you were going to Saskatoon to get an agreement on interprovincial trade. You said you had a great meeting with the Premier of Quebec. In fact, he was going to come back to Manitoba, you had this great relationship with the Premier of Quebec.

My question to the Premier is, did he obtain at the meeting in August in Saskatoon or the meeting this morning the removal of the preferential purchasing policy that affects bus manufacturers in the Province of Quebec so that today New Flyer can bid in the Province of Quebec as a Manitoba firm the same way as the Quebec firms can bid into the Province of Manitoba? Did he obtain that?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, of course, does not tell the public that on the one hand his Government, the NDP Government, were busy setting up barriers to trade and to producers and suppliers and to contractors bidding in Manitoba. On the other, out of the other side of their face, they were arguing for the removal of interprovincial trade barriers.

The fact of the matter is we made absolutely no progress as long as the NDP were in Government because they were speaking out of both sides of their face. They had no credibility. Their confreres in the other provinces said, what good is it to listen to you? We cannot take your word for it; we do not know where you stand on it because you do one thing and say another. I went and I was consistent, both at Parksville at the Western Premiers' Conference, and in Saskatoon at the Premiers' Conference. Both times, I said we were in favour of the total removal of interprovincial trade barriers. If the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) can read, he will see in the communiques that came out of that conference that the conference reported progress. Premiers from the various provinces indicated their desire to move toward that goal and felt that they were getting closer as a result of those deliberations.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, First Ministers' meetings are papered with communiques with nice-sounding words and great concepts. Mr. Speaker, in this area, the Premier has failed. He said he had a great relationship with the Premier of Quebec. He has failed to remove the barriers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Mr. Doer: —in the Province of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister is, how does he square he and Mr. Bourassa's support for the

Free Trade Agreement with the United States when today he cannot table in this House a free trade proposal with the Province of Quebec in terms of Manitoba manufacturers?

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, in order to establish such a relationship and such an agreement, it takes more than one meeting or more than a few weeks of discussion of perhaps two short interviews to get to that. Mr. Speaker, you have to establish, firstly, a spirit of good will. Let me tell you that when the NDP were in Government in Manitoba, they did not have a relationship of good will with any other province in this country or the federal Government. There was a poisonous atmosphere in terms of interprovincial relations or federal-provincial relations because of the ignorant points of view of the former administration. We are beginning by establishing a good relationship and, as a result of that, we will establish what we are all looking for, and that is the removal of the barriers to interprovincial trade.

Mr. Doer: We had 7,000 more people working in this province than he had because we were not weak-kneed like the Premier is in terms of representing Manitoba. My question to the Premier is very simple. Why can we not get our bus companies to be able to tender into the Province of Quebec today on a fair, even playing field in terms of Canadian trade? Why has he failed in not getting free trade between Manitoba and Quebec in spite of his good will and good relations with all of the other Premiers?

Mr. Filmon: Very clearly, Mr. Speaker, because the NDP Government of that group set up deliberate barriers to people tendering in Manitoba. They set up preferential policies that discriminated against producers and suppliers from other provinces so, therefore, they had no credibility when they spoke with other provinces. The other provinces were encouraged to carry on their protectionist measures. We are opposed to all of that. We are consistent. We believe that the removal of interprovincial trade barriers will happen because of our conviction and our commitment to that process.

Seniors Directorate Policy Change

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): My question is for the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). The Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) has said in this House that he sees the role of the Seniors Directorate as one of advocacy. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister for Seniors tabled his supplementary Estimates in this House on Friday and we do not see one word mentioned about advocacy. The Minister promised that this directorate would look at residential care for the aged—not one word mentioned in these supplements. We were promised a White Paper on elder abuse—not one word mentioned.

The Minister for Seniors has done a complete flipflop. He says one thing and he does another. It is all here in black and white. Could the Premier explain for us why the complete change in direction?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): I know that the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray) has not been in the Legislature for a long period of time and so therefore, had she been here for some time, she would be aware that supplemental Estimates only provide certain bits of additional information. The main process by which information is provided is the Estimates process. She will have all the opportunity to discuss it.

Let me assure her that there has been no change of policy. Indeed, the Seniors Directorate will be responsible for advocacy on seniors programs. It will produce a White Paper on elder abuse. It will provide a paper about the coordination and better delivery of services in a coordinated basis on behalf of the seniors of Manitoba. That is why it was set up. That is why we have a Minister responsible. She will have all the opportunity in the world to ask those questions during the Estimates process. I invite her to list those questions, have somebody write them out and she can answer them at that time.

Seniors' Portfolio Minister's Responsibility

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): With a supplementary to the Premier (Mr. Filmon), I may not have been in this House as long but I think, from your answer, I know more about what goes in supplements than you do.

Perhaps the First Minister could then tell us why the Minister responsible for Seniors is assuming responsibilities, as indicated in his supplements, which are the specific mandate of the Department of Health as clearly indicated in the Health Estimates?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): All of these are questions to be asked of the—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Filmon: Clearly, the Member opposite has complained about the fact that the Minister of Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) has indicated that he is not a delivery of service department. He has a coordinating advocacy responsibility. The fact of the matter is, if the Member opposite wants to discuss in detail all of that, she will have the opportunity when we have the Estimates process for the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Health Minister Workload

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): For a supplementary for the Premier (Mr. Filmon), I am amazed that the chairperson of Treasury Board does not understand what his two departments are putting out in supplements.

But my question to the Premier is this: could the Minister indicate to us, is it a decision of his Government to actually remove key responsibilities from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) because he has too much on his plate and cannot handle those responsibilities and give them to the Seniors Directorate?

* (1410)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, again the production of the supplementary information for Estimates is not a function of the Treasury Board. If the Member had been around, she would understand that is not the role of Treasury Board. We do not review any of the information in the supplementary Estimates. We are not responsible for the printing or the publishing of information on supplementary. None of that is the case. I invite her, instead of taking shots in the dark, to come to the Estimates review for the Department of Seniors and ask all of those questions in a coordinated responsible fashion.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Seniors' Programs Coordination

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Mr. Speaker, with a new question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), since the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has indicated he is not responsible, the supplementary information for the Seniors Directorate which was tabled in this House succinctly underscores the management capabilities of this Government—dismal. We have a Minister of Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) who says one thing and does another. We have a Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) who in the Estimates process on Friday obviously had no idea of what was being produced in the Seniors Directorate, even though it involved his department, the Department of Health.

My question to the Minister of Health is, were you aware of the decision by the Seniors Minister and do you support the removal of the functions of your department in regard to coordination to the Seniors Directorate? Do you support that and were you even aware of that decision?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): No, yes, and no, and is it trick or treat because it is Halloween today, Mr. Speaker?

Ms. Gray: Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), your department's mandate clearly provides for the central coordination of Manitoba health programs and programs through the Manitoba Health Services Commission, which is clearly indicated in the supplements. Now we have the Seniors Minister (Mr. Neufeld) who is saying that it is his responsibility. He is going to coordinate those functions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. Does the Honourable Member have a question?

Ms. Gray: Yes, I do.

Mr. Speaker: Would the Honourable Member kindly put her question.

Ms. Gray: My question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) is you cannot have it both ways. Who is

responsible for the coordination of Continuing Care, Home Care, Personal Care Homes, and the Well Elderly Program, the Minister of Health or the Seniors Directorate?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, I thought that my honourable friend would have much more knowledge of what it costs to run the various programs. For instance, the Continuing Care Program alone this year we have budgeted \$10 million additional for a total of \$43.7 million. For instance, the Personal Care Home Program this year will cost through my department some \$181 million to fund this year. I think with the experience gained by my honourable friend in Regional Services Delivery that she would realize that a \$200,000 budget in the Seniors portfolio would not deliver those programs.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), with a final supplementary question.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Speaker, with a final supplement to the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), could the Minister of Health indicate to us why a Seniors Directorate is coming into his department and has to take the responsibility for coordinating the reporting of fragmented functions for four program areas which are all in his jurisdiction?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated to my honourable friend in my previous answer, the Department of Health which we are currently debating and which hopefully we will get to again this afternoon, if my honourable friend wishes to move to the Continuing Care Program so we can debate it, we simply have to pass a few items previous to that. If my honourable friend further wants to even discuss the Personal Care Home Program, we can simply this afternoon in a few short minutes pass the Department of Health's Estimates and get right to the Manitoba Health Services Commission, providing of course we pass the Estimates for the Alcohol Foundation of Manitoba first. Then, Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to answer all of the questions my honourable friend has.

Falling Canadian Dollar Free Trade Speculation

Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). It has come to my attention that the Canadian dollar has fallen dramatically today. Can the Minister of Finance report as to the magnitude of the fall and the effect that it will have on Manitoba's borrowings abroad?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I find it passing strange that Leaders of the Opposition Parties, who are so anti-free trade, have seen not fit to ask this very important question.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) or somebody was asking for data. I would like to report that the Canadian dollar has fallen from 83.13 cents

American to 81.85 cents so far today. That represents a 1.25-cent fall. This is entirely as a result of the international financial markets being horribly concerned with respect to what ultimately may happen with respect to the Free Trade Agreement within this country, Mr. Speaker. Some are feeling that the Canadian dollar may drop to as low as 70 cents. Today, the taxpayers of the Province of Manitoba to this point in time have lost in foreign exchange \$110 million.

An Honourable Member: Today.

Mr. Manness: That is today.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please.

Long-Term Effects Manitoba

Mr. Harold Gilleshammer (Minnedosa): My supplementary question to the same Minister, what will likely be the long-run effects of the falling Canadian dollar to Manitoba homeowners and businesses with mortgages?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I say for the record that Members opposite, of the Liberal Party particularly, find this issue somewhat—

An Honourable Member: Amusing.

Mr. Manness: —amusing and humorous, the fact that our taxpayers have lost \$110 million today because of the Canadian dollar falling as a result of international markets fearing that the Free Trade Agreement may not ultimately come into being.

Specific to the question, let me say that higher interest rates of course would be an inevitable result of the Free Trade Agreement being lost. That would represent a catastrophic effect to all homeowners with mortgages, to all businesses, and indeed to jobs within this country. I cannot hazard a guess as to how high interest rates may go. That would be in the realm of speculation. But let me say, I can support those claims by some who feel that they would approach 20 percent indeed, if the Canadian dollar free falls as a result of the Free Trade Agreement not coming into being.

Universal Tax System Manitoba Perspective

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): My question is for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). We are being treated to the spectacle of the federal Government having a universal tax plan that they have put on hold during the election, the effect of that being that the people of Manitoba and the people of Canada do not know what their agenda is and do not know what the impact of this universal tax plan will be. There are alarming figures being bandied about, Mr. Speaker, such as a loss of \$500 million from the Manitoba economy, an additional \$1,500 per Manitoba family if the rate goes up, going from one-third of all goods and services

being taxed to 100 percent of all goods and services being taxed.

Mr. Speaker, I want to know why and on what basis this Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) is saying that there is going to be no increase in taxes for Manitobans?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I thank the Member for her question. But I find it passing strange again that this particular Member would ask me that question, as she sat around the same Cabinet Table as her predecessor, Mr. Kostyra, who brought in from a Manitoba perspective the discussions with the federal Government on Phase 2 of tax reform.

Today, the Province of Manitoba is in exactly the same position it was when we took over Government, May 9. Nothing whatsoever has changed. This is a tax again that is being developed by the federal Government in the sense of trying to restructure a bad situation where our competitors, where our producers who are trying to compete in the world are in terrible disadvantage because of the impact of a 12-percent manufacturing sales tax. It is Canadian jobs that Minister Wilson wants to guarantee and safeguard, nothing more, Mr. Speaker.

Impact Study

Ms. Maureen Hemphill (Logan): Since the Finance Minister (Mr. Manness) this morning, quite shockingly I thought, admitted that he did not know very much about the universal tax fund because there had not been very many meetings and there had not been very much information presented, and since the Minister of Finance for the federal Government on the weekend said that he did not know what the impact will be, have this Government and this Minister done any studies in the Department of Finance so we have our own figures on which to base our decisions and, if not, will you?

* (1420)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I said earlier. Over the last six months since we have been in Government, negotiations with respect to Phase 2 of tax reform have been very limited. Very little has been done in the last six months.—(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, I said with respect to Phase 2 of national sales tax reform.

Nothing has really changed as far as Manitoba's perspective with respect to national sales tax reform. I will reiterate. Firstly, the national sales tax, as we understand it, excludes food; it also excludes pharmaceutical supplies. Secondly, from the provincial responsibility within our area, we are not talking in any sense about expanding the tax. We are not talking about increasing the tax. From a tax revenue sense, in the Province of Manitoba, it will be neutral. That means there will be no additional tax dollars taken through tax increases.

So if the Members opposite, if they have some hard evidence to put on rather than sheer speculation, I will gladly take a question with respect to that but not with respect to speculation.

Ms. Hemphill: We still have not been told what the basis is for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) making those statements. Has he done any study in his department? If so, what does it show? Will he table it? Does he support an increase in the tax and, if not, will he withdraw Manitoba from participating in this until we have the facts and figures before the people of Manitoba?

Mr. Manness: I see the Member, former Minister, has a series of questions she has to ask, even though I answered them completely in my second question.

As I have indicated, we are exactly at the same point indeed as was the former Government, of which she was a Minister around the Cabinet table. We are exactly at that same place, that same location. The whole exercise has not materially progressed at all from that particular point, and I can tell you that this Government came in with a promise that it would not increase taxation and that remains still the promise and indeed still remains the watchword of this Government.

Psychiatrists Private Contracts

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): My question is for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). For the professional physicians who are salaried, as well as physicians for fee for service, Manitoba is their bargaining broker with the Government. It has come to our attention that private psychiatrists are being approached by the Government officials to enter into private contracts. In fact, the Government is attempting to move unilaterally with a proposal which MMA had rejected.

My question is, is the Minister aware of this problem? Can he tell the House why he has allowed this thing to happen, and was it an error of judgment or a lack of control?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): What my honourable friend, I think, is referring to is something I referred to today in that we have a very serious problem, for instance, in psychiatric recruitment for the Brandon Mental Health Centre. Although in his reply, he did not appear to have the same understanding of the circumstance that my honourable friend, the Leader of the N.D. Party had, I certainly look forward to attempting during the Estimates process and indeed later on in this Question Period, if he so desires, to attempt to bring my honourable friend to a further recognition of the kind of challenges we are facing in providing psychiatric services.

I am not willing as a Minister of Government to allow those citizens in the Brandon Mental Centre to be denied service, to be denied proper psychiatric care, as is happening now. I am willing to explore as Minister with the department, with the MMA and with the Psychiatric Association of Manitoba all avenues available to us to provide that needed psychiatric health in the Brandon Mental Health Centre, and I would hope my honourable friend would find that a laudable goal.

Manitoba Medical Association Collective Agreement

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) has time for one final supplementary question.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): My question is again to the same Minister. By action taken by this Minister and the Government, it is apparent that the approach is to undermine the collective agreement. Mr. Speaker, that will drive the remaining psychiatrists out of Manitoba. My question is, will the Minister commit himself to stop this action and restore the confidence of the remaining practising psychiatrists in Manitoba?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): The MMA in terms of their advocacy role from time to time disagrees with various aspects and various directions that Government were to take, but I am not the Minister of Health who is going to be the advocate for the MMA as a bargaining agent. I am the Minister of Health for the people of Manitoba.

When 300 of those Manitobans are patients at the Brandon Mental Health Centre without proper psychiatric care because of a number of continuing circumstances, I intend to act with the full responsibility of this office to try to resolve that very serious problem in Brandon. Whether my honourable friend wants to be an advocate for the MMA or an advocate for 300 mental health patients in Brandon is his decision. I prefer to advocate for the patients.

Mr. Speaker: Time for oral questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): I rise to make a non-political statement.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

Mrs. Yeo: It was with a great deal of regret that I learned yesterday of the death of a very well-known dedicated Canadian. Bill Mason was an artist, a canoeist, a filmmaker and a true, one of the first recognized, environmentalist. He was born in Winnipeg some 59 years ago and was recognized by the National Film Board of Canada and also received mention from the Academy in Hollywood and was nominated for an Academy Award. His legacy to those who remain are films such as *Paddle to the Sea*, *The Cry of the Wild*, and many, many others.

On a personal note I can well remember, when a young child attending pioneer camp in Shoal Lake, being taught how to canoe by a slim young man whom we referred to with great respect and love as Paddles.

Bill Mason will be remembered for many, many years and his films, his artwork, his photographs and his books are left behind for all of us to enjoy. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): I have a committee change to do on the Public Utilities and Natural Resources Committee. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards), that it be amended as follows: the Honourable Member for St. James for the Honourable Member for Selkirk (Mrs. Charles).

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): I move, seconded by the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Enns for Gilleshammer.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): I was going to ask if you would be so kind as to call the written question in the name of the Honourable Member for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans).

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. They just show up on the paper.

Mr. McCrae: They just show up? Okay.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East)—

-On what date did the Minister of Municipal Affairs authorize the transfer of the list of names, addresses and other information of automobile insurance agents from the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation to the P.C. Manitoba Fund?

-On what date did the Minister authorize the transfer of the list of names, addresses and other information from MPIC concerning the Insurance Brokers Association, the Manitoba Automobile Dealers Association, and the Manitoba Autobody Repair Association to the P.C. Manitoba Fund?

-On what date did the Minister authorize the transfer of the list of names, addresses, and other information of the Manitoba Truckers Association from MPIC to the P.C. Manitoba Fund?

-What are the names of civil servants involved in the preparation of and the transfer of those lists, and the invitation to members of those associations to the P.C. Manitoba Fundraising Breakfast held on October 20, 1988, at the Hotel Fort Garry?

-Which other lists of names and organizations did the Minister authorize access of from MPIC to the P.C. Manitoba Fund?

-Will brokers or agents who agree to attend P.C. Manitoba of P.C. Canada fundraising events receive preferential treatment by the Minister?

-What role did civil servants play in arranging for the P.C. Manitoba Fund breakfast fundraising event held on October 20?

-What other P.C. Canada or P.C. Manitoba events have been assisted by Ministers of this administration, using lists obtained through departmental files?

-Will the Minister be following up on the October 20 breakfast event using ministerial letterhead and legislative staff or using P.C. Manitoba stationery and Progressive Conservative Party staff assistance?

-Were requests from the Minister to the Laurentian Group Insurance Company to consider purchasing assets of MPIC General Insurance Division written on ministerial stationery or P.C. Manitoba stationery?

-Were similar requests from the Minister to Sovereign General Insurance Company, Northern Shield Insurance Company or other private insurance firms written on ministerial stationery or P.C. Manitoba stationery?

-What is the policy of the First Minister with regard to the access by outside agencies, including political parties and fundraising arms of political parties, to lists of names and organizations within departmental files and Crown corporations?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae), on Orders of the Day.

* (1430)

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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 Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Education; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Health.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I would like to call the committee to order to discuss the Estimates of the Department of Education. We are on Section 1. Administration and Finance (g) Administration and Professional Certification: (1) Salaries \$893,900.00. Shall the item pass?

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): I would like to thank my colleagues and the Official Opposition Party for sitting in on the half-hour, I believe, that you had on Friday morning. There was a good deal of questioning done. However, I would like to go back to the line of questioning that I was following when we left, when I last sat in on Thursday afternoon.

I was asking questions as to whether or not the department would consider or has ever considered the need for some form of retraining, of a refresher-type program for teachers who had been out of the teaching

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field for five, six—I would not give a specific time, but for teachers who had been away from teaching for a fairly significant period of time. We had some discussion and I believe, if one looks back into Hansard, it is easy to follow what we had been questioning.

The Minister had made a statement about the fact that teachers are professionals. He is certainly aware of many, many teachers who have continued to take courses to enhance their particular area of expertise, if you will. For instance, if they are a Grade 2 teacher, they might take some early childhood ed. courses or, if they are teaching in the core French or French immersion, they might enhance their French through night school or whatever. I certainly have found that to be a factor that, once an educator, one realizes by teaching how much one does not actually know, and that teachers go to school probably for the rest of their lives.

However, I would like to ask again if there might not be some consideration in conjunction with discussion, with MTS, with MAST, with the people in the department, if they might not give that fair consideration, because I have had it brought to my attention during the past eight years that there are some teachers who take a fair bit of time to get back into the routine of the classroom.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): As I indicated to the Member, certainly no one can be opposed to teachers being retrained after they have been out of the teaching field for a number of years. This is a matter, I suppose, that we can refer to the Board of Teachers' Certification for their consideration and perhaps discussion with at least the Manitoba Teachers' Society.

Mrs. Yeo: I am wondering if the Minister would ever consider adopting some sort of criteria separate from the Faculties of Education or give direction to the Faculties of Education if you felt that they were not keeping up with changes in curriculum design.

Again, it has been brought to my attention that the Faculty of Education, in some areas, has not kept current, that they are, as one individual said to me, back in the dark ages. I am also aware and from questions with regard to university in the past few days that the Minister did say that they stay away from the universities because it is run by the University Grants Commission, etc. But I know for a fact that the university does liaise with the department. I am wondering if there is any consideration or if there is any input by the department to try and keep the Faculty of Education on a current level.

Mr. Derkach: The Board of Education on teachers' certification is certainly the body that would advise us and the universities with regard to requirements or if in fact the universities are not keeping current with trends in education. However, I should say that universities, by and large, have kept pace with the current trends in education, and I think Manitoba does not have to take a back seat to any province in Canada with respect to the kinds of programs that are offered.

However, that does not say that we should be complacent because we have a good program. I think there is always a need to review, to upgrade and to implement new ideas and principles that are current. We are not opposed to discussions with that regard. Over the next year, we will be addressing this issue and, if there is a need that arises out of our discussions, certainly we will address it.

Mrs. Yeo: When a teacher is released from his or her contract for professional misconduct, and I do not think this happens very often actually, do you require some form of notification and do you review then that individual's certification?

Mr. Derkach: The school boards would advise the Board of Certification in the department, but there is not a requirement there as such.

Mrs. Yeo: Will your central registry of high school credits include schools which are band-run and schools which are run by the Indian Affairs?

Mr. Derkach: Yes.

Mr. John Angus (St. Norbert): Mr. Chairman, may I ask through you to the Minister? We had made some requests for some information on Friday about speech therapists and I wonder if he had some of that information available perhaps.

Mr. Derkach: I was going to do that right at the beginning. However, we got into the questions before I was able to get the chairman's attention.

For the information of the Members of the committee, I am going to circulate responses to the questions that were raised in Estimates on October 27 and 28. In this package is included a list of Internal Audit projects completed in 1987 and 1988: (1) Living with AIDS; (2) Interim Guidelines for Schools, prepared by the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS as of September 1988; (3) Pattern of Teacher Retirements; (4) Questions Relating to School Psychologists; and (5) Questions Relating to Speech and Language Pathologists. For the Members, I will have this circulated now.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

* (1450)

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Mr. Chairperson, I realize that item No. 1.(e) was passed on Thursday last week. Unfortunately, I could not be here and I was wondering whether this would be the appropriate place to discuss some of the activities of the schools' Finance Branch or whether I should wait until the schools' funding, (XVI) 3.(a) or something. I notice that there are individuals here who I think could answer the questions. They are not particularly in-depth. So I would ask the Chair's indulgence and the Minister's indulgence to ask a couple of questions.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I am not quite clear as to what the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is aiming

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at. Is he talking about questions relating to the Public Schools' Finance Board?

Mr. Storie: No. Item 1.(e) Financial Services.

Mr. Derkach: Well, we have passed that. You cannot keep going back.

Mr. Storie: There are a number of questions I think would be quite easily answered, and it would facilitate my asking a number of other questions, if I could get answers to these simple questions.

Mr. Chairman: I would suggest maybe that we could bring it up later under a different appropriation and continue with 1.(g) Administration and Professional Certification: Salaries?

Mr. Storie: If that is the wish of the Minister, then I guess two questions: first one, this particular division was responsible for developing and coordinating an interprovincial agreement on the decertification of teachers who were charged with child abuse or sexual abuse. I am wondering if we could have a report on the status of that interprovincial agreement, how many provinces are now signatory to agreements with Manitoba to report/consult decertifications.

Mr. Derkach: Through the CMEC Agreement, there has been an informal agreement with all provinces and territories in the country to provide this information or exchange this kind of information. In terms of a formal signatory, that is not in place at this time.

Mr. Storie: I guess the question to the Minister is, is the Minister satisfied that informal arrangement will lead to the proper reporting? I think that the Minister is well aware that there were circumstances in the past where, for whatever reasons, divisions or other jurisdictions in other provinces really passed on their problems to Manitoba without notifying us. I am wondering, it was my impression that there were some formal agreements or Letters of Understanding between the provinces, Ontario being one and I believe British Columbia. Is it not possible for us to get something more formal than a simple kind of informal arrangement?

Mr. Derkach: I suppose it is possible through CMEC. Certainly it is not practical for each province to sign with every other province a separate agreement. However, there is not a formal agreement between any provinces that I know of at the present time, Mr. Chairman, but certainly there is good will established among provinces and territories that the information should be exchanged and is being exchanged presently. I think that the problem is serious enough that every province understands and respects the need to have this kind of exchange of information go back and forth very freely. However, there is not any formal kind of agreement in place at the present time.

Mr. Storie: Could the Minister indicate then the basis for that informal agreement? Could the Minister tell me what he believes that agreement is with respect to notification?

Mr. Derkach: The understanding is that whenever a province suspends a certificate, that all other provincial jurisdictions and territories are notified; and likewise, if a teacher's certificate is suspended in another province, all provinces are notified as well. So it is an exchange of information.

Mr. Storie: If I understand the Minister correctly, he is saying that a suspension or decertification for any reason?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Storie: At some point a year or more ago, there was discussion with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees with respect to providing clearance by teachers applying for jobs in Manitoba, teachers from outside of Manitoba applying for jobs within Manitoba, to do a personal investigation. Has that permission become part of the application process for teachers applying for jobs in Manitoba?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, a criminal investigation is done but that is the extent of it. That will, of course, provide all the necessary information.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairman, just so that we are clear, the department prior to a certification requests clearance from the individual to do a personal investigation and, in all cases where there is an application, that permission is received, or what happens?

Mr. Derkach: When clearance is received from that individual, the clearance gives us permission to do a criminal investigation on that individual.

Mr. Storie: I understand that. My question was more specifically, if someone does not give permission, do they not receive certification? Are there instances where permission is denied on some grounds and certification proceeds?

Mr. Derkach: To this point in time, there has not been anyone who has denied giving us the clearance to do an investigation. If that were the case, then clearly a certificate would not be issued to that individual.

Mr. Storie: Just to pursue it a little further, if someone were to apply from outside of the province and for example had a court hearing or a court date pending, how would we know? I mean it is quite conceivable that court cases are delayed for months and sometimes years. Do we have any way of assuring ourselves that there are not loopholes that could be used?

Mr. Derkach: The process is that the department would go through the Attorney-General's Department who would then contact the other province and therefore that information would be available to us.

Mr. Storie: Do these requirements also fall to private schools that are not receiving Government funding?

Mr. Derkach: I think there are two points here. First of all, any teacher who wants certification would have

to go through the procedures that I have outlined in the Member's previous questions. However, if it is an accredited school in the province, then that process would take place. If it is not a credited school, a non-credited school, and the teacher does not request certification, then there is not much that we can do in terms of investigating or getting a criminal investigation of that individual.

Mr. Storie: I guess the information that the Minister tabled with us some time ago indicated that there are currently 48 schools which are receiving direct support from the province. Some 61 schools are receiving print and non-print support from the province. I am wondering whether the Minister can indicate how many, or do we have a handle on how many schools there may be which are not accredited, to use the Minister's term, who are not receiving any operating support from the province but yet which are operating in the province. Do we have any firm number?

* (1500)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I can get that information for the Member and provide him with the list of those schools that are operating in the province that are not so registered or accredited with the department. But of the schools that we fund, those are all accredited schools and have qualified teachers in them.

Mr. Storie: I appreciate that. I guess what I am trying to pinpoint is whether there are in fact teachers operating in the province who come with qualifications which designate them as teachers—they are certified in Alberta or Prince Edward Island or somewhere else—who are operating as teachers without the knowledge of the Department of Education or school divisions, and what mechanisms we have in place to supervise their professional activities, if you will, in the province.

If the Minister is indicating he will get the numbers of schools that are operating without accreditation and without support, can the Minister indicate what process the department uses for identifying those schools? Is it conceivable that there are schools operating in the province of which the department is not aware?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I do not really know what the Member means by non-accredited schools because we do not know that. If you talk about home-schooling situations as being examples of that, there could be people delivering programs to those students who certainly do not have a teacher's certificate that is bona fide in the province, but I do not know that one can get a handle on all the home-schooled students and whether or not those teachers are certified with the province that are being schooled at home. Certainly, some of them are probably schooled by their parents.

Mr. Chairman, if there is such a school operating in the province and if the school division is aware of that, they certainly make us aware of that kind of a situation.

Mr. Storie: The Minister is not suggesting that the school division is under some obligation to make the department aware of it at this point?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no demand on the school division to provide us that information. However, in most instances, I would believe that would happen.

Mr. Storie: Perhaps, while the Minister is obtaining what information he can with respect to the private schools that are operating without accreditation, receiving support, he would also try and determine for the committee the numbers of students that might be attending those schools.

Perhaps while that is going on, I could get from the Minister the number of students who might be attending home schooling.- (Interjection)- Yes, I know I have it somewhere. I am wondering if you could refresh my memory on the number of students attending home schooling.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, we will include that information when we provide the information on the private unfunded schools for the Member.

Mr. Storie: If memory serves me correctly, it seems to me the number of home-schooling students approached 300, in that ballpark. We have 300 students who are attending home schooling. The Minister cannot tell us today how many other students may be attending private schools that are not funded by the province. It may be in the hundreds; it may be in the thousands.

I guess my question to the Minister is, does this Minister or this Government have any intention of moving towards a more carefully regulated private home-schooling situation in the province so that issues like the certification of professional staff, the possibility of teachers certified in other jurisdictions becoming part of the system in Manitoba are less likely to happen?

Mr. Derkach: It is a very interesting question, Mr. Chairman, especially from someone who has been the Minister of Education, and certainly that problem did not arise in the last year. It has been there for a number of years.

I can indicate to the Member, in all honesty, that we are carefully looking at the home-schooling situation, understanding that there needs to be something done because presently we do not have enough information on exactly what happens in many of those home-schooled situations and the situations where we do not fund the private school. So therefore, I would answer in the affirmative that we are looking at the home-schooling issue and certainly are concerned about it. As time goes along, hopefully, we will resolve it so that indeed we would have a better understanding of what the home-schooling situation is like in the province and so that we will ensure that appropriate programs are delivered to those students who are not in the classroom, in the regular classroom in the province.

Mr. Storie: I guess I am as open to criticism about not acting as a Minister of Education swiftly enough, or my successor. It falls to this Minister, I guess, to indicate whether he is prepared to act. I believe that the previous Government had intended and indicated

to those involved that it was going to act to tighten up the regulations to provide for more accountability, both in the home schooling and in the non-funded private school area.

I guess I am anxious to understand what this Minister intends. He indicates that the department will be looking at it. That is admirable, but I guess the question is, what does he have in mind? Does the Government have a policy with respect to accountability from parents, others, when it comes to a responsibility that is one that falls to the Minister and to the Department of Education and the public school system? Does he have a firm plan in mind or is he just going to do a rather ad hoc study of this situation?

Mr. Derkach: After six years of studying it, there was no action from the former Government, and I am telling him that we are looking at the situation right now and that, although a formal plan or a formal policy is not in place at this moment, as we get to understand better the magnitude of the problem, the numbers of students who are not perhaps receiving an adequate program in home schooling and the reasons why, certainly we will then take steps to ensure that there is, as the Member indicated, the accountability and certainly that there is some assurance of a quality of educational programming taking place for those children who are being home schooled. That is as far as I can go at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Storie: I was hoping, rather I understood, that the Minister had no definitive plan. I was hoping perhaps the Minister could outline his own philosophy then, if not policy. Does the Minister have any firm views on the need for accredited certified teachers teaching all of our children across the province? Does the Minister have any firm views on the accountability that should lie with parents home schooling? Does the Minister have any firm views on the need to have school divisions involved in the education of students within their jurisdiction?

Mr. Derkach: I can say that I have an open mind in terms of the types of plans that can be put in place to better assist those students who are in home-schooling situations. Certainly I do not have a closed mind in terms of a specific plan that I want to undertake. I want to be able to listen to those people who deal with home-schooling situations. I want to listen to the parents. I want to listen to school division people and then, based on that kind of consultative approach, we will be better able to develop a program that meets the needs of those students who are being home schooled.

* (1510)

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, I wonder whether the Minister has received a report from the committee that was established some months ago under the previous administration to report on establishing home-schooling policy. Does the Minister have that report and could he share it with the committee?

Mr. Derkach: The report that I received—and I must say I have received it from the committee that worked

on home schooling, and that was a joint committee of MTS and MAST. It was an advisory committee and the report was meant for the Minister. It was not meant for public distribution. Once I have studied the report and made some definitive conclusions or action on it, I am not prepared to distribute that report at this time.

Mr. Storie: I cannot comment on whether the report was prepared for the Minister's eyes only. I am certainly concerned about the Minister's commitment to open Government if we have a report that has been prepared by a joint committee of Manitoba Teachers' Society, Manitoba Association of School Trustees and the department on home schooling, and the Minister has it but he says he cannot share it with us. Perhaps the Minister could tell us when he received the report. Perhaps the Minister could tell us, in general terms, what recommendations, approach was taken by the committee to deal with the problem. Perhaps the Minister could tell us whether he intends to use that report or some other report for a process of public consultation when it comes to establishing guidelines, if we are to see that when it comes to home schooling.

Mr. Derkach: I can tell the Honourable Member that I will look at the report. It was not the report that was commissioned by myself. I will take the report into consideration. I do not have any decisions made at this time with regard to any of the recommendations. However, I can indicate to the Member that over the course of the next six months to a year, certainly we will be studying very carefully the recommendations that are made and will be consulting with not only the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, but we will be consulting as well with parents who have home-schooled students and school divisions and so forth.

Mr. Storie: Perhaps we could move on to another topic. The University of Manitoba, the Faculty of Education, was in the process of establishing an improved rural practicum program. I am wondering if the Minister could advise where that project ended and whether the department contributed significantly to that project. I believe it was a joint one again with MAST and MTS.

Mr. Derkach: I can indicate to the committee that I will be meeting with Dr. Stapleton in the next few days to discuss this very topic.

Mr. Storie: Are we discussing the topic, Mr. Chairperson, retroactively? In other words, has something already been done or are we still in the formative stages?

Mr. Derkach: We are still in the discussion stages. Therefore, I am looking forward to Dr. Stapleton's visit and our discussing at least his views on it and the situation as it is today.

Mr. Storie: Was there any involvement in this project with Brandon University?

Mr. Derkach: No, this particular one, I think, is just with the university. It does not include the University

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of Brandon. We have got a long way to go yet, Jerry, no rush.

Mr. Storie: I did not want to take up too much time. My colleague from Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) wanted some time. I am encouraged by the fact that she says she has some questions but they can wait for a minute.

This division, the administration portion of it, it says: "Expected Results, timely disbursements of \$686 million to 54 school divisions." I am wondering if we could have a review.

An Honourable Member: Where is he looking?

Mr. Storie: Page 36, 1.(g). This is what the Expected Results are. "Activity Identification: Calculates and disburses all grants." I am glad to see it there because it sort of allows me to ask the questions I was going to ask in the previous one. Obviously this department, this branch is responsible for virtually everything which makes it -(Interjection)- It says that is what they are responsible for, so I am assuming that you would not mislead us in the detailed Estimates of the Department of Education. I ask the question—

Mr. Derkach: I would just point out to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) to take a look at the title above the Objectives or the Expected Results where it says, "Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister."

Mr. Storie: I wonder if we could have the Minister answer? It is going to be answered at some point.

Mr. Derkach: I am sorry. Could you repeat the question.

Mr. Storie: The question was whether we have established with the school divisions a time frame, a plan for the adjustment of the school year?

Mr. Derkach: I can indicate that we have had ongoing discussions with the school divisions through MASBO and certainly have put in place many of the technical aspects of it. School divisions are implementing the process.

Mr. Storie: Will the changes that you are proposing require any legislative change of statute to The Public Schools Act, Education Administration Act?

Mr. Derkach: There will be minor changes but none that are very significant.

Mr. Storie: I want to say to the Minister that I think it is a timely change. I think the proposal did not develop as a result of any initiative by the current Minister particularly. It was carried through and I think that there will be a significant benefit from that.

I guess the question that has been left unanswered to this point is what will happen, commencing January 1, 1989, when it comes to funding for the partial year, if the year is going to be adjusted to financial support beginning September 1? What is going to happen for that six months?

Mr. Derkach: As the Member knows well, announcements are not made at this time of the year nor are they made at this committee with respect to funding. That announcement will be made in January, probably as is usually made to cover that period of time.

Mr. Storie: As this Member also knows, answers like that are quite often given to put off making a definitive sort of reply.

Mr. Derkach: Oh, excuse me. A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Minister, on a point of order.

Mr. Derkach: The point of order is that in fact that is not a vague answer. It is a very specific answer telling you that the announcement will be made in January to cover the six-month period.

Mr. Chairman: A dispute over the facts is not a point of order.

Mr. Storie: If that is a definitive answer in the Minister's mind, we are in serious trouble.

I want to know whether divisions can expect a modest, an important increase commencing on January 1 to offset increases that they are inevitably going to face during that portion of their budget? Are divisions going to be penalized? I guess that is my concern and the concern of some school officials. Are schools, divisions going to be penalized in some way by supporting this transition? Can the Minister give this committee the assurance and give assurance to the Manitoba Association of School Trustees that the support that is going to be required to carry them over the six months, the additional support that they are counting I am quite sure, will be available, that we will not see some attempt to extend the existing contract, if you will, to school divisions for that period of time?

* (1520)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I can tell the Honourable Member that, unlike the former Government, we do not operate in a regressive way whereby we impose penalties on school divisions. I can say in all honesty that we have consulted with the officials of school divisions and have indicated that we will do whatever it is that we possibly can to assist them over this transition period. We know that in some situations, in large school divisions such as Winnipeg 1, there is going to be an enormous amount of work that has to be done and we understand that. We are going to give school divisions as much support as we possibly can to help them through that transition period.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Chairperson, I am wondering when I look at the salaries under Professional and Technical, with only one addition of a staff year, there is a \$97,000 addition under the dollar figure. I am wondering if the Minister could please explain that.

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Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, this was a transfer of a staff position from another department. The increase of \$97,000 included the salary, the general salary increment, a reclassification and pay equity.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister indicate to me the percentage, if that is possible, or the amount of increase under Administrative Support that might be attributed to pay equity?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I can provide that information tomorrow. I am sorry, I do not have the percentage in front of me.

Mrs. Yeo: That is certainly satisfactory, Mr. Chairperson. Under the Objectives of this particular department, there is a statement that one of the objectives is to certify professional personnel in school divisions. With regard to school psychologists, it has been brought to my attention from a couple of areas that there is not a school psychologist—as a matter of fact it is my understanding that there is not a psychologist nor a psychiatrist in Manitoba who is able to use American sign language. I am wondering if these statements or questions provided to me are true and, if they are true, is there any move towards trying to educate one of your particular professional people in the other language, American Sign Language?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I do not have the answer for that question, but that is a question that is probably more appropriately answered in (XVI) 4. I could have the staff here then to provide the answers to that kind of question if the Member does not mind.

Mrs. Yeo: I will certainly ask that again under that area. I did feel it fit in here because of the objective on the previous page.

Perhaps the other area you would choose to wait to respond to as well, but it has also been brought to my attention that there is a great need for both school psychologists and for reading clinicians who are bilingual. If there are any, they are very few in number.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I am not aware of that situation or that request at the present time. It has not been brought to my attention, but certainly we will investigate that and I can respond at a later time.

Mrs. Yeo: It may be a bigger problem in areas where there are a greater number of bilingual students, such as St. Boniface, La Salle or Lorette, for instance, but I have heard it on several occasions in the last couple of years actually. In particular, the need for bilingual reading clinicians has been raised on several occasions.

If I may ask a question to follow up on the Honourable Member for Flin Flon's (Mr. Storie) questions on home schooling, I tried to listen to the responses and so I may be repeating somewhat. It is my understanding that there is currently a fairly in-depth study and there has been a report done and that there will be ongoing negotiations, if you will, or communication with people who are involved. At this point in time, it seems to me that there is a sort of an unknown out there, who is

actually responsible for the children who are being schooled at home, and I believe the figure the Minister gave awhile ago was 300 plus. It was 320 or something. It was a higher figure than I had anticipated. Is it the school division, is it the department who actually is No. 1 in the way of responsibility?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the school division takes the responsibility for the education system of students in that particular jurisdiction. However, the department has a liaison officer and has had for some time, who does deal with all the home-schooling students in the province. That sort of has created, that kind of a loose arrangement, I guess, has created a need for a better way to deal with home-schooling students.

Of course, the report from the joint committee is certainly the initial step in the whole process. What we need to do now is to consider that report, and then to enter into some discussions with the affected parties, and also with school divisions, with the Teachers' Society, with parents, so that we can come up with a policy or an approach that is going to be acceptable to parents throughout the province, and is also going to provide an adequate education system for those students whose parents have decided to home school them.

* (1530)

Mrs. Yeo: I have spoken with a couple of different school superintendents in different school divisions who feel that it is really not fair that they are, in fact, responsible for children who do not choose to access the public schools within their jurisdiction, any more than it is their responsibility to be over students within the particular school division jurisdiction that chooses to go to an independent school. They really do not feel that it should be up to them to be trying to monitor these students. It comes to light more when the parent decides after, let us say—pull a figure out of the air—two-and-a-half years that child should then go back to one of the local schools. Who then is responsible to decide whether that child has received a Grade 4, or whether that child should be placed in Grade 4 or 5, or whatever? Who is responsible for the decision when the re-entry occurs? Is it the school division, or really should it be the department that plays a fairly important role there?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member has just pointed out some of the problems that exist in the home-schooling situation as it is in the province. Superintendents feel, either rightly or wrongly, that they should not have that responsibility. Schools feel that they should not have the responsibility, so it is kind of a ball that is being tossed back and forth. However, the Act is quite clear in that, when a student re-enters school, it is the receiving school that is responsible for determining the level at which that student is at. However, the problem is a lot broader or deeper than that because we want to make sure that while that student is out of the school system that there is some progress being made in terms of that individual's academic growth and the quality of education that is being received.

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So, as I indicated, there are many problems associated with home schooling that have to be addressed. It is not something that can be addressed overnight, but certainly we are working toward it to try to come up with a policy or an approach that is going to be, not only acceptable to those parents who take their kids out of school but also it is going to provide for an adequate education for those children.

Mrs. Yeo: What curriculum do these children at home use? Do they obtain it from the Department of Education?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, there are a variety of programs that are followed, once again pointing to the need for some accountability and some tightening up of the whole program. But in many instances, the correspondence program is used while, in other instances, the accelerated Christian Education Program is used, and then there are a variation of other programs. I know of one instance, Mr. Chairman, where the parents have received books from the school system and are following the curriculum as is outlined in the school system, so it is a variation of programs.

Mrs. Yeo: What about testing for these children? Does the department assist with testing? Do they encourage testing? Is that something that is left up to the parent or whoever is doing the schooling at home?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the only test that is given, and divisions assist with, is the CTBS test, the Canadian Test of Basic Skills. Once again, we feel it is not an adequate measure of evaluating the growth or the level that student has achieved. We have to address that to ensure that in fact there is some formal kind of testing that goes on to determine specifically the growth of that individual child.

Mrs. Yeo: I apologize, Mr. Chairperson. Did the Minister say that the CTBS was administered with the assistance of the school division or of the department?

Mr. Derkach: It is a combination, I guess. In some instances, it is the school divisions and then the department has done it as well.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, a couple of questions relating to the certification process, I am wondering whether the Minister can edify us on the issue of certification for school psychologists. The issue has been raised from time to time by the Manitoba Psychological Association or Psychologists Association. There may be another association that I am missing, but they have raised with the department their concern about the lack of certification or membership in their professional body. I wonder if the Minister could indicate what his position is on that issue.

Mr. Derkach: School psychologists at the present time are certified with the Department of Education and must have a Master's degree or equivalent in School Psychology. With regard to the other portion of the

question, I am not quite clear as to what the Member was alluding to. He was referring to some organizations or something.

Mr. Storie: I believe that the Psychologists Association of Manitoba, PAM, has been asking that school psychologists become members of that professional body. Their feeling is that they would add a dimension of governance, I guess, over the activities of psychologists in the school because they are a professional body and can discipline members and so forth in accordance with the provisions of their Charter. The Minister indicated that we certify psychologists and they require a Master's degree, etc. What is the Minister's position when it comes to the necessity for having school psychologists become a member of professional associations like PAM?

Mr. Derkach: I think at the present time the department is satisfied that the individuals that we have and the certification process that we have is certainly adequate for dealing with situations in the school system. Certainly school psychologists have, I think, in the province now an association known as the Manitoba Association of School Psychologists. Membership to that group is voluntary of course and there is no Canadian association per se.

With regard to the other organization, I think in order to be a clinical psychologist you have to have a Ph.D. or equivalent. That is kind of a different situation and we are not at this time prepared to demand that school psychologists have a Ph.D. before they can deal with children, because you know what would happen to our backlog of students if we had to have every case handled by a psychologist who had a Ph.D.

Mr. Storie: Other than pressure from or recommendations from the Professional Psychologists' Association of Manitoba, has the Minister received any support for this position from the Superintendents' Association, the Teachers' Society?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I can indicate that we have not received any lobbying from either superintendents or any organizations with respect to this situation.

Mr. Storie: Is the Minister aware of whether there are any school psychologists operating in the province in the capacity of school psychologists without being certified?

* (1540)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, all school psychologists have to be certified. There may be a situation or two where the certification process is ongoing right now or has not been completed yet, but certainly all school psychologists must be certified in order to practise in Manitoba.

Mr. Storie: Has the province considered establishing guidelines, requirements, for counsellors who, in some instances, clearly infringe on the territory that

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psychologists assume is theirs? I am wondering whether the Minister can indicate to the committee how those two occupations are differentiated and how requirements for one differ from the other.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, at the present time there is no way of delineating, sort of, the responsibilities so that there is a clear distinction between the fine line, as the Member puts it, in dealing with the area of guidance counsellor and then also the area of school psychologist. I guess throughout the province—not now but in the past and I guess at the present time—there have been situations where both guidance counsellor and school psychologist would probably work on the same case and, hopefully, would work in tandem or in cooperation with one another.

Mr. Storie: I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. I think he is quite right. I guess the question it raises is, how can we be so certain—and the Minister sounded quite certain—that we had specific guidelines for the certification of psychologists who, in the Minister's own words, at times their activities overlap, can be integrated with the activities of psychologists, counsellors? Does the Minister feel that there is a need to develop more specific certification criteria for counsellors, given that they do the same task, and we have taken great pains to identify what prerequisites are required for being a school psychologist? Are we prepared to develop the same kind of a process for developing criteria for becoming a school counsellor? Does that make sense?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, certainly the school boards who hire individuals to do school guidance counselling would, through their superintendents and their professionals, like their principals, ensure that person has some qualifications with regard to handling counselling kinds of situations but, right now, we do not certify guidance counsellors per se. However, that is an interesting concept and certainly, as the need for more counsellors becomes evident throughout the province, I am sure that it is not a bad idea to ensure that guidance counsellors do at least have some types of minimum qualifications in terms of being able to deal with those kinds of situations. Certainly, we are not against that. The process is not in place right now and I have not, to this point, addressed the situation.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister talks about, "as the need for more counsellors develops." I was a school counsellor and I can assure him that there is a need for more counsellors in our school system. I think there are many who would argue that the assignment of counselling duties in our school system is rather haphazard. It tends to fall in some cases to people who will take the job and, despite what some other professionals in the education system believe, it is a difficult job.

It has always intrigued me that we may go to such lengths to define what psychologists and psychiatrists do but we have left open the question of what counsellors do. I think if you ask most teachers, most parents in the school system, they would tell you that the counsellors have a more direct impact on a greater

number of students than do the psychologists and psychiatrists who also—I am no longer a school counsellor. The Minister is patting himself on the back. We do not require the kind of same specifics in terms of background and certification process.

I am not arguing that we should rush headlong to define or certify counsellors. I think it probably is an interesting challenge. What I would think it would do, however, is highlight the need for counsellors in the school. It would also perhaps encourage the province, and this Minister can perhaps comment on whether the province is interested in developing a special category of funding for counsellors.

Counsellors have often maintained that their services are sacrificed because of the interest of school boards in other services, whether it is resource teachers or funded from—fund one or other of the supports that teachers need. If he has not considered certifying them in some way, has the Minister considered establishing some more direct way of encouraging, assisting divisions to hire counsellors?

Mr. Derkach: At this point in time, I have not considered any form of categorical grants for school counsellors and certainly we are doing an Education Finance Review which will certainly change the way we fund schools, but at this time I would have to indicate that we are not looking at creating a categorical grant for school counsellors.

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, I understand the Minister is quite clear in his answer. I am wondering, before the Minister confirms that position, before we see a new funding program, whether the Minister will consult with the people, whether the Minister will talk to parents and school divisions across this province to determine the value they place on having counselling services available to their students.

For the Minister's information, when I did my tour of some 22 divisions not that long ago, I can tell you and I was quite surprised to find that counselling services are amongst the highest priorities that parents have. I should not say I am surprised at that because I think that probably stems from the use that students make of their counsellors. I would argue very strongly that if we are going to develop a new system, counselling should be a priority for funding.

We have a very haphazard system. Some school divisions have virtually no counsellors in any of their schools. Some schools boards have taken it upon themselves to provide counselling services right from Kindergarten to Grade 12. I think I would argue, along with a lot of parents, that it would be an important priority. So I am disappointed that the Minister in such an off-hand way says he was not considering it and I would ask him, before he finalizes that opinion, that he do some checking with school boards and, as importantly, with parents.

Mr. Derkach: I am a little bit upset with that kind of remark coming from a former Minister of Education because he says it was an off-handed remark. It is not an off-handed statement at all.

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If he has been listening to any of the speeches that I have made over the past while, he will know that certainly I have singled out the lack of counsellors in schools as a very important issue in the school system today. In six months, I cannot try to place into the school system guidance counsellors who would meet the requirements that are out there today. Certainly, under the former Government, there was an opportunity for six years to do that and that has not happened.

I am not suggesting that we are not going to move on trying to encourage school divisions to hire counsellors at all. I am just saying that at this present time I have not had the need shown to me that we have to have special categorical grants for guidance counsellors. I think there are other ways to address the problem and certainly we are going to look at addressing it in other ways. Certainly, in the end, categorical grants may be a way but I just indicate to the Member at this time, I have not considered that particular part as being a practical approach at this point in time.

* (1550)

Mr. Storie: Perhaps I misunderstood the Minister's remark. I thought I heard him say quite definitively that, no, categorical grants would not be part of the review. The Minister in his final remarks says, well, maybe it will be necessary.

The Minister said there are other ways. It certainly seems to me that way, the defining of a categorical grant in support of the hiring of school counsellors, is very specific and has been a successful way of encouraging school divisions to hire counsellors. If he has some other ways, perhaps he could share those with the committee.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Member would take a look at what has happened with funding school divisions across the province, we have a chaotic situation out there right now that has to be addressed. That is the reason for the Ed. Finance Review. As the Ed. Finance review unfolds and as we make decisions and once our approach is in place, we will certainly inform all Manitobans and the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) will be informed at that time. I can tell him that I do not have the specific answers in their completed form at this time. Once we have them, we will certainly make them available to all Manitobans.

Mr. Storie: Perhaps the Minister could clarify how he is going to determine what professionals the province is going to identify, or how the province is going to identify which professionals are deemed essential. Apart from classroom teachers, does the Minister have any agenda for establishing which are going to be part of a categorical system? If we are going to go to a resource base model or some other kind of model for funding, are we going to establish a list of teachers and non-teaching professionals that are going to be required in a division?

Mr. Derkach: I think that the need for the various categories of professionals is different in different

divisions across the province. When we consider special needs, for example, certain divisions in this province have a greater need for those kinds of resources and those are determined on a kind of division-by-division basis.

However, I can indicate that we will be in consultation with the organizations such as MAST, MTS, MASBO, MASS, MAP, plus parents, to give us some indication of the priorities of the needs. As I indicated, I think there are differing needs in differing divisions.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): I wonder if the Minister might entertain some questions as to athletic programs in high schools.

Mr. Chairman: We are under Administration and Professional Certification.

Mr. Derkach: That will be handled in (XVI) 4., Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Edwards: I wonder if, given that I am not the Education critic, the Minister might be prepared to answer a few questions at this time.

Mr. Derkach: If we wish to pass this section, we can get to to (XVI) 4. in a hurry and I would be prepared to answer them then.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Edwards: I wonder if the Minister at this time might entertain some questions with respect to the specific incident at the St. Charles Academy, which has been the subject of discussion in the House.

Mr. Derkach: Go ahead.

Mr. Edwards: The Minister has indicated in the House that there is an investigation going on within the department, I believe, with respect to that, the unfortunate incidents of sexual abuse, and there has recently been a conviction. I am sure the Minister is aware of the perpetrator in Manitoba's courts. There seems to be some confusion with respect to the progress of the inquiry.

Apparently, the Minister spoke earlier this week or last week on the radio and indicated that he anticipated having the report within the next couple of weeks. Yet, there seems to be some information that the parents and other involved individuals are only being interviewed now. Can the Minister clarify when that report is expected to be completed?

Mr. Derkach: I can tell the Honourable Member that we are expecting the report within the next couple of weeks. The committee has indicated that they have had good cooperation in their investigation. That is the report I received. There was difficulty getting in contact with an individual who had left the academy and that is why there was a bit of a delay, but we are still expecting the final report from the external committee in the next couple of weeks.

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Mr. Edwards: Was a representative from the Department of Education present at the decision brought down last week by the Court of Queen's Bench with respect to the conviction of the boy involved who was charged?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, we were not present.

Mr. Edwards: Is the Minister aware of the—and I also was not there, but apparently there were comments with respect to the school board involved and with respect to the principal involved. Will the Minister have someone present? I am not sure if there has been a sentencing hearing yet. Will the Minister have someone present at the sentencing hearing?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, that is not a practice that we usually undertake and I might say that, hopefully, when we get the external review report, much of that information will be contained therein.

Mr. Edwards: Have there been any changes in the responsibilities or duties of the high school principal involved pending completion of the investigation?

Mr. Derkach: We are not aware of any changes.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mrs. Yeo: Just a couple of questions with regard to business/industrial vocational teachers, does this broad group of teachers—and perhaps I should separate it and ask specifically for the business teachers. Do they follow the same sort of criteria that teachers do for certification or registration for the academic courses?

Mr. Derkach: The business teachers have a program. There is an integrated program at the University of Manitoba where the specific program focuses on those kinds of skills.

Mrs. Yeo: What about the industrial arts teachers? Is that a similar sort of certification program?

Mr. Derkach: It is integrated with Red River Community College and the same kind of process as this fall.

Mrs. Yeo: Vocational industrial, similar?

Mr. Derkach: In the vocational area, the instructor has to be a journeyman so there is an apprenticeship program that has to be undertaken as well.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there any sort of area whereby an individual who has, and I guess I am thinking of jewellery arts as an example, an individual perhaps does not have a lot of educational background, yet they are expert at that particular field. Is there any sort of hole there or any area left open so this type of an individual who is not an educator per se could in fact teach some of the programs?

(The Acting Chairman, Mrs. Gerrie Hammond, in the Chair.)

* (1600)

Mr. Derkach: Yes, there is an opportunity for that kind of situation to exist if that individual has, first of all, six years of experience, has Grade 12 minimum qualifications, and has the necessary qualifications to enter Red River Community College.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. Hammond): Shall the item pass?

Mr. Storie: A couple of small questions, in the detailed Estimates, there is a reference to maintaining records of Manitoba students, high school credits and issuing official statements. Are we continuing the process of collecting records of high school students across the province?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, to that question.

Mr. Storie: Are we collecting all high school records of all students?

Mr. Derkach: We are collecting records for Grades 10, 11, and 12.

Mr. Storie: Perhaps the Minister could identify the rationale for collecting all of that information?

Mr. Derkach: As the Member knows, there is a requirement of 20 credits in order to graduate from a high school. Therefore, to have an accurate transcript issued, it is necessary to have that information for the Grades 10, 11 and 12 years.

Mr. Storie: It just strikes me that the need for this really has diminished pretty significantly since the province discontinued the exercise of provincial exams. It seems to me that the records that high schools maintain are relatively adequate. I am wondering whether the department has ever considered discontinuing this practice and leaving the obligation with schools and individuals to carry their records with them. Clearly, an individual can retrieve his or her record from a school division, a particular high school. I am wondering whether the department has looked at eliminating this practice.

Mr. Derkach: After six short months, I can indicate to the Member that we have not considered that kind of an initiative. However, I should indicate as well that the reason the department does carry the records is because of student transfers, mobility of students within the province, outside the province, students coming in from outside the province into this province. Therefore, it has been determined that this is a more efficient way, perhaps a more effective way of being able to supply universities perhaps with the transcript.

Mr. Storie: Perhaps the Minister can clear up for me then what the department's role is in issuing a high school diploma?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Acting Chair, it is the high school that issues the diploma, not the department. The Member is beside himself in laughter, who used to be the Minister of Education. This is not an unusual

procedure. As a matter of fact, I should tell you that I just recently received a request from a Member of the Liberal caucus for someone who has transferred outside the province, who has received his marks from the high school but that particular school and that province wishes to have an official transcript from the department. This individual has requested that information and, therefore, I think it only makes good sense that we have that particular record of that student on file.

Mr. Storie: Madam Acting Chairperson, I do not wish to get this Minister boxed in so that when he finally understands that this is probably not a particularly useful service that is not provided at a cost that he—

Mr. Derkach: I have been here for six years. What are you talking about?

Mr. Storie: The Minister keeps using the six-month excuse. Madam Acting Chairperson, the Minister has been there for six months and he keeps telling us what he has not done. It is not very clear what he has done either, but I will leave that aside. The question that I have asked is what value is collecting all of those high school records when the Minister confirms in answer to the next question that the Department of Education does not provide diplomas to high school students. It is in fact the schools.

If you carry the Minister's argument to its logical conclusion, you would have to say does the province keep records of every university student? The answer is clearly, no, we do not. The institutions provide records when it comes to university attendance. The anecdotal comment from the Minister that someone asked for a transcript from the Department of Education because they thought it was more effective or more impressive that confirmation of graduation came from the province, I do not think justifies spending of money and staff time on keeping those records when the purpose for keeping those records has for all intents and purposes been lost.

I am not attacking the Minister for not doing it in six months. He seems very, very defensive. I am not attacking myself. I was not Minister of Education for six years. Even if I was, I could not have done all of the things that needed to be done. What I am hoping this Minister will be able to do is to do some of the things that need to be done. I will not expect him to do all of the things that need to be done. I am not convinced that he is going to do any of them. If he becomes defensive when I make a suggestion or members of the committee make a suggestion that perhaps he look at this, I think he will be condemning himself to sitting on his thumbs so to speak.

My question is, Madam Acting Chairperson, has not just this Minister but has the department considered discontinuing this service?

Mr. Derkach: During my tenure, we have not considered doing away with that service at the present time. Certainly all programs and all services that the department provides will be reviewed as time goes on.

But at this point in time, we have not considered doing away with that particular service.

Mr. Storie: If I can do anything to reduce the cost of administration in the Department of Education—

Mr. Derkach: You had six years.

Mr. Storie: —some people may say we did reduce the cost, but I still think that there are other things that can be done. If I can do anything to speed this Minister's review of that matter, for potentially saving some money and staff time which is equally as important, then I certainly want to do that.

Therefore, I ask the following questions, could the Minister indicate how many requests we get on an annual basis for high school graduation records? Could the Minister indicate how many we get, perhaps break it down by division, although a total number would be adequate? Could the Minister indicate how many staff are currently assigned to fulfilling this task? Could the Minister indicate what space is required in the Department of Education for maintenance of these records? Could you answer the more general question of is this necessary? Could the divisions and the high schools themselves not maintain adequate records for this purpose in some way?

* (1610)

Mr. Derkach: First of all, with respect to the staff, there are two staff members who are currently employed in this area. Last year, 1987-88, in terms of the high school transcripts that were issued, there were some 1,260. In the general education area, there were 154 transcripts issued and, out-of-province high school appraisals, there were 222 issued.

Mr. Storie: I can only ask that the Minister review those numbers and determine whether of those 1,260 requests it would not have been feasible for the schools involved, the final school that provided the certificate, to provide that information for those individuals as well?

With respect to the General Educational Development Test, the GED Test, were they referenced in that group? Obviously, that is a task that is more appropriately, perhaps out of necessity, done through the Department of Education. I was not arguing for its removal because of the significant difference in terms of the process for receiving certification. But I simply ask, is there not a better way to have two staff years and obviously an appropriate amount of operational dollars spent doing something else, if we are not getting much value for our money? So it leaves open a question for the Minister to address, and perhaps this Minister will have some answers, and we will see some change prior to Estimates next year.

Mr. Derkach: I did not say that we were not getting value for our dollar.

Mr. Storie: Madam Acting Chairperson, this Minister is very defensive. I know he did not say that; I said that. I said, are we getting value for dollar? In other

words, there are many, many professional tasks that are required of the Department of Education. My colleague from Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) talked about the need for some support to immersion students and francis schools. When it comes to psychologists, when it comes to a curriculum development, is there not a better way to spend the money than keeping records that may as easily be kept by the high school involved? That is the question. So I am still hopeful that the Minister will maintain his much vaunted open mind when it comes to this issue and, if there is an opportunity to reduce the costs or transfer the cost to another area, let us see it done.

Mr. Derkach: I guess the only response I can make to that long dissertation is the fact that we will be taking a look at efficiencies of scale and efficiencies within the department as we move along. Certainly we cannot accomplish everything overnight, but I can assure the Honourable Member that each and every area will be looked at to ensure that in fact those branches, the departments and those functions are operating in an effective and efficient manner, and this will be one of them.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. Hammond): Shall the item pass?

Mr. Edwards: Under subappropriation 1.(g), the office of the Assistant Deputy Minister calculates and disburses all grants to all public and private schools as set out in the Supply Estimates book and some of those programs are sports programs. Is the Minister aware of the MHSAA policy with respect to disallowing students in their fourth year of high school from participation in high school athletics?

Mr. Derkach: I am aware of that situation, but again this is an area that should be covered in (XVI) 4.(d).

Mr. Edwards: Does the Minister not recognize that the department, by spending money appropriated for sports programs in public and private schools, has some responsibility for following the way that those funds are spent? To that extent, if there are problems with the exclusion of certain students from sports programs, is it not a concern of the Minister whether or not they are properly fairly excluded or not.

Mr. Derkach: That is not a program that we have any control over in terms of the policies that are set by the organization. Certainly it is an organization outside the department which sets its own policies independently and, to this point in time, we have not tried to intervene in the scope of the organization at all.

Mr. Edward: Is the Minister saying that the use or non-use of Department of Education dollars, taxpayers' dollars, in sports programs in the schools is not a concern of the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach)? True the MHSAA is an independent body which regulates the athletic programs but to the extent that they regulate dollars coming from the Minister of Education, is it not a concern of the Minister of Education as to how those grant dollars are spent?

Mr. Derkach: Of course we are concerned about how the taxpayer dollars are spent and certainly we monitor and are aware of what is happening with respect to school programming, but it is not our position to be funding certain activities. We fund as a department through the Public Schools Finance Board the general school divisions and schools, and they in turn determine how that particular fund is going to be expended. Now, yes, we are concerned about what happens with the dollars that are spent on behalf of taxpayers in Manitoba and that is monitored continually.

Mr. Edwards: The Minister has indicated that the department does monitor how these funds are spent and is aware of how they are spent. The Minister has also indicated that he is aware of the exclusion of fourth-year high school students from sports programs by the MHSAA. Is he aware of the non—sorry, let me rephrase that. Is he aware of the in-house appeal process which the MHSAA has set up to deal with appeals from that automatic exclusion of fourth-year high school students, and does his department sanction that exclusion and that appeal process?

Mr. Derkach: Again, this is an area where I think that there needs to be some latitude given to individual schools throughout the province and it is a matter that, if schools across the province in general feel that it is not in their best interest to move in this direction, certainly it is their responsibility to address that. I might indicate when the Member says fourth-year high school students, it is the fourth year after 10, 11 and 12. It is not the Grade 12 year normal year so, therefore, it would affect all those students who are repeating Grade 12 or have repeated at some point in time.

Mr. Edwards: Has the Minister considered the issue of the constitutionality of the department's tax dollars being spent in a way that is unconstitutional, based on discrimination on age, in that there is an automatic exclusion based on it being the fourth year of a high school career from high school sports programs, keeping in mind that for all other intents and purposes the fourth year of high school, if it is necessary, is just like any other year.

That student's parents pay the same school taxes. That student has presumably the same rights as any other student. Just because he has to repeat the fourth year, the only difference being that because he is one year older, requires one more year to finish high school, he is excluded from sports programs which are funded by the taxpayers' dollars. Is the Minister concerned about the constitutionality of that exclusion?

* (1620)

Mr. Derkach: I think there has to be a clarification here in that those students are not excluded from the sports programs in the school. They are excluded from the competitions that are funded or carried on through the Manitoba High School Athletic Association. I might indicate that the association is made up of individual schools who have membership within the organization, and it is they who determine that this kind of student should not take part in the competitions that are held.

Certainly, however, in terms of the regular school programs, there is no exclusion of that individual student.

Mr. Edwards: Two points, one a new one and one to reiterate the thrust of my prior question, firstly, does the Minister not consider interschool participation an integral part of the athletic program of any interschool competition? Secondly, is the Minister not concerned about the constitutionality of excluding someone based entirely on age?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the function or the purpose of funding the athletic aspect in schools is not the interschool or the extracurricular school sports programs that are held. There are many schools across this province who cannot afford to participate in those kinds of functions and do not, because either of distances that they have to travel for interschool competition, for a variety of reasons. But in terms of the purpose of funding schools, we fund the schools for intramural and school athletic programs and those are the programs that we ensure that in fact there is no exclusion of students, regardless of whether they are in their third high school year or fourth high school year or, for that matter, fifth or sixth year.

Mr. Edwards: Is the Minister saying that not one department tax dollar is spent on a team that participates between schools?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I am not saying that at all. I am saying that certainly there are school resources that are used. For example, the high school gymnasium will be used for those kinds of interschool competitions, and certainly we want to promote that. But in terms of the rules that sort of are followed, those rules are set by the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association and rightly so. I do not think it should be the department that dictates those particular and specific rules with regard to interschool competition.

Now, as I have indicated in the previous question, certainly when it comes to in-school programs and intramural programs, those students are in no way discriminated against or in no way excluded from the programming, and that is the prime purpose of funding schools. Now, when schools participate in competition between one another, not only are they funded by the department, not only do we provide the resources of a school gymnasium, but there are also other funds that the schools raise, that students themselves raise and that students pay out of their own pockets to belong to those kinds of organizational sports.

Mr. Edwards: Does the Minister, on top of the simple facilities that are used, not recognize that department grants are used for equipment, to pay the people who teach and who coach, to pay for other things that add to and that are a part of the interschool athletic program? Secondly, does the Minister not recognize that with respect to the school athletic programs, being on the school team is an integral part of the school athletic program, and that therefore the Minister and the Department of Education is very definitely involved in the overall high school athletics' picture? I would

appreciate an answer to the question I have posed now in different form twice. Does the Minister not have a concern that the high schools in this province are administering an unconstitutional bar?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I have to say to the Member that at the present time I do not have any specific concern about the fact that the fourth-year student does not participate in an extracurricular program.

I might indicate to the Member that there are a lot of people who put in time coaching sports that they are not paid for. Many teachers are coaching interschool sports, do it on a voluntary basis. Secondly, of course, equipment is used, the high school gymnasium is used to do this, but that is what those community facilities are there for. They are paid for not only by the department. They are paid for by local tax dollars and are meant to be used for those purposes. Otherwise, what would that school be there for if we could not use it for interschool activities when the school is not in session? If there is a constitutional question with regard to discrimination, certainly I will take that under advisement and consider it.

Mr. Edwards: Is the Minister going back to the appeal process and the awareness and the monitoring of the department? Is the Minister aware of the appeal process which mandates that a panel decides whether or not the students shall continue to be excluded, that the individual involved is not allowed to go to that hearing nor to present evidence and the presumption is towards exclusion? And in particular, is the Minister aware of any statistics which support the automatic exclusion of fourth-year students based on abuse of the high school athletic situation? That is the rationale given for the automatic exclusion, which is that people hang around and go to high school for extra years just to abuse the sports system. Are there any statistics to support that conclusion and this rather drastic reaction?

Mr. Derkach: No, I am not aware of the statistics that are in place, if there are any.

Mr. Edwards: Given that the Minister has expressed his concern and his desire to monitor and be aware of the situation, will the Minister also take that under advisement and report back to this committee as to the rationale for the automatic exclusion of these individuals and the more than somewhat absolute in-house appeal procedure?

Mr. Derkach: That is not a jurisdiction that is of this department. That is a jurisdiction of the MHSAA, Manitoba High School Athletic Association.

I think that certainly we do not want to be a dictator in terms of how every intramural school program is run. The schools belong to that association. They take membership in that association so, therefore, they should be allowed to make some decisions with that respect. They have some very specific rules in place. Now, if the Member wants some information with regard to how they arrive at their decisions, I can provide that.

Mr. Edwards: To the extent that the Manitoba High School Athletic Association is set up solely for the

purpose to deal with sports between high schools in Manitoba, is it not a concern of the Minister if certain students, whose parents no doubt pay taxes which go into the coffers of the Department of Education, is it not a concern of the department how those programs are administered and if in fact certain classes of individuals based entirely on age are being excluded? Is that not a concern of the Minister?

Mr. Derkach: My big concern would be if those students would be excluded from the regular high school program, the intramural program, and the high school phys. ed. program that is carried on a regular basis in the school. That I would be very concerned about.

Mr. Edwards: Can it be taken then that the Minister takes no responsibility for anything dealt with by the Manitoba High School Athletic Association?

* (1630)

Mr. Derkach: Madam Acting Chair, I am not about to take control or ownership over the MHSAA at this time or any time in the future. Certainly, that organization is running as a separate organization from the departments. As far as I am concerned, it will remain as such.

Mr. Edwards: I appreciate the answer. I do not think it dealt with the question. I would like a clarification from the Minister.

He has said that he does not feel the Manitoba High School Athletic Association is in any way a responsibility of the Department of Education and therefore how it administers its programs, fairly or unfairly, wrongfully or rightfully, is not a concern of the Minister. Is that this Minister's position, yes or no?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I know how much the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) likes to put words in people's mouth. We have witnessed that over the course of this Session and he continues to attempt to do that. Nevertheless, that is not the way the situation is. For his edification, I am telling him that if there is a constitutional problem, then that we will look at. However, we will allow the MHSAA, Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association, to operate as an arm's length entity, to make its own decisions. That is the way it should be in a democratic country.

Mr. Edwards: What will the response of the department be if in fact it has some constitutional concerns as to the operation of the MHSAA programs?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, that is a hypothetical question and we will deal with it when we investigate or when that comes to our attention.

Mr. Edwards: Given that the Minister has indicated that he will be investigating it—

Mr. Derkach: I did not say that.

Mr. Edwards: Given that the Minister has indicated that he—now he has said he will not be investigating

it. What exactly will he be doing? What responsibility does he take for any concern as to the constitutionality of how they run their programs? Again, what responsibility does the Minister take, if any, for how they run their programs?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I am not going to investigate the matter, as indicated by the Member, or launch a full-scale investigation into this allegation of his. All I am going to do is have my officials from my department talk to superintendents across the province to see whether or not they have a specific concern, whether there is a problem that exists in the high schools. I want to see how many students certainly have expressed a concern that because they are in their fourth year, have failed a year, that they are not allowed to compete in an interschool sports program. It is an understanding that they are allowed to take part in intramural and regular school programs.

Mr. Edwards: I believe the statement of the Minister was taken under advisement and he has now gone forward and indicated what that means. He has indicated that he will be talking to school superintendents. Will he also talk to lawyers as to whether or not it is a constitutional bar, and will he also determine from the MHSAA what are the criteria for allowing an appeal, how many appeals have been made, how many have been allowed, and why there is absolutely no provision for representation at the hearing by the affected student?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, once again I indicate that is a matter that individual schools can take up if there are some concerns with that, school divisions or schools belonging to the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association. If they do not like the way that the program is administered, they can pull out of it. It is not a mandatory thing that they have to belong. Certainly I have not had any concern brought to my attention in the past from schools across this province that in fact there is a problem with the way the High Schools Athletic Association is dealing with the situation of students in interschool sports.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. Hammond): Shall the item pass?

Mr. Edwards: The Minister indicates he has not had any problems from the schools. A majority of the school boards voted in favour of this policy. My concern is that of the students. Does the Minister not perceive that to be within his mandate to look into any unlawful or unfair discrimination of students in the athletic programs which are run in Manitoba's public and private school system?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I have not had one single student come to me and indicate that there has been a problem.

Mrs. Yeo: Madam Chair, this concern has been a concern of mine for a number of years. The concern with regard to the decision made by the MHSAA was something that came to the attention of a particular

school division in which I happened to be a trustee. The thing that upset me and perhaps has led to the reason I am sitting where I am sitting in the House was that, in a committee meeting, the committee of that board decided that they were not in favour of the policy. Then after some lobbying by some members of the High School Athletic Association, all of a sudden some members of the committee changed their minds and our board was one that agreed, after having decided in a committee that we did not agree with it for a variety of reasons.

I had a young son at that point when the decision was made who was a high school student, and one of his good friends was a young boy from a fatherless family whose mother had remarried and she had moved to Brandon, so that young boy had to find himself a place to live and pay for that place. He could not continue as a full-time high school student because he could not afford to pay rent, attend high school full-time and work to give him the funds to pay for the room that he was living in. He was also trying to assist a younger sister. He is a typical example, and there were many, of an individual who could not complete high school in the three usual years. In fact, he took five years.

He was also an outstanding basketball player. His coach came to me and said, please try and do something about this policy that the Manitoba High School Athletic Association is trying to put through because people such as young Jeff are going to be penalized because of it.

I have had many students come to me, both as a trustee and in the last few months, who have been excluded from the interschool sports, to me, unfairly. I did not consider the constitutionality of the penalty.

I also have gone on record as saying that I am concerned about the highly competitive aspect of some of the high school athletics, that there should be pluses for the competitive and the non-competitive athletics, but I am concerned about the individuals who are not able to continue in the interschool sports programs.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

I am also wondering, what happens to those students who for some reason or other drop out of high school and then are re-entrants at a later age, because there are many, many high schools today who have students who are 20, 21, 25 years of age. Are these students allowed to participate in the interschool athletic programs? Does the Minister know that answer?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, this whole question, I guess, has to do with students participating in a school, and every student who goes to a high school is allowed to participate in the sports program that is offered in the high school and is also allowed to participate in the intramural program.

The Member has said she is concerned about the competitive nature of interschool sports. That is precisely the nature of interhigh school competition, because it is competitive. There is less competition, I guess, in the intramural aspect because there every student is allowed to participate.

* (1640)

Now, if you are going to say that we are concerned about the qualifications that are set down by MHSAA, certainly what about those students who do not make the team because perhaps there is a bit of lack of skill? Are they too then supposed to participate as well? Again, it is a situation that has to be dealt with by an arm's length organization. It is not something that we are going to mandate upon schools in terms of who can and who cannot participate. If there is a constitutional problem here, as I indicated, we will be talking to superintendents, to schools across the province to get some idea of that.

Mrs. Yeo: I think when the Minister was chastising my young colleague for putting words in his mouth, I would also suggest that maybe some words were put in my mouth.

Mr. Derkach: No.

Mrs. Yeo: I am concerned about the too many accolades being piled upon those individuals for competitive reasons. I think we live in a competitive world. I think that certainly there should be trophies, etc., for competitive sports.

My thrust would also be that some non-competitive activities and some individuals who are maybe not the ones who are the stars on the basketball or volleyball teams should be recognized for other activities. I think there should be a lot of energy put into trying to find things where we could give pats on the back to those students who were not the great shining sports stars in the schools. I would encourage the Minister to perhaps get some legal advice as to whether there is a constitutional exclusion or some unconstitutionality for a student who is not allowed to participate in interschool sports if they are the type of individual such as the young friend of mine who took five years to get through high school, not because he was not academically inclined, because that student today is now in British Columbia getting his doctorate in school psychology.

Mr. Derkach: I agree most adamantly with the Member when she says there is a need to have as much participation in other school programs. No one disagrees with that.

I think we have all kinds of programs in the schools for students who perhaps do not excel can participate, the intramural program being one of them. There are photography clubs; there are golf clubs; there are cross-country ski clubs, skating clubs, you name it. I am sure we can find all forms of non-competitive, so to speak, activities that take place in the school setting. However, if an individual school is concerned that perhaps something is unconstitutional with regard to an organization which they are a member of, then that is where that matter should be raised. I have indicated in my previous answers that certainly we will be talking to schools with respect to this situation.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Monday, October 31, 1988

Mr. Storie: A couple of other questions in the same area, No. 1, Brandon University had raised some concerns about their ability to meet the requirements for the two-year Bachelor of Education program. I am wondering whether those issues have been resolved with Brandon University.

Mr. Derkach: The matter has been resolved. Brandon is offering the two-year degree program—post-degree program, I guess.

Mr. Storie: I recall that there were some financial concerns that the university had. I think those would be better addressed to the University Grants Commission, unless I am wrong.

Mr. Derkach: I will check it.

Mr. Storie: Okay. A further question to the Minister, this part of the department also has responsibility for changing regulations as they affect schools and the operation of our schools. I know that the Manitoba Education Advisory Committee at one time or in the recent past was reviewing the nature of religious exercises in the school. I am wondering whether that committee has reported to the Minister whether there have been any changes or are changes being recommended to the Minister when it comes to religious exercises.

Mr. Derkach: The advisory committee has reviewed the regulations and have recommended that the regulations be re-enacted with one amendment, that being that teachers be allowed to exclude themselves from participating in the religious exercises.

Mr. Storie: The regulations have not changed other than that specific amendment which allows teachers to exclude themselves?

Mr. Derkach: That is the recommendation of the advisory committee.

Mr. Storie: The Minister is indicating that is the recommendation. He is not indicating that recommendation has been adopted yet or that the regulations have been changed?

Mr. Derkach: I am sorry, I missed the last part of that question.

Mr. Storie: The Minister has indicated that is the recommendation from the advisory committee to make those changes. Have those changes been implemented and, if they have, how does that work when a teacher who voluntarily does not want to be part of the exercise, how does that operate in practice?

Mr. Derkach: I guess I could say that is the recommendation of the committee. We have not re-enacted those recommendations. We certainly are studying that and will be moving on it in the next while.

Mr. Storie: The advisory committee, the Minister may know, makes—

Mr. Derkach: I am sorry, makes the regulation, yes.

Mr. Storie: Yes. The advisory committee recommended some time ago that there be substantial changes to the information, the materials that be made available to classroom teachers when it comes to religious instruction, which basically broadened the traditional Judaeo-Christian readings and materials that were made available to a much more broad-based one, including Hindu materials and Buddhist materials and so forth. Is that likely to come forward in the near future as a recommendation or as a policy?

Mr. Derkach: That is being considered presently, Mr. Chairman. The committee has made some recommendations and no decision at this time has been made but certainly, in light of some of the things that have happened in other jurisdictions and in light of the changing sort of demographics of this province, we have to be cognizant of all of that and all of that is being considered. Hopefully, in the next short while, we will be able to come up with a policy which will reflect the situation as it is in this province.

* (1650)

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, if I can read between the lines then, the Minister is saying that the traditional religious exercises that reflect typically Christian readings and so forth from the Bible may in fact be a thing of the past and that other religious orientations will be a part of the material that is available for a teacher to use in the classroom in lieu of religious exercises.

Mr. Derkach: I could just indicate to the Member that there have been some recommendations made by the advisory committee. No decision has been made to date with respect to the specific readings, for example, that have been recommended by the committee, but certainly all of this will be studied and will be looked at very carefully and then we will embark on a policy to deal with the matter.

Mr. Storie: I may have misunderstood the Minister. I believe he said that no recommendations have been made of a specific nature.

Mr. Derkach: No decision has been made.

Mr. Storie: The Minister may be aware that I believe the Ontario Supreme Court has ruled recently on the traditional practice of religious exercises in the school and has ruled them unconstitutional and in violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

I am wondering whether there is currently any challenge ongoing in the Province of Manitoba with respect to religious exercises?

Mr. Derkach: There is no challenge at the present time that I am aware of except for the individual case that the Member, I am sure, is aware of but there has not been a recent challenge.

Mr. Storie: I am assuming that what held true in Ontario with respect to the court decision on religious exercises

is likely to hold true in Manitoba. I am wondering if the Minister has given any thought or had any discussions with the Manitoba Teachers' Society or Manitoba Association of School Trustees or business officials or others when it comes to the likelihood of a challenge at some point and a decision which reflects the Ontario decision.

Mr. Derkach: No, there has been no discussion at the present time with MAST, MTS, MASBO or any one of those organizations.

Mr. Storie: Then I guess the question needs to be asked: is the Minister prepared to initiate those discussions or is the province inevitably going to end up in a court battle over the question of individual rights in this area?

Mr. Derkach: I have asked the advisory board to take a look at the implications of what has happened in Ontario. We are re-examining the entire issue and certainly we will be talking to the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, the Manitoba Teachers' Society and all organizations that are affected by it.

Mr. Storie: The Minister perhaps could indicate to the committee his own feelings on the appropriateness of the current religious practices in our schools.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, my own personal feelings are not a significant part of the process. We want to hear what groups outside of this department have to say about this whole issue because it is not the whims of the Minister that are going to be implemented in any situation. That is not the way Government works. Certainly, we govern for the people and it is the people who we want to hear from.

Mr. Storie: I am pleased to hear that, Mr. Chairperson. I gather I am a little disconcerted that the Minister previously, in his previous answer to a question, indicated he had not asked anyone at this point. There has been no consultation with MTS or MAST or the Teachers' Society and—

Mr. Derkach: The advisory committee is part of that.

Mr. Storie: —it seems that this is a pending issue, that there is an individual case which may not have been moved to a judicial question at this point but it has clearly been a question. It has been before the Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

I am wondering whether the Manitoba Human Rights Commission has met with the Minister to discuss the implications of the challenge which came from a pupil in a Manitoba school.

Mr. Derkach: The Association of Human Rights has not met with me, but I have to indicate to the Member that in fact the representation on the advisory board is made up of a variety of groups, of professional groups, of parents, of citizens across the province who in fact represent the individual jurisdictions. So when the Member says you have not consulted, that is what we

have advisory committees for and certainly we will be consulting even in a broader sense in terms of going specifically to those organizations and getting their feedback on it as well.

Mr. Storie: I suppose we will wait and see whether the issue is pressed from outside of the department or not. I gather the Minister is not going to attempt to head off a challenge by action on the department's part or the Minister's part, that he seems inclined more to let events overtake him.

Mr. Derkach: I guess the Member missed the answer, but I indicated to him that I have asked the advisory board to take another look at the implications of what has happened in Ontario.

Mr. Storie: Moving on to another area, again a constitutional area, I am wondering if this is the area in the department which has been examining the question of the establishment of a francais school division, that the issue, I understood, was before the courts as of this fall and the province, if my recollection serves me correctly, had supported a reference to the, I guess, Court of Queen's Bench for a ruling. I am wondering whether there has been a ruling, where that issue is at.

Mr. Derkach: This is not the appropriate area that we would be discussing that in, but I could indicate to the Member that the issue is coming before the courts next week.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, just one question, where is the appropriate area to ask this so that I can make a note of it, because I would not want to be in violation of our Rules.

Mr. Derkach: You could ask that kind of question in (XVI) 6., I guess.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, just in regard to that comment, it is not that I am putting it off. It is just that we will have appropriate staff here then.

Mr. Chairman: Item (g)(1)—pass.

Item (g)(2)—shall it pass? No.

The hour is now 5 p.m. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

* (1440)

SUPPLY—HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order, please, for continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health.

We are presently considering item 1.(c) Health Advisory Network. Is it the will of the committee to pass this item? The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister indicate, under this Health Advisory Network, what are the areas of identification as regard to seniors' health?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Pardon me? I could not hear.

Mr. Cheema: I will repeat the question again. Could the Minister tell the House, what are the areas, in terms of seniors' health, that have been identified to study under and have advice from this advisory network?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I realize that my honourable friend would want every last detail laid out. In, for instance, the Winnipeg hospital role, because seniors are significant consumers of health services, naturally any conclusions that come out of how we better organize, how we make more efficient the services between hospitals in Winnipeg will have a very direct and hopefully very positive impact on the level of service to seniors.

In alternate health care strategies, certainly, there will be an ongoing relationship to determine how more effective we can make home care versus early discharge from hospital versus delayed entry to personal care homes. Where we need to enhance a community-based program like through support services for seniors, those will become part of the alternate strategies and they will impact on all Manitobans, including seniors. In the alternate delivery strategies, certainly, seniors may have a greater role in terms of the study but not an exclusive role. In mental health, the psychogeriatric care component is part of a growing problem in mental health so that they will be impacted there.

Mr. Chairman, the bigger picture—and this is where we have to be, I think, cautious and careful—is that all too often people have approached health care from what does it do to this segment of society or the other segment of society? The Health Advisory Network, if it has one hopeful outcome, is it brings together people from the various sectors of demand, if you will, and gets them to leave any vested interest or any special interest group advocacy outside so that they can look at the global picture of how we deliver health, how we can better coordinate the system and how we can better expend in the system to get higher quality health care. A health policy for seniors is an important component but not an exclusive component.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass this item? (Agreed) Item 1.(c)—pass.

Item 1.(d) Research and Planning: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: I believe that this branch is a very important unit of the health care system, planning for the future from the identification of the problems and the issues to the resolution. As new models are delivered, this branch should continue to play a crucial role.

Mr. Chairperson, my first question is—could the Minister tell us?—the Estimates indicate that under

this cost centre there are 11 positions. How many positions are presently vacant?

Mr. Orchard: There is just one vacant position currently of the complement of 11.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate, has there been a change in the managerial staff?

Mr. Orchard: The director of Research and Planning is David Pascoe and that has not changed. The one vacancy is a senior economist who is currently in the employ of Manitoba Health Organization.

Mr. Cheema: There is a significant increase in the salaries and benefits for these positions. Can the Minister tell us why there is such an increase and is there a change in their job description?

Mr. Orchard: The increase in salaries is the increments and in the odd instance a merit increase, following the MGEA contract.

Mr. Cheema: Of the 11 positions, one which is vacant, what is the role of that particular job and when we should expect to fill that position?

Mr. Orchard: That was the position of the senior economist as I indicated to my honourable friend earlier on. He left the department and went with Manitoba Health Organization. We are in the process of advertising to fill that position.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): The Supplementary Detailed Estimates for this particular item shows a number of projects under way under the column "Activity Identification." Could the Minister please take a moment to run through that list and to give us an update as to the status of those particular projects? I am not asking for specific detail. We may ask for that on specific projects. Just as a general overview, is it started yet, is it near completion, and when do we think it might be completed? As well, the question should be, have there been any additions or deletions to that list since it was first put together?

Mr. Orchard: There is going to be a fairly substantive amount of detail, so I will try to go through and provide some status as to where we are from what I know of them, and then I will have to fill in if you want additional information from staff.

Day Hospital Pilot Project, we are in the final stages of developing the criteria and the information protocol. That will be done by the end of this year and then a management decision will be made in terms of whether that becomes a very regular and routine information collection.

Research and Planning Directorate, in cooperation with a consultant geriatrician and the heads of Geriatric Services, spent considerable time designing and pretesting two forms for collecting admission and discharge data on day hospital patients. Information was collected on approximately 400 patients starting in January 1987. Data collection is now complete and

the data has been checked thoroughly for completeness and consistency. Computer data entry is in process and the analysis will proceed upon completion. Once the results are available, a decision will be made as to whether the forms will provide a base for ongoing admission separation abstract for day hospital patients.

Adult Medical Bed Study, that is ongoing.

Manpower Planning Analysis, that is ongoing in several different areas. We will probably be adding, very shortly, a specific in terms of therapy: occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy.

The professional support to task force and committees has commenced in terms of the criterion that we have developed so far for the Health Advisory Network, but certainly that professional support to task force will put an increased demand on Research and Planning.

Continuing Care Program Review, Planning and Research has been involved since the completion of the Price Waterhouse Review and continues to be in review of the Continuing Care Program from a Price Waterhouse standpoint, as well as internally, in terms of the organization.

Teaching Hospital Review, of course, has been under discussion now since February 1987, with agreement and principle to proceed. We will hopefully be nearing a formalized review process very shortly on that.

Mental Health Management Information System Project, I am not sure of the status on that one. This is developed and approved for implementation.

Psychogeriatric Review at Seven Oaks, this is a study specifically for Seven Oaks. They wished us to undertake a psychogeriatric review and hopefully we will have that done by the end of January for Seven Oaks as an institution.

Investigators on various National Health Research Development Grants, again ongoing.

Child Forensic Review is ongoing. Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services Review, again that is ongoing.

The working group and establishment of a National Physicians Data Base, that is federal-provincial relations, and again ongoing.

I am informed that the Management of Acute Elderly Admissions, etc., is a federal-sponsored project at St. Boniface in an attempt to determine who best cares for elderly Manitobans when hospital admission is being contemplated, whether it be geriatric specialists or internal medicine specialists.

Appropriateness of Antibiotic Prescription in Personal Care Homes, that is subject to regular review and analysis.

The Walk-in Clinic Study, as I mentioned earlier on, the information for year-end, March 31, 1987 was completed; '88 is being completed and hopefully will be available by year-end. There are several demonstration projects ongoing.

As it says, in the Indian Health Care, Manitoba health representatives on 200 departmental committees report

in Cabinet. That is also ongoing because there are a number of issues in terms of Native health, particularly with some of the desire to devolve health responsibilities, federal, to the Natives. That is subject to some substantial ongoing discussions. We are in, I would suspect, negotiations, discussions. They are going to take a considerable amount of time on the last item.

* (1450)

Mr. Cowan: This would be the general area in the department where all research concerning major policy issues would be undertaken. Is that the case?

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Mr. Cowan: The Minister has indicated that is indeed the case. I would like to ask a couple of specific questions on some of the projects that have been listed off by the Minister. If he does not have the information here, I understand that because we are going into some level detail, and if he could come back with that information that would be appreciated, but whatever he does have available to him would be helpful.

Working backwards from the bottom of the list as was presented up, the Indian health care certainly is an issue where there is a great deal of activity ongoing at the federal-provincial level with respect to the devolution of services. We, as a Government, were involved in many of those discussions. I can tell you, as a representative of a northern constituency and as a Member of that previous administration and Cabinet, we certainly encouraged the devolution of health care services to Indian and aboriginal people to the extent possible. We understood that there would have to be a time during which the transfer would be made and I think we also shared some of the same concerns that the Minister shares with respect to the costing of those services as they are devoluted, if that is indeed the proper verb.

The difficulty, as I understand it, is that the services, if they are transferred as they are now, may not be adequate services for the continuing care and health care needs of Manitoba's aboriginal people. In this instance, I think we are talking in large part about treaty Indian people, but I think some of the work that is ongoing, although it would be less of a federal-provincial nature but still a concern of the department, should also address the devolution of services to non-treaty aboriginal people, the Metis in particular.

We were actively advocating that the federal Government assume more responsibility for the financing of health care needs as had been done in the past. One does not have to travel very far in my own constituency or any northern constituency or, Mr. Chairperson, even any southern constituency that has a reserve in it to understand that the medical services provided to Indian people by the federal Government are woefully inadequate. That inadequate level of service shows up in many unmet health care needs for aboriginal people and they suffer from the lack of full financial commitment to their needs by the federal Government.

That suffering in many instances takes on some very dramatic symbols and impacts. It is hard to believe that we still have tuberculosis as a problem in some parts of this province, but we still do and the parts of the province where we have tuberculosis as a problem primarily, to my understanding—I may be corrected—are in the area of Indian reserves.

I would ask the Minister if he can—I am going to ask a few questions so maybe he can jot them down. With respect to tuberculosis, is it now confined solely to cases coming out of Indian reserves and Metis communities or are we seeing other areas where tuberculosis is being found and, if so, is it being found in greater or lesser numbers than it has been previously?

Moving along then, we also see that the life expectancy of a Manitoba or Canadian Indian is much less than the life expectancy of a non-aboriginal person and that is because of some of the health care needs not being adequately met. We see diseases that are epidemic in some cases. I do not want to overstate the case but certainly serious in reserve communities that we do not see in other communities.

I would ask the Minister if he can identify any specific areas where Native health is being addressed with respect to specific diseases. Finally, and there will be more questions in this area but for this series of questions, the Government just previous to the change in administration was trying to develop an overall approach to Native health care issues generally that were not directly tied to federal-provincial financing or devolution of health care but were tied more to the basic goal of trying to improve health care needs for Manitoba's aboriginal people in Native communities. I would ask him if that project is still in place and, if so, if he can provide a status report on it.

* (1500)

Mr. Orchard: In terms of the specific question on tuberculosis, I think probably my honourable friend is correct that any incidence that is in Manitoba today is primarily made of Manitobans from northern and remote reserves in particular, not exclusively, but I cannot give him the numbers. When we get into Regional Services with my ADM, we will have those numbers better at hand when we get to Communicable Diseases.

The whole issue in terms of negotiation with the federal Government, I think my honourable friend made a couple of points which no doubt caused his administration some concern and certainly caused us some concern. The whole issue of course is in accessibility in quality of care and a case can be made, I think pretty readily, that some of our provisions of services to northern and remote Native communities is less than adequate. There is no question about that. That is not a new revelation. I think my honourable friends, when they were in Government, tried very hard to improve services and had some success but still the level of service is below what most southern Manitobans would find acceptable.

That gets you into the debate with the federal Government. If we are going to have a devolution, for

instance, of health care services at a given level of service right now and hence cost transfer, whose expectations are being met and who will meet future expectations, because first and foremost, as my honourable friend well knows, the responsibility for treaty Indian services lies primarily with the federal Government, if we, for instance, and I cannot say that this is part of negotiations but I am sure this thought had crossed my honourable friend's mind, that if we are being asked as a province to take care over, let us say, or transfer to Native Manitobans from the federal Government responsibility for their Health Services that a given block of funding would accompany that, then I suppose the question has to be asked, would they provide better services with the same amount of dollars having their own self-control over it?

That is question No. 1. I cannot answer that. I simply am unable in terms of discussions with Native community leaders to answer that question.

But, No. 2, if they are able to deliver a higher quality level of service, I guess the next question is then, who provides the additional level of service and whose dollar is involved? The provincial dollar or is it the federal dollar? And therein gets to be a very, very serious negotiating strategy because my honourable friend would not want to see expectations raised unduly amongst Native Manitobans that services were miraculously going to be better with the devolution of responsibility from the federal Government and nowhere would my honourable friend responsibly want to assume a major portion of federal responsibility because we have, I think it is fair to say, a number of unmet demands throughout the system right now without adding more.

So the negotiation process is going to no doubt be a fairly long one and I simply at this stage of the game cannot even hazard a guesstimate as to where it will lead the province in terms of negotiation.

Mr. Cowan: I want to put some general comments on the record and I think that this is going to be an area that we will have opportunity to discuss in the future as well, so I do not think we are going to resolve it today.

I want to share with the Minister some of my own thoughts and then I have questions on some of the other areas, but I see that my friend, the Liberal critic for Health, also wants to become involved, so I will save those other questions until after he has had a chance to discuss some of his issues and we can move back and forth.

With respect to expectations, I think the Minister in large part has grasped onto the nub of the issue and that is unmet expectations. In order to say as I have, without concern, that the expectations are unmet, then one has to clarify very quickly as to what they believe to be the appropriate level of expectations because one can have all sorts of expectations at one time or another that are reasonable or unreasonable. I think you have to start defining the level of expectations which you consider to be reasonable and then determine whether or not you can meet those expectations as a Government and what you do in order to accomplish that goal.

I believe there are expectations from a number of different perspectives. I think there is the expectation of the provincial Government as to what health care should be across the province generally. I think there is the expectation of the federal Government as to what should be the national standards for our health care across the country generally. I think there are consumer expectations and I break consumer down into two different subcategories, the first being the individual consumer.

When you or I or any individual goes to a medical professional, we have an expectation of the care which we should receive. If we do not receive that type of care, we are frustrated and angry. Also, the consumer has groups which advocate for it which also have expectations of care. In this instance, the groups would probably be the political organizations and some of the service delivery organizations of the Indian communities, such as the MKO or in my own area the tribal councils.

Then we have expectations of professionals as to what they perceive to be the appropriate standards and level of service. You can break that list down into the health care delivery professionals, to the academic professionals, to the research professionals, to whole different groups that either have direct hands-on contact with the issue or not.

Having said all that, I think there is one standard which should guide the discussions, and that is the standard of equity and access that Native Manitobans, aboriginal Manitobans, whether they be in a treaty community or a non-treaty community, a Metis community, should all have access to the same level of care that other Manitobans take for granted. That means that the services that are in place now are in fact—if you accept that as a reasonable definition of level of expectations—are not being met to the extent that they should be. There are in fact, therefore, unmet expectations that have to be addressed.

I do not know if the devolution of services will mean that in all instances aboriginal consumers of health care services will get better service with the same dollars. I think in some instances they will. I think in some instances they may not because there are some efficiencies of size that enter into the picture as well. There are some coordinated mechanisms that provide higher levels of service for less money. You have the potential for losing some of that when you start to devolve the services, depending on how far you take that devolution process.

On the other hand, I have always found that in areas where more control was put into the hands of local residents with respect to Government programs, that the Government programs in most instances—and I have already contradicted myself, instead of all, in most—but in most instances, I will stand by that, turn out to be better provided because the local needs are more adequately addressed and you can meet them by prioritization at the local level much easier than the Minister can try to meet them by trying to prioritize within his office. So I think you will get better service with that regard.

I think there is also a philosophical issue that has to be addressed as well. I believe that services should be

devolved where they are able to be devolved. I think the more local control we can provide to individuals over their own lives the better off we will be and the better off they will be. What we have is a situation where we are going to gain some efficiencies, lose some efficiencies. It will probably even out in the end but even with that, even if we gain great efficiencies, we would still have many unmet expectations because the level of service is so low to begin with.

* (1510)

That is the point I want to make to the Minister. I believe that he has to work with his staff and provide the political willpower and direction to them to ensure that when we go into those negotiations, that we go into those negotiations not fighting for the present level of service but fighting for what he would consider to be an expected level of service for himself, his family and his colleagues and his friends, and that we do not start off working from the base that the federal Government has in place because it is woefully inadequate. I encourage him to take that very strong position on behalf of aboriginal Manitobans. If he does so, I think that he will be able to assist in providing better quality health care for that particular segment of our society. I know he has that goal in mind.

It is also an issue that sometimes gets less attention than other issues because of the distance factor. The problems are not immediate—the communication factors. It is much more difficult to communicate back and forth when you have the distance involved. So it is something that the Minister has to say, I believe, to his staff, this is one of my priority areas. This is one of the areas I want to see something very important happen over the next little while.

So I provide him with that advice and also with the commitment that if that is the strategy and the policy that the Government pursues, that he will have my support and the support of my colleagues in the New Democratic Party caucus on that particular issue because it is something that we felt was important. It is something that we were working on. It is an area where we accomplished a little but there is a great deal more to be done. It is very complex and it is very difficult and it is not entirely understood by those who are not involved with the issue or have had some contact with the issue in the past. So you do have to have some political courage to go forward with respect to a very strong case given that there are limited dollars and there is limited energy so that we can apply to these sorts of problems.

The other question I asked, which the Minister did not answer directly, or if he did I missed it, was with respect to the whole Native health policy area that we were just beginning to pursue previous to the change in administration. There was a prioritized thrust to start to look very seriously at some specific Native health issues, to involve the Native community and the deliberations as to how to deal with those issues in a very consultative and collaborative and cooperative method. I think that was an important area, one that was a priority with us. I would like some assurance from the Minister that he is continuing along with that

program, along the lines that we had developed in a very preliminary fashion just previous to the change in administration.

Mr. Orchard: I accept my honourable friend's offer of support.

It certainly is going to be one, I think, because I was involved in 1979, '80 and '81 in the Native Land Claims Settlement Subcommittee of Cabinet. In 1981, we believed we had left Government with a reasonably proactive plan. Seven years later, that issue was still very much subject of negotiation frustrating Governments of all political stripe, I think it is fair to say.

Similarly, I am informed by my staff that one of the initiatives that were being contemplated was a further study or a further announcement or development of health care policy involving Native Manitobans. I am going to check in the interim, between now and tomorrow, and find out whether anything had been committed to policy development framework or whatever, and share that with my honourable friend. I have to say that to date I have not seen any initiative that came out of that direction. We will see what we can put together, say for tomorrow's Estimates.

Mr. Cheema: Could we go back to item 3, the Adult Medical Bed Study? Could the Minister describe the criteria established for the Adult Medical Bed Study. My second question is what hospitals are involved in this study? Could the Minister tell us what are the objectives of this study?

Mr. Orchard: I do not know where Mr. Pascoe has gone. (Interjection)- Yes, if you want to come back to that item when he comes back.

Mr. Cheema: With your permission, maybe we could go to another item that is under Manpower Planning. Can the Minister tell us what are the present numbers of physicians practising in rural and urban Manitoba? What is the breakdown between primary and specialist physicians? Because we have a chronic problem in Manitoba in terms of the shortage of rural physicians, and not only even the primary physicians but also the other specialized services, such as psychiatry, radiologists, anaesthesia, obstetrics and gynecology.

Mr. Orchard: I will attempt to get those figures over the supper hour and provide them to my honourable friend at eight o'clock in terms of that. If I understand his question, he wants to know the total number of practising physicians, what the breakdown between urban and rural is and what are the specialist categories. I know we can give the rural/urban. I am not confident that we can come up as quickly with the specialist count in rural Manitoba.

Mr. Cheema: We have a Standing Committee on Medical Manpower. Is that committee going to be part of this whole process of studying the medical manpower in Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate what will be the role of the professional faculties in the study like the University of Manitoba, College of Medicine, Manitoba Medical Association, College of Physicians and Surgeons and Employment and Immigration Commission?

Mr. Orchard: I think, if my honourable friend is familiar with the membership structure of SCOMM, that a lot of those organizations that he has mentioned are members of the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower. Their whole objective, of course, is to attempt to work cooperatively with the communities in rural Manitoba who need physicians. Also, I see an enhanced role, if you will—it has always been part of their role—but an enhanced role dealing more with the issue of liaison with the Faculty of Medicine, because one of the areas that I think it is fair to say is that we dedicate a substantial amount of resources to the Faculty of Medicine and to our teaching program.

I guess one of the concerns that happens in rural Manitoba, and I will just share with you one of the observations given to me by a former chairman of the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower and others, that North American medicine in general tends to be very specialist oriented. When we graduate physicians with specialist training, they are generally practising in a support team group. In other words, a neurosurgeon does not operate in isolation and a cardiovascular surgeon does not operate without some substantial peer group support. By the very nature of the technology in medicine, we have a lesser or a diminished role in the general practitioner.

In most, not all—maybe I am being unfair when I say in most—but in rural Manitoba, a general practitioner is the most in-demand physician because quite frankly a lot of our smaller hospitals, although quite operative in terms of treating illness, do not have surgical programs, do not have obstetrics, for instance, but yet are there to provide recuperative care and general medicine.

One of the things that has been indicated to me is that physicians who graduate in Great Britain and in South Africa tend to have a training program which makes them more independent practitioners, if that is the proper terminology and language to use, so that they are fairly comfortable, for instance, with a practice in rural Manitoba.

I had the occasion this summer to be at the official opening of the Grandview Hospital, and I believe both physicians at Grandview—and I will stand corrected if I am wrong—are graduates from South Africa who have emigrated to Canada, and they find their practice up there to be just super. They very much enjoy it.

Yet, at the same time, we seem to have some difficulty in attracting our own graduates, our own Manitoba graduates, from medicine into our rural areas, one of the areas that the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower is going to be asked to explore. We have got, I believe, close to agreement, if not agreement, in terms of co-chairing the committee and this will provide us a much closer working relationship with the

Faculty of Medicine, so that we can do that manpower planning and training into the future, hopefully, to better resolve from a home-grown standpoint, if you will, our medical manpower needs in rural Manitoba.

* (1520)

Mr. Cheema: One of the major problems retaining and attracting physicians in rural Manitoba is the availability of consultation services, availability of on-call schedules and, above all, availability of the educational incentives and educational leave. Some of these recommendations, some of these problems have been identified in the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, but still we have not been able to retain people there.

There is a big turnover. After six months people come and leave. One of the things could be easily done, with an area of, say, from Winnipeg an area of 80 kilometre to 100 kilometre radius which can be travelled by 1.5 hours and that—well it could be easily done—have interns or residents who are in the regular program, prior to their program, they could go into these areas and work over the weekends. That has been functioning very well at some of the hospitals.

For example, Pine Falls is one the hospitals who has been able to recruit physicians from Winnipeg and those people go there and provide some relief over the weekend. That could be one of the recommendations we would certainly support and that program only can be done with the cooperation on a voluntary basis by the interns, by the residents, as well as the Faculty of Medicine. Can the Minister tell us, will he consider such a program and does he have anything in terms of any statistics on how many people have been functioning in this area?

Mr. Orchard: That is one of the ongoing recruitment processes that is part of the Faculty of Medicine and the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower's approach to physician training as well as physician familiarity with practise in rural Manitoba. That has been ongoing for, I suppose, seven, eight, nine years now. One of the criticisms or one of the difficulties that is coming up in that approach is monetary in that we may well be behind in terms of the amount of support for the intern to go out to a rural community.

That is certainly part of the discussions at SCOMM right now. I guess some of those problems would be readily solved if we had unlimited resources to focus at the problem, but that is not the case. Within finite and limited resources SCOMM, in cooperation with the MMA, with the college and with the Faculty of Medicine, are trying to appropriately focus limited resources on programs that will end up with graduate physicians taking up permanent practice and residence in rural Manitoba. But that program has been ongoing for some time and with some success, not by any means complete success, but there have been a number of physicians remain in rural Manitoba following just that kind of a program that has been ongoing for a number of years.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I was talking about a different program, not the program which presently

exists. That is being operated by the Family Practice Unit through Seven Oaks Hospital. Also the people from Seven Oaks Family Practice Unit, they either go to Dauphin or they go to other places for locum purposes. I am saying that is just an on-call schedule for the weekend. It could be arranged through the cooperation of the physicians who are working at that place and also with the cooperation of interns and residents. And then the question comes, who is going to provide the financial compensation?

Anyone who is working over the weekend, even if it is a fee for service, still the Government has to pay their amount. I think that still could be tried within a radius of 80-100 kilometres. That will definitely help to retain some of the physicians so that they could as easily go for a weekend or even attend the educational conferences.

Mr. Chairperson, my next question is, what are the steps under this administration that have been taken to attract rural students into medical school?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, no new initiatives yet. There is a pamphlet which of course is available. There is the ability to do some recruitment education, if you will, to students in rural high schools. That is an area which I am hopeful the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower will take a much more active role in.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister indicate what is going to be the number of medical students for years to come? Are they planning according to the population of Manitoba, and can he give us some indication of what is the patient versus the physician ratio this administration is trying to achieve for the years to come?

* (1530)

Mr. Orchard: When one gets into ratios of physicians to population you find them very deceiving. My honourable friend from Churchill (Mr. Cowan) could give you a ratio in his constituency which would be, I think, a fairly high ratio, a high population ratio to physicians. We can go to Winnipeg and find the exact opposite to that. One of the difficulties that faces this Government and has faced all administrations is the distribution, not so much the absolute numbers and the global ratio for the province, but the distribution. That has led to a problem in rural Manitoba and maldistribution of our physician manpower to the benefit of the urban environment of Winnipeg, to the disadvantage of many areas of rural and northern Manitoba.

There is naturally ongoing discussions with the Faculty of Medicine to determine exactly what our future needs of manpower are. We are under negotiations. The postgraduate numbers are 326 right now and an entry class of 80. That is down 10 in terms of the postgraduate from a year or two ago. I just want to tell you that I am, as I stand here today, unable to indicate whether we are right—when I say “we” I mean Government is correct—or whether the former Dean of Medicine is correct, Dr. John Wade, because I had a number of discussions with him prior to his departure. He was as

convinced that the lowered numbers were wrong because of the number of physicians going to retire, etc., etc., as the department and the Health Services Commission, other people, the economists in health were, that the number of 326 was correct.

Right now we are proceeding through further negotiations with the faculty and hopefully will have some mutual agreement in that they are not discussions that are vent with animosity, if you will. They are open and frank discussions right now to see where we ought to be heading in terms of physician manpower.

Mr. Cheema: I do understand it is difficult to have a ratio in rural Manitoba versus the Winnipeg population or the other urban centres. My question is that for any planning, there has to be some numbers put together so that we do not have less numbers or more numbers in a few years to come.

My next question is that it has been shown that there is some evidence that students who come from rural communities generally go back and practise medicine there. Some of the programs which we presently have in Manitoba, the fourth year students and also in their clerkship they will go to certain communities and do some work at the local hospitals. Will the Minister expand that program into other communities and have some more incentives for them to go? I do know that there are some bursaries and some stipends for these participating students, but could he expand the program further?

Mr. Orchard: First of all, Dr. Robin Carter from Minnedosa did a treatise on physician recruitment and student recruitment from rural Manitoba and his information clearly indicated that there would be a greater likelihood of a student from rural Manitoba upon graduation returning to practice in rural Manitoba.

That is why I indicated to you earlier that the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, although they have had in cooperation with the Faculty of Medicine some programs and some brochures, some educational directions focused at rural student recruitment, the efforts to date have left a fairly significant imbalance in the Faculty of Medicine. I cannot give you from memory what the numbers are, but the urban student population is significantly greater than the rural student population, much more significantly skewed than our urban versus rural or northern Manitoba populations are.

That is an area that the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower has been taking a look at and I am hopeful that they will have some fresh approach and some new thought. It may well be that they come to the conclusion my honourable friend has offered here this afternoon, and I simply say to my honourable friend that coming from a rural constituency, having had my three children born in a very small hospital, very competently administered and the medical staff a very good medical staff, I do not want to see that level of service decline. Naturally, supported by a number of my colleagues from rural Manitoba in Government, we want to make any reasonable effort within the financial means that we can resource towards recruitment of

physicians to rural Manitoba, that those efforts be taken because we simply cannot see an increase in the imbalance continue.

I am looking forward to a great deal of cooperative work from the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower with the faculty, the college and with MMA, hopefully over the long haul, to resolve the manpower issues at least from the standpoint of stemming the drain, if not reversing it, at least stemming the drain and maintaining the level of service in many communities that we have right now.

I say that from the standpoint that in the community I just mentioned where my children were born, one of the physicians is very near to retirement and that is not unique in rural Manitoba. There are a lot of physicians approaching retirement age in rural Manitoba. So it is absolutely essential that we maintain our recruitment efforts to at least replace them.

Mr. Cheema: While we are on the topic of medical students, we will definitely support a program where even the first-year or second-year students from the rural communities who are coming to the medical school should be given some kind of stipend and bursary for their return so that they could go back to their own communities and serve there.

Mr. Chairperson, the other problem, which is one of the major factors, is to keep physicians is thus for services like consultation services and above all the obstetrical services. The trend is changing. The family physician, some of them due to various reasons, do not feel comfortable or sometimes at a distance you do not have everything available to deal with high-risk patients. At present there are programs available in obstetrics and gynecology, and also in anesthesia. They train people for one year and they go and serve these communities. They are doing an excellent job and that has helped certain communities. That program could be easily expanded for services such as psychiatry. I think that is one of the recommendations by the Manitoba Medical Association Manpower Study on psychiatric services.

I think that will also bridge a gap between the psychiatrist and the family care physicians, but the problem is going to come out of that. You cannot expect people to have a training and then do not have some kind of fee differential, because to attract people and to keep them there, you have to apply some incentives. If this program could be expanded for psychiatry, I think it would solve at least a short-term problem, but definitely we will need more spots in that training for the postgraduate program in psychiatry. I will be discussing that later on.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the section to pass this item?

Mr. Cheema: My question is, will the Minister expand this program to train primary care physicians for a short-term program like six months or one year, whatever—the decision is made by the U of M Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, with the cooperation of the College of Physicians and Surgeons—so that we could

provide these people with extra training so they could go and serve the rural communities?

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helmut Pankratz, in the Chair.)

* (1540)

Mr. Orchard: I thought my honourable friend was just making a statement there. I did not intend not to answer his question.

Mr. Chairman, that is all part of a number of discussions that are ongoing. That suggestion of the six-month additional training program to general practitioners so that they become somewhat familiar in psychiatric services was made again this morning in Brandon at the School of Nursing at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. There is an allocation of funds that can be accessed in this year's budget to do just that, so that it is not a new idea. It has been there I guess for probably a number of years, and one of the difficulties there is that from time to time we do not have enough individuals willing to take on the additional training.

Mr. Chairman, I guess in part, my friend answered this afternoon in his earlier statement the questions that he posed on Friday regarding Lynn Lake. One of the reasons obstetrical services were discontinued was a vacation of the one individual who was most proficient and a general lack of comfort with their level of training at Lynn Lake of the physician's staff and they were not comfortable with offering the service until they brought their confidence training level up. That presumably ought to see a resumption of obstetrics in Lynn Lake right now.

That was the decision by the medical staff in the administration, and although inconvenient for the citizens of Lynn Lake over a short period of time, I think demonstrated a fair bit of responsibility in terms of wishing to provide high-quality service. That area of upgrading and of additional training, or new training, of course, is one of the problems that we have to deal with in terms of physician recruitment to rural Manitoba. There has to be the ability for in-service training, if you will, and I am probably not using the right terminology because I am not that familiar with the Faculty of Medicine, but basically that is one of the concerns that has been expressed to me by physicians in rural Manitoba, is their inability or their lack of opportunity—put it that way—to take up upgrading, etc., etc.

Again, I think the expertise that we have at the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower recognizes that as a shortcoming. It is in need of addressing.

Mr. Cheema: My earlier comments that the program which is there already in anesthesia, obstetrics and gynecology, but we need to expand the program in the other areas of specialized services such as psychiatry. The ideas are there, but I am just requesting to the Minister that this may be one of the solutions to solve the psychiatric manpower in Manitoba.

My next comment is that the other problems which the rural physicians face which are distant from the

urban centres is again the lack of on-call schedules. Some of the areas, what they have done in other places, is that they could have a common pool of the physicians on call in that area. If we could have some program implemented by the Department of Health, that will overcome the problem which existed a few months ago. There were two places in Manitoba which did not have physicians for six to eight weeks. Would the Minister implement such plans?

Mr. Orchard: In terms of the six-month Psychiatric Upgrade Program, there are funds in this year's budget to allow an individual to do that. That has been part of the budget of this department for a number of years. That is already in place.

Secondly, the weekend on-call and the support of physicians in rural Manitoba is an area of concern. I have to indicate to my honourable friend that I do not know whether the physicians themselves want Government to always be there with the cheque book ready to pour more money at the system. I think if one takes a look at the income opportunity in rural Manitoba, it is certainly there for any physician who wishes to practise in rural Manitoba. Some of the highest-revenue general practitioners are practising in rural Manitoba.

Physicians are a very interesting group. They are fiercely independent and may not necessarily concur with my honourable friend's suggestion that Government ought to develop a program to provide, if I read his suggestion correctly, monies, additional resources, to provide for weekend on-call. That is what I detected my honourable friend was advocating.

What we have advocated in the group of five, or the five regions, is that the communities provide a cooperative environment so that Russell and Shoal Lake and Hamiota and Binscarth and Rossburn operate together as a group so that a physician in Russell might have the weekend off if that is what he wished to do with his family and have his calls picked up by his colleague in Rossburn or his colleague in Binscarth or his colleague in Shoal Lake. That is done without Government offering to pay them to do that.

That is where I would prefer to have the communities move in and provide that supportive framework, that community cooperation, to support physicians in other communities because that is the first and foremost goal of a community is to make sure the medical staff know they are appreciated and the community is willing to work with other communities and forget about the turf protection between one town and the next which has been a common hallmark in rural Manitoba. It is not unlike the community hospitals in Winnipeg. That kind of cooperation is brought to the foreground in the five regions and I think will lead to a great deal more success than Government stepping in and providing additional funds.

Mr. Cheema: In my remarks, I did not indicate that Government should come up with the extra funds. What I was saying is that there has to be some program developed by the Government and some encouragement to that, say, four or five communities to have a common pool of on-call schedules over the

weekend or the holidays and also for educational purposes. That could be done without providing any funds because still these positions are being paid by the Manitoba Health Services Commission. The money is still coming out from the Government. So if you have a common pool of locum available in that area, I think that will look after the needs so that people will not be without a doctor for six to eight weeks.

Mr. Chairperson, I do not have further questions right now.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Mr. Chairperson, the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) had indicated in the Research and Planning that one of the reviews was the Continuing Care Review, and I am wondering if the Minister could tell us. What was the total cost of the review as conducted by Price Waterhouse?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, \$167,000.00.

Ms. Gray: I have a number of questions in the area of Continuing Care and the review, but I must go back to the comments made by the Minister on—

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be very appropriate, in Continuing Care, to deal with the entire Price Waterhouse Report on the Continuing Care line, because what is in Research and Planning is to do the departmental analysis of the Price Waterhouse Report and to provide support to Continuing Care and policy development, but the Continuing Care staff are the ones that can most appropriately answer the majority of questions. I do not mind if we spend the next five days in Research and Planning discussing Continuing Care, but there is an appropriate place in the Estimates to do that wherein much better answers will be given. I am not denigrating Mr. Pascoe's ability to provide me information, but he is not the program director or the program deliverer.

Ms. Gray: I was not going to actually ask specific detailed questions in this particular line about the Continuing Care Review since I am aware that probably better answers would come when we get to the line where the directorate for Continuing Care resides and that the staff were here.

I am interested to know. The Minister on Friday had indicated and was concerned that I might not get any sleep because of my concern about the tabling of the Supplementary Information by the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) and, in fact, Mr. Chairperson, that did trouble me all weekend.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): You did not sleep this weekend.

Ms. Gray: The Minister of Finance indicated I did not sleep all weekend. I did not say that; I said it did trouble me all weekend why the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) would table information in his supplementary report which, to me, specifically indicates an activity which is under the purview of the Department of Health. Certainly, when you look at the Executive Support or even in Research and Planning, I would see the

coordination of some of these program functions within that purview.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us, Research and Planning, are they aware or have any studies been done that would indicate that there are fragmented reporting functions within Continuing Care, Personal Care Homes and the Well Elderly Program?

* (1550)

Mr. Orchard: The objective of any Government, and this ought to be the objective regardless of one's particular political disposition, is to make sure that the programs offered within Government are reasonably coordinated and efficiently delivered. In the Continuing Program, specifically, I had raised concerns about its delivery, etc., over a number of years. Again to their credit, the previous administration decided to do a comprehensive investigation. That investigation, as my honourable friend knows, resulted in the Price Waterhouse Report which provided, I think, some pretty clearly identified reporting structure problems and those no doubt were known, although I cannot say specifically, but no doubt were known by the Research and Planning group because it was the Research and Planning group that basically did the formal arrangement with Price Waterhouse to undertake the study that was just recently tabled. So I think it would be fair to say that, yes, they recognized that there were some difficulties in terms of the coordination of service delivery between early hospital discharge versus personal care home placement versus a number of other areas of problem identification and reporting weaknesses that were identified in the Price Waterhouse Report.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has said to us that there were problems identified by Price Waterhouse and probably were known by Research and Planning in the area of service delivery. I am wondering if the Minister could indicate to us though, what are some of the specific problems in the reporting functions that have been identified?

Mr. Orchard: I do not want to take my honourable friend off of her line of questioning today, but some of the reporting difficulties that are part of the Continuing Care Program can be adequately discussed, if she so desires, when we hit that line in Estimates and the staff are here to answer those kinds of questions.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Ms. Gray: I am wondering why the staff would be in Continuing Care. Is there a need for them to answer the questions, because my question to the Minister is, why is the Seniors Directorate taking responsibility to coordinate the fragmented reporting functions of these four program areas—actually three? Why they would write Continuing Care and Home Care, I do not know, since Home Care is part of Continuing Care. But these three program areas, could the Minister indicate why a Seniors Directorate is taking responsibility to coordinate the fragmented reporting functions when I see that as a responsibility that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) should undertake?

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has indicated "yes" which was not in answer to my question. I will ask the Minister again. Could the Minister tell us why it has been decided that the Seniors Directorate is going to assume the responsibility to coordinate the fragmented reporting functions of three major Health program areas? Why is a Seniors Directorate undertaking this responsibility and why is not the Minister of Health undertaking this responsibility?

Mr. Orchard: Let me answer that question in two ways. First of all, this Minister is with the departmental staff attempting to coordinate program delivery within the Department of Health, whether that program delivery be home care, personal care home admission, early hospital discharge, that is all part of the suggestions made in the Price Waterhouse Report. Secondly, if my honourable friend wishes to ask why the Seniors Directorate is about to do that, my easy suggestion to her is to ask the Seniors Minister when he reaches his Estimates line.

Ms. Gray: By the answer from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), I must assume that the Minister of Health is quite unaware as to what the Seniors Directorate is doing. I find that very interesting, given that the activity identification for the Seniors Directorate indicates coordination of responsibilities that are within the Minister of Health's purview.

Could the Minister indicate to us, did he have any discussions with the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) in regard to the objectives and the activities that the Seniors Directorate Minister would undertake?

Mr. Orchard: We are discussing appropriate roles for the senior citizens ministry and appropriate program delivery modes. But I want to reiterate to my honourable friend that the Seniors ministry is not in charge of program delivery. The Department of Health is responsible for program delivery.

As I pointed out to my honourable friend today in Question Period, I believe, and she will correct me if I am wrong, the entire staffing and the budgetary commitment in the ministry of Seniors, I think, is \$200,000 per year. That would not even operate the Home Care Program whilst we are talking this afternoon.

Ms. Gray: The Minister has pointed out something of course that we are already aware, that there are only two SYs that have been allocated to the Seniors Directorate and yet they have taken on the activity of coordinating three major program areas within the Department of Health whose budget certainly exceeds \$60 million. I ask the same question to the Minister: could he tell us, since it was obvious he refused or was unable to answer the questions in Question Period today, which I find quite interesting since I gave him a big hint on Friday that there is a real problem here, and he still refused to answer the questions in Question Period.

So now that we are in the Estimates process, I will ask the Minister again, were there discussions that took

place between this Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) in regard to the type of activity identification that the Seniors Directorate would be undertaking, as indicated in black and white in the Estimates which were tabled on Friday?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, as a Member of Cabinet, which my colleague, the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld), is also a Member of Cabinet, of course, we have discussions.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I ask the Minister again if there were discussions which were undertaken specifically in regard to what the Seniors Directorate would be doing? A further question to the Minister: does the Minister of Health feel quite comfortable, does he agree with this particular activity that the Seniors Directorate is now undertaking? Is he quite comfortable with that role that has now been removed from his department?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I will not be comfortable nor will this Government be comfortable until we provide the very best level of service that is possible to the senior citizens of this province. Any effort that we can make collectively as Government and individually as Ministers to achieve that, I hope would have the support of Honourable Members opposite including the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray).

* (1600)

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, we would like to support the Government if they would provide us with clear direction as to what their individual departments are doing. As a suggestion, the Minister seems to refuse to answer the questions. The Minister would appear to be indirectly indicating that he has no difficulty at all with the fact that the Seniors Directorate will now be coordinating the fragmented reporting functions of these three program areas in the Department of Health. Since that activity is also specifically within the mandate of his own department, the Department of Health, could the Minister of Health indicate why has this Government decided to provide duplication of services?

We know there are a lot of needs of the elderly out there and the Minister of Health has indicated that. Why has this Government decided to use \$200,000 within a department of seniors to provide activities and to try to achieve objectives which are already being attempted to be achieved within the Department of Health? Why is the Minister of Health allowing that duplication to occur?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I think, upon discussion of my Estimates and upon completion of discussion of the Estimates for the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld), my honourable friend after being fully informed will find there is no intent of duplication. What she will find in due course when she has the opportunity to directly question in Estimates the Seniors ministry and the Minister an advocacy role for senior citizens being the prime objective and function of the Seniors

ministry, and that those two staff years and the budget so allocated will I think provide a greater coordinated and higher degree of quality services available to the seniors in this province.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us is his department, the Department of Health, are they still providing the coordination of service delivery of the program content and of reporting functions within Continuing Care, Personal Care Home Program and the Well Elderly Program?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us, is the Seniors Directorate also providing coordination of the reporting functions in those three program areas as well?

Mr. Orchard: The Seniors Directorate is attempting, and as my honourable friend may well know, there is only one staff been hired. I think she has asked that question of the Minister.—(Interjection)— Maybe one of her colleagues has asked that. I am not sure. But certainly the Seniors ministry when fully up and running will provide just that kind of advocacy that is needed to assure that needed programs are delivered in an efficient and a caring and effective way. We think that the resource dedication of \$200,000 for that, to enhance and to further that advocacy role, will be money very, very well spent, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass this item?

Ms. Gray: I could go on asking the Minister the same questions, but it is quite obvious that I am not going to receive any adequate answers from this Minister, and I will put on the record that it is obvious that there is very little communication amongst the Ministers on the Government side of the House in regard to what various departments are actually responsible for.

I think the record will show, and I am sure that this Government will have to backtrack in some point in time, because I would imagine that with only two SYs in the Seniors Directorate, there is no way that the Seniors Directorate is going to be providing coordination for fragmented reporting functions which I would very much doubt that the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) even knows what that is in regard to Continuing Care, Personal Care Homes and the Well Elderly Program.

We know that this area is part of the Department of Health, and I would hazard a guess that in fact, based on the Minister of Health's (Mr. Orchard) comments in Estimates on Friday, and his inability to deal with the questions in Question Period, that the Minister of Health was very much unaware of the type of information that was going to be tabled in the House on Friday in regard to the Seniors Directorate.

I would suggest to this Government that in fact they do get their act together and, in future, when they are tabling information in the House, that they at least assure that their Members of the Government are aware

of what they are tabling. If they are going to try to indicate to the people of Manitoba that they want to provide a service, please at least indicate a service that has not already been duplicated in another department.

I have a further question to the Minister in the Research and Planning area. Could the Minister indicate to us are staff in his Research and Planning Branch involved at all with the committee work that is being undertaken throughout three departments—the Department of Community Services, the Seniors Directorate and the Department of Health—in regard to the residential care system and the aged and infirm?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, in answer to the last question, no, at this stage they are not involved. I have to say that I take my honourable friend's advice very seriously, but I am indeed hurt and cut to the quick with her vicious attack on me in my lack of direct and forthright answers. I think that is most unkind of her to be saying those things to me when I have attempted to provide her with as much information as possible. I am deeply troubled over her vicious attack against me personally.

Ms. Gray: Well, perhaps we will let the record decide and the people of Manitoba decide about how forthcoming those answers were from the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

The Minister had indicated that Research and Planning were not involved with this interdepartmental committee, or not at this time. So that I do not ask these questions in an appropriation that is not appropriate, could the Minister indicate to us which of his staff are involved with these discussions in regard to the Residential Care System, this interdepartmental committee? Could he indicate which staff are involved? I am sure you are aware of it.

Mr. Orchard: That is subject to discussions that— appreciate you are not going to get everything up and running immediately. That is an identifiable problem where there may well be some coordination between the departments, particularly the two departments, Community Services and Health.

That is but one of a number of areas in which we have mutual concerns. The other one that there has been discussions ongoing for some time is regarding the multiply-disabled Manitobans in the—what is the word I am looking for?—attempt of Government to provide adequate community resources for living. Now that is a problem that hit me foursquare as soon as I walked into the office almost, and we have been attempting to coordinate within the Department of Health and within the Department of Community Services to focus in on those problems that we do share some mutual concern over.

With a number of areas that you want to try to effectively coordinate, certainly you do not get to all of them at once, and I do not think my honourable friend expects us to have all of those committees structured and humming along running beautifully, but I guess I just have to ask some patience because I do

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not think Madame Benoit was able to unscramble an omelet overnight either.

Ms. Gray: I certainly do not want to have the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) misinterpret the fact that I expect all the committees and all the difficulties in his department, that the solutions should be forthcoming and that all committees would be well under way. But I would ask the Minister if, unless I did miss in his answer, given that there is an established gap in service in the residential care system which affects the aged and infirm and also in some cases mental health clients which are under the purview of his department, could he indicate to us has there been any interdepartmental committee struck, and which senior member of his staff would be a part of that committee?

* (1610)

Mr. Orchard: Because the two departments, particularly Community Services and Health are fairly closely related in a lot of aspects, a lot of areas, a lot of regional service staff, as my honourable friend well knows, are mutually shared between Community Services and Health. In order to facilitate, if you will, or to expedite program delivery and the identification of difficulties, problems or new challenges, there is a Deputy Minister's coordinating committee that is in place. It is from that, that specific areas of mutual concern and discussion are then put into the discussion process, and if committees are to follow it, it is from the Deputy Minister's coordinating committee that that membership would be struck.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate to us, the Deputy Minister's coordinating committee, would the Minister be able to tell us what role, as he perceives it, the Seniors Directorate would have in that committee, specifically in regard to residential care?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot indicate to you what role they would undertake in terms of that specific issue and in any discussions and ongoing policy formulation development that may well go on between the two departments, but certainly there is the ability as an advocate to be involved in those kinds of discussions to ensure adequate program delivery and addressing areas wherein there may well be service gaps.

Now, I do not know what answer my honourable friend is specifically looking for. I will attempt to provide it, but I am having a little bit of difficulty determining what role she wants to see in the Seniors Directorate. It may well be a role that they are unable to undertake.

Ms. Gray: What I was asking for from the Minister was his understanding of the seniors involvement and directorate involvement.

The reason I asked the question is it seemed to be quite clear to the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) in the Estimates process of that department that the Seniors Directorate would play a lead role in the policy review of the residential care system as it specifically related to the aged and infirm. Now the Minister has indicated to me how I would see the role of the Seniors Directorate.

I had certainly indicated to the Minister of Community Services at that time, and I have not changed my mind on the subject, that I felt that this was not an area that the Seniors Directorate should become involved in and that the jurisdictional disputes between the Departments of Community Services and Health in regard to delivery of programs for elderly individuals who may also have other difficulties such as mental illness or a mental handicap and the whole area of the residential care system in regard to the aged and infirm was something that should certainly be worked out between the Department of Health and the Department of Community Services. I felt to involve a third directorate, which only has two staff and does not have the knowledge of these jurisdictional issues, was actually ludicrous. So if the Minister is looking for my opinion on the subject, he has it.

What I was asking for was the Minister's understanding of the role of the Seniors Directorate because it was certainly clearly indicated to us by the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) that the Seniors Directorate would take a key lead in the policy review. I am wondering if the Minister of Community Services knows something that the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) does not. That was the reason for my question. Does the Minister want to comment on that?

Mr Orchard: No.

Ms. Gray: That is fine.

Mr. Orchard: As a review of the Residential Care Program is undertaken, I would fully anticipate not only participation from the Seniors Directorate, because some people within the Residential Care Program will be seniors. That is a perfectly legitimate role.

As well, within my department, there are probably a couple or three areas that would become highly involved. The client population cuts across several directorships within the Department of Health and two departments because mentally handicapped individuals certainly are a part of the Residential Care Program. As I indicated to my honourable friend earlier on, the multiply handicapped receive support from Health in some regard, from Community Services in another regard, from Economic Security in another regard.

My honourable friend is smiling broadly. I do not know what that means. I think that it is important - (Interjection)- I beg your pardon. I think it is rather important that Government be fully aware of what three different departments are doing to support community living for disabled Manitobans. If that is something that is not a serious matter, I think my honourable friend is wrong. That is but one area involved in the client population of residential care. I happen to think that we have some significant challenge in front of us which is not going to be resolved by the Department of Health by itself. Hopefully, in cooperation with the other departments, we may make a correct policy formulation.

Ms. Gray: Of course this is a serious matter, which is why we spent four to five hours in the Estimates process in Community Services trying to determine some sense

of what direction this Government had in regard to reaching solutions in the area of jurisdictional disputes and in the area of the complex needs of our aging mentally handicapped and of our aging mentally ill. We unfortunately, in that particular Estimates process, got very few answers from the Minister of Community Services. So certainly it is a very serious concern. I raise it again in hopes that the Minister of Health, who I believe does have some more appreciation of the system, and the Departments of Health and Community Services will certainly be looking at those areas.

My question to the Minister is, is the Minister quite comfortable where we are dealing with two departments, Community Services and Health, where we are looking at the needs of individuals who may be classified as aging? Is he quite comfortable with the fact, as I understand his statements, that then the Seniors Directorate staff will become involved in all these discussions and all these problem resolutions between the two departments?

Mr. Orchard: First of all, I want to correct my honourable friend. I did not say they would become involved in all of the discussion, in all of the negotiations. What I indicated to my honourable friend is that in their advocacy role we would certainly welcome their opinion and their contribution to the discussion and policy formulation. I do not know what is objectionable about that.

Ms. Gray: I am not suggesting that the Minister of Health's (Mr. Orchard) comments about advocacy role is necessarily objectionable, although I could certainly get into discussion about how well one Government department could advocate on behalf of a consumer group to another Government department—that is a subject for another day.

What I am suggesting is that the Minister of Health's understanding as a role of the Seniors Directorate in regard to some of these issues affecting the two departments is quite different than the Minister of Community Services' understanding of the role of the Seniors Directorate.

So, for the record, it might be interesting for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) and the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) to perhaps get together and actually discuss exactly what the role will be so that we can all be enlightened in this House.

* (1620)

Mr. Cheema: During Question Period today, I raised a question with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). We are discussing the Manpower Planning here. I raised a very specific question that the Minister has indicated time after time in this House that he believes in cooperation with the different groups that we can retain people of different areas in Manitoba.

My question is again to him. I have a letter—I will table that letter if the Minister wishes me to—that clearly indicates that the Honourable Minister of Health is trying to undermine, or one of his officials have indicated

today, trying to reach the psychiatrists to have a private contract. Making such contracts is going to violate the bargaining power of the MMA.

I want to correct where the Minister in Question Period said that I am advocating a private physicians group. I am quite upset in that I have never done that thing; I am advocating on behalf of the citizens of Manitoba. It is my duty to bring those things to the public. I would again request the Minister, would he comment on that? Who made that decision to approach the private physicians for the private contracts and will he stop that and go through the normal route?

Mr. Orchard: Within the Department of Health we have from time to time a number of physicians on a contractual basis with the department. That is not unusual. If my honourable friend has some more specific concern, I do not understand it at this present time.

Mr. Cheema: My special concern is that when you are going to negotiate people on a private contract and those people are still going to provide the services, you are undermining the bargaining power of a particular professional group. That is not going to create an environment of cooperation. We want people to stay in Manitoba. If we are going to have a few people on a separate contract, we are going to drive out people who are already in the medical system. I am speaking of the psychiatrists. If they find their fee differential to a large degree, we will lose them and that is my point.

I am speaking on behalf of the citizens of Manitoba and I want to correct the record. I would request the Minister that any time he should not be pointing at a specific area, that I am advocating any special group.

My question is, will the Minister now commit himself today to stop this action and restore the confidence of the psychiatrists who are practising in Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I have to tell my honourable friend that I am just somewhat troubled with where he is coming from in this line of questioning. If there is one thing I have attempted to do in the last five months that I have been Minister of Health, it is to get a greater understanding of mental health in this province. That has involved substantial meetings, probably more meetings than psychiatrists have ever had with the Minister of Health in recent history.

From those discussions and from those meetings I have always asked for cooperation, I have always asked for idea sharing, because I cannot, by myself, resolve mental health problems, psychiatric manpower problems. I cannot do it in isolation. I cannot do it in a confrontational situation.

My honourable friend has to realize that in Brandon Mental Health Centre, there are 300 inpatients, 300 patients in the Brandon Mental Health Centre, and there are 2,000 outpatients that to date, for the last number of months, have had three days per week of services of one professional psychiatrist, and that, because of a temporary difficulty in strict terms of time, is down to two days a week. I am asking for help from the Psychiatric Association, from the staff at Selkirk, from

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the MMA to let us get on with resolving the problem. This problem has been around in Brandon for 30 years.

Maybe my honourable friend wants to be an advocate for a special interest group, I do not know. I want to tell you where I want to advocate as Minister of Health, and that is for 300 patients in the Brandon Mental Health Centre, and for 2,000 outpatients in southwestern Manitoba who access the Brandon Mental Health Services Outpatient Department. I think it is my role and my responsibility to do as much as possible to provide those individuals with a semblance of adequate psychiatric care and treatment. I want to do that with the utmost of cooperation and that is why we are meeting, my Deputy is meeting with the MMA. I do not know whether we will be able to arrange it for this week, but certainly next week, and we are going to ask them for their cooperation. I think mental health care for 300 patients in Brandon and 2,000 outpatients is one of the utmost and foremost concerns that all of us ought to bring to any table.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, at no time have we indicated from this side of the House that we do not favour services. We have been asking this question time after time, but my point, what I am trying to make is to retain people, you must go through the normal process and we know that is the most important, Brandon Mental Health. We have been telling in this House that hospital is without a full-time psychiatrist. I have personally raised questions on that. We want them to get the best service but that is not the question. The question is a different one that, are you going to go through the other channels other than the present channels available, so that we do not drive people out of Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, the circumstance in Brandon is very, very strange right now. All of the normal channels of hiring that have been in place for 30 years, if I can be so blunt, have failed. What I am prepared to do, as I announced today, is to make every effort to bring some immediate resolution—that is why I am calling on the professionals at Selkirk on staff to provide for a three-month period of services out to Brandon as an interim measure, as a temporary measure. In the meantime, it is fully the objective of this ministry, this Minister and this Government to meet with the Manitoba Psychiatric Association, with the MMA, the Provincial Psychiatrist, to try and resolve this problem so that we are not faced with crisis after crisis in Brandon. I think that to be quite fair to everybody, the normal process that my honourable friend advocates we stick to would have the next 30 years of being unable to resolve the problem.

I am willing to accept advice from all the professional groups but I am going to make decisions based on the absolute fact that we do not have psychiatric manpower in Brandon, and the absolute fact that we need it and we need it desperately, and the absolute fact that there are 300 patients in that hospital, and the absolute fact that there are 2,000 outpatients receiving services from that facility, and the absolute fact that I am a Minister of Health that is not going to allow that service to remain jeopardized and substandard because we do not have psychiatric manpower.

I am going to work with the associations to resolve that. That is an objective that I take very seriously and I hope that I have cooperation to do that from all sides of this House because I stood in my place when I was critic of health and I criticized the former Minister of Health for a lack of psychiatric manpower.

I want to tell you that at that time there was a full time psychiatrist out there. There is not one now. That is why today's action was stimulated, because we believe that our designated psychiatrist was coming back and that after a summer holiday we would be back to some semblance of service. That is not materializing and we are putting under the system under substantial strain. We are going to move in an expeditious way to resolve that. I am simply asking for the kind of cooperation that I know exists in the system to resolve that problem.

Mr. Cowan: I want to just comment on a couple of things that have been said and then move on to another issue area within this appropriation. The Minister in his comments in response to my friend, the Liberal critic, with regard to the maldistribution of physicians in the province, indicated that the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower will be continuing to attempt to resolve this long-standing issue.

As I noted the other day in my comments, this committee was struck in 1979. So the issue has been around for awhile. It preceded the striking of the committee and it is one that has in fact eluded a solution, at least a global solution, over a number of years. So I am not being critical with respect to my comments here; at least I am not being critical of the Minister. I am trying to be constructively critical. But what it appears from what he said is that nothing appears to have changed since the time he has taken office and it has been six months.

What really bothers me though is the reference to the area of—and I will go back to my notes to get the exact wording—rural health issues under the Health Advisory Network, where the Minister said one of the areas that initiative, that subcommittee, would be looking at is attracting and retaining physicians in underserved areas in parts of the province.

The question I have for the Minister then, is there a contradictory approach or a conflict between what is happening with the subcommittee of the Health Advisory Network and the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, and how are the two going to relate to each other in this very complex and very difficult, and very long-standing problem area?

* (1630)

Mr. Orchard: No conflict, Mr. Chairman, and secondly, the rural health issue, as dealt with by the Health Advisory Network, will have physician manpower as one of its areas and will work in close cooperation with the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower.

Mr. Cowan: I wonder if the Minister can indicate how many communities now in Manitoba are seeking full-time general practitioners?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot give you an exact number, but we could provide that. I would suspect it is probably in the neighbourhood of a dozen.

Mr. Cowan: Yes, if the Minister can provide that information later on that would be helpful.

I want to go back to something that was said the other day, and it did provoke a response from the Minister, and I thought it was somewhat unfair, but I am certain that he believes from time to time that some of my comments and interpretations of what he says are somewhat unfair. I want to briefly address the issue.

I had indicated a concern about the Health Advisory Network Subcommittee addressing the Rural Health Issues from what I heard the Minister say. I had heard him say quite distinctly, because I had written it down, that the Government was going to refocus its efforts with respect to maldistribution of physicians in northern Manitoba and underservicing there to rural communities. The Minister then accused me of using this as a forum to put on the record things which I could write to my constituents and say, well, this Government is not doing this; in this particular area, we are cutting back in this particular area.

I did have a very sincere concern that was motivated by the exact words of the Minister. So I just want to put those words on the record, so he understands what that concern was, and perhaps takes an opportunity to correct the record so that in the correspondence that I will invariably send out, as he sends out correspondence to his own constituents, as we all should send out correspondence to our constituents to advise them as to what is happening in this Legislature and with their Government, but he said and I quote on page 2518 of Hansard for last Thursday:

“Another area that has plagued all Governments for a number of years and is becoming a growing problem is rural health issues wherein we have difficulty in communities in rural Manitoba in attracting and retaining physicians is one major components of medical delivery in rural Manitoba. We focused resources in terms of resolving northern medical manpower problems. We are going to have to refocus and make a concerted effort to program direction to assure that we offer an increasing level of medical service to rural Manitoba. So that is a fourth area.” That is the end of the quote.

What he did say in that particular instance was that they were to refocus their efforts and the refocusing was going to be from the North to the rural areas. I would ask him two questions then: (1) Is the problem any less in the northern areas now than it was previously and does it appear as if it is going to remain a lesser problem, which could then allow for that refocusing to take place without a major impact on the North? The second question is, will the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower be duplicating those efforts?

Because what he talked about and the only thing he talked about under the rural health issues was the shortage of doctors. I am afraid if that is all they are doing then there is going to be a duplication of efforts. Perhaps he can take the time to explain what else they might be doing in those particular areas as well?

Mr. Orchard: The Standing Committee on Medical Manpower has been attempting to provide physicians in underserved areas throughout Manitoba, not simply rural Manitoba but Manitoba outside of Winnipeg and outside of Brandon. That has included rural Manitoba and northern Manitoba without having to be stated, without having to be emphasized, without having to be brought up. I suppose that in talking about SCOMM and its service to rural Manitoba, one might wish to conclude that we were going to not have them look at northern issues as they always have. That is certainly not a conclusion that any reasonable person could come to.

In terms of the Northern Medical Unit experience, in providing to remote and underserved areas of northern Manitoba, Churchill, to the Keewatin region even, they have developed a method of medical delivery which is rather unique. I do not think it exists in too many other jurisdictions. It has offered some rather interesting lessons. Some of those lessons that have been learned from the Northern Medical Unit may well be refocused to rural Manitoba. In saying that, my honourable friend wishes, as I said on Thursday, to conclude and I know he will do it regardless of what I say on the record. That means we are going to pull back services from northern Manitoba and the Northern Medical Unit and put them into southern Manitoba. That is what he wishes to conclude.- (Interjection)- Well, he says “no” from his seat but he said something different when was just speaking a few minutes ago. That is not what one could reasonably conclude from what I said. If they did, they would be in error.

What I was indicating to my honourable friend is that some of the lessons learned in the Northern Medical Unit may well be able to be refocused towards resolving the problem in southern rural Manitoba, in specific terms of physician shortage. If my honourable friend had come to the conclusion that was somehow threatening to his constituents, I simply indicate to him he ought not to come to that conclusion.

Mr. Cowan: I can only go by what the Minister says and then formulate an interpretation based on my best knowledge of the English language, which is not perfect, and my understanding of what I heard him say. I will stand by the concerns which were raised as a result of his earlier comments. I appreciate the fact that he has corrected the record at this point in time. Only time will tell as to whether or not there is a shifting of resources which usually accompanies a refocusing. We will watch very carefully and speak out if we believe that to be the case. Given the Minister's assurances now that is not going to happen, it is incumbent upon us to move on and to watch and monitor and evaluate carefully what does take place in that area.

The other question I asked him was with respect to duplication. If the Rural Health Issues Subcommittee is only going to deal with maldistribution of physicians and specialist problems, then there is a duplication. Therefore, I am assuming that there are other issues that are going to be considered by that particular committee. If the Minister can take an opportunity at some point in time to clarify what those are; he does not have to do it today. He can send it over by memo

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or some other form as long as it takes place during the course of the Estimates debate and we can come back to it on the Minister's Salary if we have to.

* (1640)

With regard to the maldistribution problem generally, he indicated that there are a number of physicians approaching retirement age. When he is going back to review, to determine how many communities now need or are now seeking full-time general practitioners, could he please if possible—and I do not know if it will be possible—try to determine how many of those within the next couple of years would be seeking full-time general practitioners because of the impending retirement of a particular doctor who has served the community for some time?

I am a bit disappointed with what I heard and perhaps I did not hear all that the Minister was thinking about with respect to how we make certain that rural and northern residents more actively participate in the educational system to become medical professionals. I agree with what was said earlier that one of the ways, and I know the Minister has said it previously as well, it is not a unique or original thought on the part of any one of us, that one can deal with the problem in rural communities and northern communities is to actively encourage Northerners and rural residents to enter into the medical profession.

Handing out pamphlets and having recruitment drives at rural high schools and northern high schools is not going to solve the problem. There was a program that was put in place with respect to northern Native doctors. I believe there is one as well with dental professionals that I thought provided some very good lessons and some encouragement and some examples which can be used as a foundation upon which to build new programs. I think that program, although it was designed for those in northern communities who have many more barriers than those in rural communities with respect to higher education and getting into the professions that require a great deal of training in education such as the medical professions, I believe there are lessons there that can also be applied to the rural areas.

I think that one has to go out in a very proactive way and encourage and select and recruit and offer subsidies and encouragements, financial, and enticements, in order to have those individuals who may not have had the same opportunity as urban residents to gain an education with positions them for higher education in the medical fields to do so. So I would encourage the Minister to do that.

With respect to the situation at hand, that is a longer-term solution and the problem is much more immediate. I may have missed some of the overall debate when I was in Government with respect to this area, because it was not my portfolio area, but I seem to recall that there were a number of mechanisms that were being used in other areas and were being considered here, sometimes on an active and sometimes on a less active basis, as possible ways of dealing with the maldistribution problem with respect to underservicing in rural and northern communities.

One was incentive, financial incentives, to get physicians to relocate or locate initially in the rural areas. The other was to limit billing numbers so that physicians coming out of university would not be able to obtain a billing number unless they spent the specified period of time in a rural or a northern community. The third area was the training, a program about which I just spoke with regard to using some very affirmative action oriented mechanisms to bring people who normally would not come into the system into the system with the hope—and I think based on experience, it is a good hope—of them returning back to their communities or other northern or rural communities to practise. Of course, there is the concept of medical quotas. So I would ask the Minister to give us a brief commentary on his own philosophical approach to those different areas and what might be considered by his Government as a way to deal with this particular problem.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, let me first of all indicate that in terms of the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower, they are focused on exactly that, medical manpower. We are not even into the consideration of nursing staff or any of the other areas of professional delivery. Of course, with the rural health issues, as a subcommittee of the Health Advisory Network, that wider scope will be part of their discussions including how communities, as we discussed earlier on with my honourable friend from the Liberals, can potentially cooperate to assure a given level of services within a community catchment area. That has, of course, particular interest to most communities of rural Manitoba and the major communities in northern Manitoba, because it ties directly in with the Manitoba Health Services Commission Capital Program.

If we are serious about the maintenance of health care services to be delivered in rural Manitoba, then if there is identified a need for some capital upgrading, Government has to be fully prepared to do that. I think that one of the things that any Government faces—certainly ours is no exception, neither was yours—is that every community has probably a fairly substantial desire to do a major upgrade on a health care facility, be it a hospital or establish a personal care home, etc., etc.

Those decisions are made in a rather interesting fashion I think now. One of the advantages I see coming out of the Health Advisory Network in the Rural Health Issues Subcommittee is maybe a little more objective and non-partisan approach to where we ought to go in terms of facilities and capital construction. So that is an area which takes us far beyond the scope of the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower in terms of rural health issues.

In terms of the medical manpower aspect of it, certainly the expertise and the knowledge base built up by SCOMM, will be readily available to the Health Advisory Network Subcommittee on Rural Health Issues.

In terms of, if you will, doing a selling job on rural students, because that is what we are talking about, I think that there needs to be a fairly significantly increased effort in that regard. I think it can bear fruit.

I am not satisfied with pamphlets and the odd Career Day presentation and that sort of initiative. I think a much more dynamic approach is not only appropriate but is needed, and as we move the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower into an enhanced role, if you will, involving not only the strict recruitment role but indeed providing us some insight into physician distribution and other areas of medical manpower, they will be in a position at my request and the Government's request to present us with some of the options that may well prove successful, basis experience in other jurisdictions on recruitment of non-urban individuals into medicine as a professional study.

This effort has been focused on by a number of jurisdictions not only in Canada but across the U.S., because the United States is facing very much similar problems in terms of physician recruitment to rural areas, and some of the experience base on successful program initiatives could well fit into the blend of policy development for the Manitoba situation.

I have to say that I am personally quite favourable of that because in any discussions and, as I mentioned earlier, a study done specifically in Manitoba, clear indication was that the recruitment of students to medicine from rural Manitoba leaves you with a higher probability they will return to rural Manitoba.

The area in terms of northern Manitoba is rather unique because we tend to, in a lot of communities, utilize the services of nurse practitioners. Training of those has been accomplished at a number of institutions and with some success and I think that in the longer term of planning those programs certainly has been reasonably effective in the past and will continue to be part of the recruitment training mosaic, if you will, that hopefully will continue to provide trained personnel to many of our underserved medical areas in the province.

* (1650)

Mr. Cowan: Yes, perhaps the Minister can indicate how many nurse practitioners are functioning in different parts of the province. I know there are some nurse practitioners in northern Manitoba, but I do not think it would be to the extent that he might believe it is. It is still a relatively rare occurrence to my understanding and one which we should encourage more of, but at this point in time I think it is one of the areas where the expectations are probably unmet as well.

I do not want to go on at too great a length on this particular subject, but the Minister did not indicate how he felt about the use of financial incentives and the use of limiting billing numbers and the use of medical quotas. I think the last one is important, given some confusions around his earlier comments several months ago when he first assumed the portfolio.

At that time he indicated that he had been, I believe he indicated, that he had been misquoted, and so it is important that that particular area be clarified. I am talking about now with respect to the need to have both genders represented fully in the medical school

and not to have a quota on women coming into the school. I think the Minister has tried to clarify that in the past, but just so that I am certain that he has come full circle on that one, if he can indicate if he is harbouring any further suggestions that that might be an appropriate way to go. So, I would like to hear his philosophical approach to incentives, the limitation of billing numbers and medical quotas.

I also want to encourage him to go even further than he has indicated he is going with respect to training. I think it has to be a program that really actively encourages and promotes individuals, particularly from northern communities but also from rural communities, to overcome some educational barriers that through no fault of their own may stand in their way of entering schools. That is what our pre-medicine program did.

I think you have to in doing so go out and help people build up their own self-confidence and help them have access to programs which will ensure that once they have built up that self-confidence and take the challenge on to become medical practitioners, that they have full supports available to them to result in as many successes as is possible, knowing that there are always going to be limited failures.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, let me indicate that currently financial incentives are available through the department and will continue to be available through the department in an effort which I support to attempt to bring practitioners to rural Manitoba.

The second issue of the billing numbers, that is not a resolution to the problem which this Government is considering. I will qualify that by saying no Government can say they will never consider it, but at the present time it is not being considered for a couple of reasons. First of all, it has been tried in British Columbia and been found to be unconstitutional. That is probably the first and foremost reason.

I have got a larger problem with the billing numbers in terms of the inherent unfairness to the new graduate and to the preservation of the status quo. If we were to for instance, as I understand the process, bring in a ban on billing numbers that would be applicable to new doctors coming to this province either by immigration or via graduation. If we said they could not practise, for instance in the City of Winnipeg, that would be rather unfair to someone who chose a career some number of years ago, particularly as a student of medicine, and I think we would be quite legitimately criticized for changing the rules part way through the game.

I have had discussions with the Faculty of Medicine on the subject and have left the clear impression with them that I believe we need to work much more cooperatively to resolve the problem, rather than using the Legislative capability of Government, of Cabinet, and of this Legislature.

I want to deal a little bit with my honourable friend and I realize that he may have in error put the words on the record that I have come full circle on quotas in the medical faculty. I never was on the other side

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of the circle. My honourable friend, I realize, likes to choose words which put impressions on that he would like to have on the record. I have never come full circle. My position has been consistent throughout since commenting on Dr. Robin Carter's analysis that students from rural Manitoba, trained in the Faculty of Medicine, return to rural Manitoba to practise with a higher degree of frequency than urban students. That is students without gender. Those were the comments.

I made the point during that interview that if you wished to write your story, "the Minister wishes to discriminate against women," you cannot write your story like that. Then there was a little giggle on the end of the line, "Oh, why would I want to do that?" That was exactly the tenor of the story and I regretted that as I have regretted other areas from time to time that happened. But that is Government. You do not always find your message going out as you either stated it or wish it to go out.

But I do not wish my honourable friend to use his version of the English language to indicate that I have come full circle. I never was on the other side of the circle. To make that kind of statement this afternoon on the record, I know my honourable friend would not want to do it because it would not be a correct and factual interpretation.

So let me first indicate to my honourable friend that as part of the discussions I have had with the Standing Committee on Medical Manpower is what efforts can we undertake to better inform students in rural Manitoba outside of the urban areas of their opportunity in Medicine? And this has to start not at the Grade 12 level, Mr. Chairman, but it has to start at Grade 10 or younger so that their marks are there because a high component of acceptance to medicine now is grade-point average. You know, getting by at 60 and 65 simply is not good enough.

So I want young students in rural Manitoba, male and female, to be aware of the challenges they face and the competition they face when they attempt to be selected from pre-med into the Medicine Faculty. It is a big challenge, but it is one that we need to address and, in discussions with SCOMM, I hope over the next number of months their suggestions and their program development will do just that.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: The hour is now 5 p.m. and I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Business.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS RES. NO. 7—EARLY RETIREMENT PENSION BENEFITS

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), Resolution No. 7, Early Retirement Pension Benefits, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Radisson (Mr. Patterson) who has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. Allan Patterson (Radisson): If I may continue on the issue and problems of pensions, first let me say that I agree with statements made by the Honourable Member for Rossmere (Mr. Neufeld) when he was addressing this resolution, pointing out that in the resolution itself and some of the addresses that have been made in respect to it, there is reference to some kind of penalty that is imposed for retiring early and we should be very clear that this is not a penalty, it is an actuarial reduction. It must be recognized, Mr. Speaker, that pensions cost money, at whatever age an individual is going to retire and up until recent years, it has been this generally accepted custom of mandatory retirement at age 65.

Now, at that particular age, some kind of pot has to be there to pay for the future income of the particular individuals, and this pot can be built up through contributions completely on the part of the employer or the employees, or some combination of the two. It is very common of course in many plans to have an equal contribution from the employee and the employer.

But, nevertheless, this is all figured out actuarially, and the flow of income at age 65 onward has to be paid for by the particular pot that has been built up to that time through contributions and the compound interest on them.

So, therefore, when some individual retires before the "normal" retirement age, that individual will not have made the full contributions up to that particular retirement age and, by the same token, that individual is retiring a few years earlier and drawing some payments before age 65. Let us say an individual retires at age 62, that is 36 months of payments that he or she will get as opposed to somebody who retires at the normal age of 65. So, therefore, all this has to be figured out on an actuarial basis, and pensions are a very, very more or less complicated issue to the layman and these issues do have to be left to the experts, the actuaries, pension consultants and so on.

So to talk, therefore, of a penalty for early retirement is entirely not in line with the actual facts. As the Member for Rossmere (Mr. Neufeld) pointed out, and I fully agree, it is not a matter of dispute. It is in fact an actuarial reduction and it is not in any way a penalty.

So when in any particular pension plan, the employees negotiate with the employer or the trustees of the pension plan to do away with this actuarial reduction, if it can be afforded, if there is sufficient money in the plan to enable this to be done, well that is all well and good. There is no additional cost to it. In these recent

years, back in the early Eighties of particularly high interest rates, this very often was possible in many pension plans.

Now this, to my mind, should be a matter of negotiation between the employees and the employer and, if they can come to any particular agreement as to how any of these extra costs will be made up, if early retirement is given, without this actuarial reduction, there is going to be a cost to it and it has to be borne somehow. So, whether the employer is going to bear it, or the plan can afford it without any extra contributions, or whether it will be a sharing between the employer and the employee should be open to agreement between the parties. They should be free to do this under whatever particular laws applies to it, the tax implications and so on.

Now it seems that the Manitoba teachers have not negotiated with their employers, or the trustees of the pension plan, to—I would assume that this can be afforded, that either the money was in the plan or that the contributions and the interest that is compounding on them is sufficient to cover these actual costs, to enable teachers to retire if they wish at age 55 without any actuarial reduction. Again, let me say, to make it very, very clear, that is not a penalty, it is an actuarial reduction and it is a choice that is freely made by the individuals concerned. If they like to have a higher monthly income by waiting a few more years, they are perfectly free to do it.

What puzzles me is why, when pensions come under provincial jurisdiction as well as federal, of course—for that part of the workforce, it is under federal jurisdiction—it puzzles me why in the Income Tax Act they would incorporate some mandatory rule specifying that there must be some kind of formula before individuals are entitled to retire early with or without any particular actuarial reduction.

In this case, they are saying that it is all right if the two parties negotiate it or agreed on it to retire back to age 60 without the reduction; but from 60 down to 55 there will be the quarter of one percent per month, which is 3 percent a year, which has been mentioned, and that this cannot be done unless the total of the individual's age and service is 80, a formula that is a common one for early retirement. But I am puzzled as to what implications this has to the federal Finance Department in terms of its revenue—what difference it makes to them whether or not this type of formula is there, or these types of restrictions are put on. It seems to me it should be a matter of the negotiation between the parties and the trustees of a particular pension plan.

* (1710)

As I mentioned, I think this legislation should be left up to the parties. Now there has been some allusions made by some of the previous speakers in the matter of a large number of teachers that are getting up into the higher end of the age scale, shall we say, getting maybe relatively close to retirement but are not quite there yet, and with a steady state and a student body or some decline in recent years that it does not give

the opportunity, there are not enough people going out the back end, so to speak, to allow new and younger teachers to come out of the universities and into the front end and started on their careers.

Now, pension plans were not designed to look after the problems of staffing. They are there to look after the individuals when they reach their end of their working career, either at some given age such as 65 or earlier if they wish, and they are designed to give those individuals some reasonable income for the remainder of their lives. But it is not a device that has been designed nor do I think it should be forced into use to look after a lot of the alleged "burnout" or "stress" that teachers are supposed to be subjected to, although I have some doubts of this. I fail to see where it is any more stressful than a good many other occupations and with the better general health of our population over the past several decades, I fail to see why any, but a very, very minute proportion of individuals in any profession, and here we are talking about teaching, should feel that they are particularly burned out at age 55 and have to get out of what they might consider the rat race. In any event, if this was thought to be desirable by employers and employees, that should be looked after by other mechanisms and not pensions, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I do want to rise and say a few words on this very important -(Interjection)- I see you were clapping for me on Friday. I watched CKND and the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) was having a good laugh and a good clap at the same time. I am surprised that he could do both at one time.

Nevertheless, I do think that the discussion on early retirement is very important. I think right off the bat, the first clause—and it has been discussed by previous speakers—that to retire early there is a penalty, and I think all of the people who have spoken that know a little about it say that it is not, it is just an actuarial reduction and this is the fact. We cannot call it a penalty.

Mr. Speaker, the pension benefit is calculated based on a formula which includes both length of employment and a percentage of the employee's salary. If the employee retires prior to normal retirement, a reduction to the pension may reflect that the normal retirement age pension must be paid for a longer period of time. So, any actuarial reduction is not a penalty. It is just a recalculation to take in the earlier retirement and the longer period of time that you are going to be drawing upon the system.

In the resolution, they intimate that whereas many Manitoba nurses and hospital employees have negotiated pension plans entitling them to retire early, health care pension plans are not negotiated. These plans are supervised and administered and they are directed by boards and trustees, representative of the respective health care institutions. The terms and conditions of these plans are not subject to the collective bargaining process, although both of the major health care plans have employee representatives on advisory committees.

The advisory committees make recommendations for improvements to the pension plans. These

recommendations may or may not be the result of discussions during negotiations but, in any case, the ultimate authority for the design of benefits rests with the board of directors of the institution. Mr. Speaker, health care employees may retire at age 60 without an actuarial reduction to normal forms of pension.

Mr. Speaker, the elimination of the actuarial reduction to early retirement pensions is one of the most expensive benefits that you can have in a pension fund. It has been mentioned before that with the teachers, they negotiated, supposedly, an early retirement, but when it comes to the teachers, I think it should be remembered that they have put in something like \$3.5 million of surplus money to obtain that early retirement fund.

I think that in this case, it was a case of there were a lot of teachers who had gone through the university process and did not have a job to go to and there were a lot of teachers who were wanting to retire early, and so the school system worked out a plan with the teachers to have early retirement.

In reading, and some of the previous speeches, I disagree with the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill) who said that teachers were burnt out at age 55. To say that people at age 55 are burnt out is an insult for the Member for Logan to say, that if you are 55 and still within the school system, that you are burnt out and you are not doing it justice. It is in Hansard.—(Interjection)—The Member for Wolseley (Mr. Taylor) protesteth but I think her words are there.

It says—and this is Hansard, and I think everybody agrees that Hansard is fairly accurate. "They have to get out because they are burnt out. They are tired, they are exhausted, they have no energy, they have no creative ideas, they are just putting in time." That to me is an insult to those in the teaching profession and an insult to people who are 55 or over who still have a productive period to give.

Mr. Speaker, restrictions to contributions, in effect, restricts the amount of income which can be deferred by contributors, both employers and employees, and the ability to accumulate surplus funds will also be restricted.

I have some concern with the amount of the money and the surpluses going back to employers. I think that the money has been put in there and if it has been well-looked after and well-managed, well-financed, I think that money should remain with the employees, and if we can top up their pension benefits if there is a shortage, then of course that becomes your other problem.

I look more in favour of the money purchase rather than the defined benefits because when you have the money purchase it goes in and it all stays there. Where you have a defined benefit, as the other Member said, if there is a shortage, who makes up the shortfall? When you work on a money purchase, then the employee gets everything that goes in.

I know at our marketing board we ruled not too many years ago that all of the surplus that was in that fund would accrue to the employees, and it did. I was quite

proud of that because I think as an employer we have spent the money. We have put it in and the employees have put in their half. Why should not they, the employees benefit if there is a windfall, and in some cases there has been. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that we want to look at that very carefully.

We were mentioning women in the workplace and I have to agree that because some women, and a lot of women, take time out to raise a family, they should not be penalized because they will not have enough years of actual work to qualify for the 25-55 magic 80 figure. I think as a society if we want to get the full value out of what women have to contribute and are contributing to our province and to our country I think we want to try to ensure that, yes indeed, they will not be penalized just because they have taken time out to raise a family. So it does give me some real concerns there.

I have been lobbied by the, I would say, school system. I have never seen as many letters to me as have come from the school system and I have received hundreds and hundreds of letters from them. I have had the opportunity to meet with them and to listen to their concerns and I have to say I have some real sympathy for those positions, but I think we also have to take into account when we are talking about pensions—

The Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) was mentioning that all pensions are not equal and all people do not have access to the same sort of input. There is no question that those who work in Government have an opportunity to have a pension plan that is somewhat better than those in the private sector, so I think that some of the work that the federal Government was trying to do was to ensure that all people would have a reasonably equal opportunity to retire at retirement age with a reasonable— (Interjection)—

* (1720)

An Honourable Member: Are you going to take this, Eddie?

Mr. Connery: I was just letting them have their say. They seem to be having a good time. I appreciate sensible comments from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness). It is comments from Members opposite that were not quite so rational.

We want to ensure that women in the workplace have an equal opportunity along with everybody else, with all of the men in society to have an equal opportunity to retire, so when we look at this I think we have to ensure that women who take time off have the opportunity to at least have a reasonable retirement benefit upon retiring.

This next—I think it is next May of '89, the Canadian Association of Pension Supervisory Authorities, CAPSA, representing the administrators of pension benefits legislation, met with the officials of finance in April and in many of the inconsistencies and difficulties which CAPSA members identified were noted. While the objective of pension benefit legislation is to provide minimum standards for employment pension plans, it

is the objective of tax legislation to ensure that those who do not participate in pension plans have an equal opportunity to defer current income on a tax-free basis for retirement, so we want to ensure through RRSPs or whatever factor that everybody has an equal opportunity.

It was going to be interesting to listen to the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer. He seems to have a lot to say but— (Interjection)- That is okay. I would rather say a little bit less, Mr. Speaker, than to listen to what some of the other ones have put on the record.

Pensions are a very significant part of our life and most of us start off very early in developing a pension plan because we have plans when we get to that point of retiring that we do have a reasonable income. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to put those few words on there to indicate where I have some concerns, and as the Minister responsible for pensions provincially, I do not think it would be appropriate to be definitive at this point in all of the things we might do. We have the concerns. We have listened to the concerns and we will be bringing forth our program to ensure that people have the best pension plans that we can ensure for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I am anxious to speak on this Bill. I am very disappointed that we have had to bring in this Bill, a resolution that focuses on a rather punitive act by the federal Government, a callous act on their part that has been buried in a 300-page Income Tax Bill at the federal level in the hopes that no one would figure out what was in there. It is a tragedy actually that a federal Government would undertake a move which would have this kind of impact on, particularly women in the workforce, whether it would be in teaching or in the nursing profession, or in other areas, particularly the public service.

The fact is it is being brought in in an underhanded way, a sinister way. The federal Government seems to have indicated that they are not proceeding at this time but if we take a cue from the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) which none of us are apt to do very often in this House, but if we were, he says that they did not drop the idea or stop proceeding with the idea at this point because they did not believe it was right. They simply put it on hold for a period of time because there was a lot of red tape that they had to iron out to make sure that it could be proceeded with, so in fact they believe that it is the right thing to do.

They proceeded to do that with a Prime Minister like Brian Mulroney who says that he does not have to consult or listen to advocacy groups and women's groups. He can just talk to Barbara McDougall and Pat Carney and they will give him all the advice he needs. Everything he ever wanted to know about women's needs, fairness and equity in the system, in the workforce, certainly Barbara McDougall and Pat Carney could answer all of those questions. Where were they when this particular provision was put forward? Flora MacDonald is another one of them.

He mentioned this on the TV debate, Brian Mulroney, that he does not have to listen to advocacy groups.

He has all the expertise he needs in his Cabinet, right there in his Cabinet. I thought that exchange with Broadbent actually was the winning exchange, even more than the Turner-Mulroney one actually. That was a profound admission by the Prime Minister to say that he did not have to listen to advocacy groups and it shows that he has not listened. He did not listen on this area of the pensions when it comes to penalizing those who retire early, those who have entered the workforce late. He did not do it when he wanted to de-index pensions for seniors, senior citizens' pensions in this country shortly after the last election. He does not believe in consulting on these very important issues. He thinks he has the expertise sitting at the table. Those Cabinet Ministers obviously do not have a clue about the needs of women or else they would have spoken up on those issues.

I want to just indicate to those Members of the Government who have spoken against this Bill, this resolution, in saying that this was just simply an actuarial reduction, that is really what is happening when a person who retires early takes a reduced pension. It is an actuarial reduction; it just gives them what is fair. The fact is the teachers collectively decided that they would absorb the impact of the actuarial reduction that should be going to those individuals who retire early. They would collectively absorb that by negotiating, by putting in the \$3.5 million for the costs of the first five years.

The Minister of Finance said, where did they get the extra money to do it? The fact is I was the pensions chairman for the Manitoba Teachers' Society in 1979-80, at a time when the Teachers' Retirement Allowance Fund (TRAF) had an unfunded liability of some \$30 million at that time, and the teachers negotiated with the Government at that time to eliminate that unfunded liability by increasing their contributions by one-half a percent, from 6.5 to 7 percent, I believe was the figure. Now that .5 percent of contributions by teachers eliminated the unfunded liability, combined with some good investments that increased the benefits of the fund through investments, and the fact is some teachers sit on the board and decide which investments should be made so in fact they can take some credit for that too.

I do not know where the Minister is coming from on this, but he should very clearly understand that the teachers decided to increase their contributions, and that was a major factor in putting that TRAF fund into a positive position which enabled them to find \$3.5 million to put towards improving these benefits.

So in fact the Government on this side cannot take credit for those increased dollars that were available. In fact, those dollars were put there by teachers. I think that it is only appropriate that once they have put the fund in a positive position, they should then be able to negotiate increased benefits for the teachers, and that is in fact what they did.

* (1730)

I had an experience of doing that at the time, in 1979-80, and I found it completely misleading that the Minister responsible for Seniors, this advocate for

seniors, as he calls himself, would say that this was not their money in the first place, they had no business having these benefits. In the first place, it was not their money to give up. I say it was their money because they increased their contributions.

Now I want to give an example of how I think this impacts on women and I can give a very personal example. My wife has had the opportunity to go back to university, at this time. She is in her third year of education at the University of Manitoba. By the time she graduates and gets her first job, she should be very close to the big 40. At that time—

An Honourable Member: She is much younger.

An Honourable Member: You robbed the cradle when you married her.

Mr. Plozman: Three or four years, I just hit the big 40, frankly, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is she is going to be getting a job teaching, hopefully—and I know she will because she is such an excellent student—but the fact is at age 55 she will only have taught for 15 years, and her combined age and teaching experience will add up then to 70 at that point. The penalty impacts all those whose age and experience is less than 80, or now the Minister has somehow found, from the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld)—the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) says it is just an actuarial reduction. The fact is they have negotiated away the actuarial reduction. They have all absorbed it in their plan, and that has been a negotiated arrangement.

So what she will end up doing is losing 3 percent a year for five years if she were to retire at 55, a 15 percent penalty because she started into the profession at a later time in her life. I want to tell you that that is a definite and very clear penalty against women who are, by and large, in that position more than men have been in our society because, in fact, they have often stayed home to raise a family before pursuing a career. And, in some cases they pursue a career and then raise a family and leave that career and go back to it but, in any even, they lose a number of years in that career which does indeed impact on them. They are going to be penalized by this Conservative Government, with this move that they are putting forward here, despite the fact that teachers have negotiated that penalty away because they believe collectively it is not fair to have an actuarial reduction, if that is what everyone wants to call it, or a penalty for those people who choose to retire at an earlier age.

And let us remember, the retirement is important in many cases, and I know the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) took out of context my colleague's comments about the impact, the teaching profession, the stress factor on teachers and the fact that at age 55 many of them are ready to retire and perhaps should retire in order to make way for fresh new ideas. And that is what my colleague was saying that was distorted by the Minister of Labour in his comments. He tried to leave the impression that she says all teachers are burnt out at age 55, they are no good, they are worthless, and that is not what she was saying at all.

But there are many, in many cases, and when there is a penalty to retire at age 55, it acts as a deterrent and many of those teachers then do not retire when in fact they should retire, and that means that you are not having young and new ideas, fresh people moving into the profession. That is what we try to work toward when we negotiated with the teachers as a Government, a couple of years ago, to eliminate that penalty. In fact, that was what was done.

I fail to see how this can be some kind of a great equalizing factor that the Minister for Seniors seems to say it will be, that somehow it is just going to ensure that people are going to get back their fair share only, not a windfall benefit from pensions because, in fact, it is a tax penalty. It is being put in place by the federal Government. They are going to take away 15 percent of that pension to put in the federal coffers. How is that somehow going to help the employer, in this case the province who has to pay the other half of the pensions? Where is the great equalizing factor? How is it helping the employer insofar as the payment of reduced pensions? In fact, there is no reduced pension. They pay the same amount and it gets taxed away at the federal level through these federal income tax changes that they have put in place.

I can tell you that I find it regrettable that the Minister for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld), who says he is the advocate for seniors, would be the one to say that this is a good move on the part of the federal Government, it is just and it is fair and that there should be a reduction for those people who retire early. They should pay through taxation if not through their reduced pension benefits directly. They should pay it through federal taxation because that is fair. With that kind of an advocacy role by this Minister for Seniors, who needs enemies? They certainly do not need an enemy when they have got that kind of an advocate speaking up on their behalf. That is another reason why the Minister for Seniors should resign when he makes that kind of a speech and neglects the people that he is supposed to be representing in this province with those kinds of statements.

Let us remember that teachers across this province have become aware of this measure even though it was buried in 300 pages of other statutory changes by the federal Government—300 pages. They found out about it now. They do not like it because they were paying a penalty before of 1.5 percent per year, 1/8 percent per month from between the age of 55 and 60. For every month they were under 60, they paid a penalty of 1/8 percent per month on their pension if they were to take a pension before 60. Now it happens that total amount, if they retire at 55, was 7.5 percent penalty. Now we have got a maximum of 15 percent penalty. That is double what they negotiated away only a couple of years ago. With a 7.5 percent penalty, the fact is very few retired at age 55 because they did not want that kind of a penalty there.

With the penalty of 15 percent, you can imagine what kind of a deterrent this is going to be for early retirement for teachers in this province. The fact is, none would retire. You can imagine the unfairness of it after they have negotiated away a penalty provision in their

pension plan that this federal Government would come on top and impose a larger penalty than they had previous after they negotiated a way through increased contributions by all teachers to get rid of that kind of punitive and discriminatory policy.

So I want to speak very strongly in favour of this resolution. I hope that all Members—and I can see that some Members in the Government side are not because of their same political stripe to serve the political agenda of the federal Government. They are not concerned about this impact on women. They are not concerned about the penalty provisions and the education system in this province, our nurses, and it seems that will not support this resolution. But I am very hopeful that the combined Opposition of Liberals and New Democrats will in fact support this resolution and bring it to a vote and that we will send a strong message to the federal Government on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): I think most of the arguments have been given, but I think it is worth while to reiterate some of them and perhaps with a little different slant to them.

In regard to burnout at age 55 or whatever, I have heard many times as an ex-school trustee from teachers and principals, the expression coming from their lips. It may not be exactly the right expression but it is an expression that they use generically, so I think there is some validity. I do not think that we are demeaning or degrading the teachers, to use this expression, one that they use freely themselves.

I think I might start out by saying, after having mentioned that, it is certainly well realized that the federal Government has delayed these amendments, but I still think that there is some real benefit and a useful exercise to go through the reasons for not supporting these amendments, and certainly to point out the need for early retirement for teachers because of the fact that it has been mentioned of burn out, and also to make sure if at all possible that the Government does not resurrect these amendments in the future.

I think that in this day and age we are all aware that there is a lot of stress in society, but in my association as a school trustee I have found this particularly, whether it is just that they have a strong organization to document it or whether it is a fact, I will leave to your imagination, but I believe myself that because of single-parent families and working parents and the fact that teachers are called upon to do just about everything these days, the role of the parent and sometimes even beyond. I have heard stories of school children coming in 35 below with just their slippers on from the house, for instance. Sure they came by bus, but there was nobody there to look after them, and the teacher takes upon that responsibility and rightfully so because they are dedicated people. But there is the role of supervising them during their sports and during their lunch hours and they are giving up their own lunch breaks to do that. Then on top of all that they have to take the ire and the aggravation of parents who come to them with, most of the times, misguided complaints about what happened in the classroom or around the school properties.

* (1740)

So it is a very stressful profession. It is no doubt that very few teachers reach 65. There is a very young age range in the teaching profession. I would think of no other reason of why they would be retiring earlier if it were not for the stress that was there. After all, it is a profession that has relatively good pay. It has rather extensive holidays and the hours, even when they are in school, is relatively short. So why would anybody give up that sort of a job if it was not that it was burning them out. So it is an actual fact of burnout. It does not mean indeed that these people are burned out period, that they are finished for life, because indeed many of them seek a second career and are very, very successful at it. This, I think, is the second good effect of early retirement in that these people take their talents and their skills into other endeavours in society and contribute accordingly.

There have been many, many successful teachers even in the Province of Manitoba who have gone on to establish businesses or success in another career. Some of them even become Leaders of the Opposition and ultimately the Premiers of the province for a first time. So maybe teachers in that respect are setting a precedent. Who said we do not have great minds thinking alike? We are coming along to the same thing.

The real big advantage of this early retirement for teachers and principals is that it gives the younger crop of graduate teachers a chance to come in and, as has been said earlier, with their innovative ideas, a new look, a more modern outlook on education, and perhaps a little bit more vigour. The side effect of that also is that it is a little bit cheaper bringing them into the system, which is also important in the ever-rising costs of the educational system.

So I think that the early retirement and, if I might call it a recycling, of the teachers plus the fact that we get a new crop of vigorous people, I think that is healthy for society in total.

It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, the flaws in the amendments, but I would like to outline a few that worked to the detriment of the retirement plans. That is, that these amendments would certainly add greatly to the cost of the clerical work for the associations, and therefore monies which would not be available to teachers and principals. It indeed appears that it is encroaching on provincial jurisdiction. I think one of the most important factors is that through the system of collective bargaining in the past, these teachers, and indeed there is another class of people well in it and that is the nurses, have won these concessions through trade-offs in the bargaining process. You just cannot ignore the fact that over the years and during their collective agreements that they have had these trade-offs. So just to make this thing retroactive for them would be most unfair.

It has already been pointed out but it is worth emphasizing that the teachers actually bought themselves into the first five years of this plan with in excess of \$3 million, and indeed they are contributing to the increased costs as well after 1990 but not to the same extent. I think it should be pointed out that

these teachers do not get the full pension when they retire early, but that it is to them a reduced pension.

I think that the most important message that we on this side, particularly Liberals, would like to set out is that we cannot go along and make retroactive adjustments to pensions or any other security for old age. Otherwise, the total confidence will leave the entire social system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

COMMITTEE CHANGE

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): Mr. Speaker, do I have leave to make some changes to the Public Utilities Committee? (Agreed)

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the composition of the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources be amended as follows: Pankratz for Findlay.

RES. NO. 7—EARLY RETIREMENT PENSION BENEFITS (Cont'd)

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to get up and speak on this particular resolution. I have not had the opportunity to review everyone's comments on this particular Private Members' Resolution, but let me say from the outset that the few that I have, other than the comments made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery), the best remarks to date on this had been provided by the MLA for Rossmere, the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld).

Mr. Speaker, if any Member of this House wants to know and learn a little bit about pensions, an area which the gentleman who sits behind me on a daily basis understands fully well and would like to set aside some of the politics associated with this area—and that is hard to do in this forum, I fully understand that.

But if they want to learn a little bit about the nature of pensions and how it is that society cannot provide any more than society is willing to give, Mr. Speaker, I would recommend that they read Hansard, pp. 1094-1095. It is contained within the two pages and they will have an incredible opportunity to learn a lot about the whole area of pensions.

What I have noticed is that nobody on the opposite side challenged the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld) on any of his statements. I want to repeat a couple of them. He said this: "I would say at this point that it is not a penalty that is imposed. It is an actuarial reduction,"—the hoots and hollers will come across, I am sure—"which is a calculation actuarially done in order to arrive at the pension that the person should be receiving" -(Interjection)- Yes, and I want to digress for a second and recognize the comments put on the record by the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) because he said some of these same remarks. I continue quoting: "To arrive at the pension the person should be receiving in accordance with the contributions he or she has made."

Mr. Speaker, so that is indeed what is being done here and I in no way come and rise before this Assembly

to apologize for what the federal Government and Mr. Wilson have done in this regard, none whatsoever. I bear in mind, and I quote again: "As a matter of cost actuarially, it will cost 18 percent of a person's income each and every year of his employment to achieve an amount necessary to pay the pension of 2 percent per year times the number of years of service. That is based on a level interest rate as based on annual increases of an even nature and is based on inflation that is level rather than up and down as we have had over the number of years."

Mr. Speaker, nobody challenged that statement. "Furthermore, the purpose of the legislation," and I quote again, "is to ensure that everyone pays for the amount of benefits they will receive and not that the employer should be the payer at the end. The employee and the employer should pay equally."

* (1750)

That in the terms of teacher pensions within this province was the deal that was struck, that each party would pay equally. That was struck not by representatives of the Parties opposite. Indeed, I believe it was struck by the former Premier Duff Roblin. That was the sharing agreement that was reached. If you believe what the MLA for Rossmere (Mr. Neufeld) has said, it is saying basically then everybody should be paying 9 percent. The Government should be paying 9 percent and all groups that are involved in investing in their own pensions up front should be paying 9 percent. That was the commitment that was made.

I listened to the MLA for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) and he said that the teachers had increased voluntarily their contributions from 6.5 percent to 7 percent or 7 percent to 7.5 percent, and he is right. They have, but that is not the reason that the \$30 million unfunded liability was wiped out. He knows fully well—

An Honourable Member: That was part of it.

Mr. Manness: Yeah, it was a part. That was part and I acknowledge that part, but that was a very small part of the reason.

The main part of course was the fact that we had interest rates at 22 percent. We had returns on investment, in some cases, of 30 percent through those years, and that was the reason. The teachers at least had put up the lion's share of their money up front. I understand that and I acknowledge it, I only wish the Government of the Day had done the same thing so that today, when we are considering the Estimates of the Department of Education, we would not be looking from year to year at a number that is growing exponentially. It is growing at an increasing rate, Mr. Speaker.

I know that the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) likes to drag out some of the comments that I made with respect to the Teachers' Pension Bill introduced in this House in 1985 when some certain Members on this side voted against it. Members on this side did not vote against it because they did not understand some of the benefits. Obviously, some of the benefits

were that they were going to allow a better turnover, of new thinking, of new vigour within that profession. That was good and we understood that.

But there was another side to it because, at that time, no accurate costing was done by the Government. We challenged the Minister of Education of the day to what degree accurate costing had been done for the next number of years out, and it was never done. The Government of the Day accepted it as policy. It was a philosophy that they wanted to bring in and they did, without in any way trying to determine what liability it would represent to future Governments. They never did, it was not done at all. I have made it my purpose to find that out since coming into Government, and it was not done. Let us make the record true in that respect.

Of course what Members did not do also was ask how it was that Government was going to provide the money anyway. Today, I really appreciate the questions coming from the Liberal Finance critic who likes to ask questions with respect to the unfunded liability around pensions, to this point in time well over \$1 billion. As a matter of fact, if we funded our responsibility of Government this year in this Budget, it would have cost close to \$100 million. That is why I am proud that our Government, indeed our representative of the public sector's accounting, as they try to work and resolve around this problem nationally and federally have come to the conclusion - (Interjection) - no. What is so different this time of course is that the Public Sector Accounting and Auditing Committee has made a strong recommendation. In my view, there is going to a public will across this country to begin to deal with the problem and begin to appropriate for it. That day will come, but I digress.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is in my view out of vogue. Mr. Wilson has publicly stated that there is going to be a moratorium on this issue, that there will be a complete review. Consequently, I think it is important that the Members opposite realize two things. Firstly, teachers are not being singled out in this. Indeed, it is all of us, including Members sitting within this House, who will also have pension benefits to come, all of us who are supposedly actuarially taking more from the system than we are contributing, just not teachers, all of us. So let the Members opposite who want to address this resolution recognize that fact. It was not directed specifically to teachers, all people who have a sharing arrangement with Government or in business where indeed they are not putting up their fair share. Today, Members of this House are not putting up their fair share to the contribution of their pension, and indeed teachers are not either, and that point was strongly made by the MLA for Rossmore (Mr. Neufeld) in his presentation, if you want to read it, if anybody wants to read it.

Not at issue here is teachers' salary, because in my view teachers deserve everything they get. What society and indeed what Governments of the Day have done in pushing on into the public school system all the problems of society and asking teachers basically to deal with it on a daily basis and try and find the problems, try and correct society's ills in the terms of

a nine to four school day is mad, in my point of view. So I fully understand what commitment the public school teacher is making to the education of our children. That is not at issue and neither is stress or burn out or any of the other buzzwords that happen to be. That is not at issue in this because there are many people in society who suffer those same things.

I am glad that the MLA for Dauphin (Mr. Plohm) is the one who interjects here because he went on to talk about particular circumstances in his family where Mrs. Plohm is out now finishing her learning within that area, soon to go into the area of teaching. He made the point, the MLA for Dauphin made the point that it was a system that was unfair, unfair to those people who had made some long-term commitment to the home. I say it is, and if he believes his argument is right, then he will understand what Mr. Wilson is trying to do in part, because there are many, many women through this country, many of them who at age 55 do not have a work experience outside of the home, none whatsoever, and what do they go to for their pensions? Absolutely nothing.

Mr. Speaker, what was Mr. Wilson trying to do? Where does any Government turn when they are trying to correct that? Where do they turn? They turn to those, all of us who have benefits beyond our contribution, our rightful contribution. That is where they turn. That is where Government of the Day turns and they have done so in this case.

As far as the fact that somebody teaching 15 years does not have commensurate returns to somebody teaching 30 years, that is something that is going to have to be looked at internally within the Teachers' Society, indeed Government. That is a real issue. That is a real problem. But do not attack Mr. Wilson for trying to give greater pay equity to all those women in society who work in or outside of the home.

Did you notice the NDP ad in the federal election about day care? We work outside the home, husband and wife hand in hand, and we need day care. Did you hear that, Mr. Speaker? We work outside of the home. What are they trying to say? That under the old traditional system, the wife was staying at home most likely and the husband outside, that they were not working? Then why did they say we are working outside of the home? What was the point they were trying to make?

An Honourable Member: What point are they trying to get across?

An Honourable Member: Both working outside of the home.

Mr. Manness: No, they did not say we were both outside the home. They said we are both working.

An Honourable Member: That is correct.

Mr. Manness: Those were the words, Mr. Speaker, "we are both working." So after having listened to the MLA for Dauphin (Mr. Plohm), after listening to the NDP federal election commitment, now I understand what

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has the MLA for Dauphin concerned. He is afraid that he is going to have to share some of his pension that he would have collected with his wife who is only going to have 15 years. That is what he is concerned about. He does not want to share any portion of his earning with his wife who will only have 15 years experience in the work force, and that is exactly the point to be made.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member for Dauphin, on a point of order.

Mr. Plohman: The Member is endeavouring to personalize this issue in such a way—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Plohman: —that is imputing motives for the stand that I took on this issue that affects many, many women. I used one illustration. He is imputing motives for my position, and I ask him to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Manness: I will withdraw. I used that example only because the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) for himself brought it up, but I will withdraw that.

Mr. Speaker: Let me thank the Honourable Minister of Finance. When this matter is again before the House, the Honourable Minister will have one minute remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., I am leaving the Chair with the understanding that the House will reconvene at 8 p.m. in the Committee of Supply.

* (1800)