



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

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

*Published under the
authority of
The Honourable Denis C. Rocan
Speaker*



VOL. XXXVII No. 76 - 1:30 p.m., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1988.



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. | Virden | 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 |
| MANNESSE, 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

Thursday, November 10, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

READING AND RECEIVING PETITIONS

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order.

I have reviewed the petition and it conforms with the privileges and practices of the House and complies with the rules. Is it the will of the House to have the petition read? (Agreed) (Property Tax Assessment Classification Transfer)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Mr. Speaker: Prior to oral questions, may I direct the attention of Honourable Members to the loge to my left, where we have with us Mr. Roland Penner, the former Member for Fort Rouge. On behalf of all Honourable Members, I welcome you here this afternoon, sir.

We also have with us today in the public gallery from the Ryerson Collegiate, fifty-four Grade 5 students under the direction of Gail Marlow. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert (Mr. Angus). On behalf of all Honourable Members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

We also have with us in the public gallery from the Teulon Collegiate, fifty Grade 11 students under the direction of Mr. Alvin Reinsch. This school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer). On behalf of all Honourable Members, we welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Seniors Directorate Mandate

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). We, on both sides of this House, know that politics is not an easy life. Constant pressures of public service and public scrutiny are often stressful and the expectations are very high. However, this scrutiny and this criticism is essential in order to operate within our democratic system of Government. We were elected because our constituents placed their confidence and trust in all of us.

The Members opposite were appointed to the Executive Council and they have an even higher obligation in safeguarding the trust and confidence of the Government of the Province of Manitoba and, indeed, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has the highest level of responsibility.

The First Minister (Mr. Filmon) has caused his Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) public embarrassment by his total failure to define the Minister's role. My question to the First Minister, therefore, is why, when he initiated this directorate, did he not establish its mandate and its responsibilities?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, very simply, when a Government undertakes a new initiative, something that has not been done in the past, then obviously the Government has two choices. One is to come in with preconceived notions—you know the Liberal Party has done this quite often. They have said, for instance, on something like Meech Lake, we do not want to listen to what the people have to say, our mind is made up, we know what is best for you and this is the way it is. If you are going to set up something like a new Seniors Directorate and have a Minister responsible, then you have an obligation to consult widely with the people who will be affected by it. Listen to the view of seniors organizations—and there are many—listen to the views of different people who work with seniors throughout the community, establish something that over the long term will be meaningful.

Mr. Speaker, up until this point we have not had anything to do with seniors, other than a fragmented delivery of services to seniors from many, many Government departments: some in Health; some in Community Services; some in Finance; some in Education; throughout the different areas of the Provincial Government. We envisage an opportunity to coordinate those services, to coordinate the delivery of programs, to do it in a way that improved the accessibility to seniors and the awareness of seniors; that is going to take some time. We have established what we believe is the right initiative but we will be careful to ensure that initiative is implemented for the best interests of the seniors by taking adequate and proper time, due care and attention to do it.

Hon. Harold Neufeld (Minister responsible for Seniors): A point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

Mr. Neufeld: I think that if the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) has a question about my competence, she should have the courage to ask me direct and not go through the First Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order. The Honourable Minister does not have a point of order.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, but I was not questioning the Minister's competence. I was questioning the fact that he did not have a mandate because the mandate was not established by the First Minister.

* (1335)

Seniors' Programs Coordination

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): With a supplementary question to the First Minister, we still have fragmented delivery and we have fragmented delivery because the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has not established the coordination within those portfolios which is required in order to provide proper and appropriate delivery. Why has this First Minister not taken the lead in establishing a coordinating function because we do not know, and neither do the seniors know, who is coordinating their services?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Well, Mr. Speaker, among many things, we talked about ensuring that we provided for a coordinating function, that we did so in a manner without setting up a major new department. We have not hired dozens of people. In fact, at this point in time we have only hired one person because we want to establish it in a manner that works effectively, that acts as a coordination function because it will not deliver services. In order to do that, in order to coordinate those services and coordinate the opportunities to better serve the needs of the seniors, there are a variety of things that are ongoing.

One is a White Paper that has to do with elder abuse; a second is a paper that is being prepared for Cabinet and Treasury Board that shows what are the services that are currently provided by the provincial Government, and recommends a better way of coordinating the information; setting up a seniors hotline so that seniors can reach one central agency in Government, Mr. Speaker, so that their answers can be given directly, so that they do not have to go through the telephone directory and phone a half-dozen different departments until they get the right one.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is when it is a new initiative it takes time, due care and attention, and we are going to do that so that we do it right, unlike the Liberals—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order.

* (1340)

Implementation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the First Minister, if there was a single program that had been initiated in the last seven months, we would not be asking these questions. Yesterday the Minister indicated there was a program. Can the Minister tell us exactly what that program is, and when it is going to begin, and when it will in fact serve the people of this province?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I have just indicated that we are not talking about new programs in program delivery.

Those take place—Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is trying to play her cute games here and trying to create attention to her great opportunity to

try and jump all over a Government over a new initiative—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order.

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, I will take the heat from anybody on that side any time, in here, outside, wherever you want it, and be my guest. You got it.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the concept of the Seniors Directorate is something that we believe will serve the best interests of the seniors of Manitoba in a better fashion than they have been served before. We are prepared to put forward our opportunity to reach that goal.

Elderly Abuse White Paper

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We are prepared to provide the White Paper on Elder Abuse, the paper that sets up the coordination function and better combines the efforts of all departments to serve the needs of seniors, the central function whereby seniors may phone in, we are prepared to do all that. When we have done it, we will present it to the Legislature and if the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) or any of her colleagues do not like it, they are welcome to criticize it and say so. Until that happens, Mr. Speaker, let the Leader of the Opposition be patient and let her wait for us to present these ideas and then she can jump all over them because she is going to in any case—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Legislation

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, with a new question to the First Minister, we have been waiting through two administrations for a program on elder abuse. We were promised it in the Speech from the Throne in '86; we were promised it in the Speech from the Throne in '87; we were promised it in the Speech from the Throne under this Government in '88. Yesterday we were told we were not going to get a White Paper, maybe it was going to be a Green Paper. Can the First Minister tell us today, has the paper been started? When will we get it in this House, and will it be a White Paper which will promote the formulation of legislation?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I think it is ridiculous for the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) to suggest that I should take the responsibility for what two previous administrations did not do.

I cannot take the responsibility for what was not done in '86, for what was not done in '87, but I will take the responsibility for what is being done and has been begun to be worked upon since we took Government on May 9 of 1988. Mr. Speaker, that has not been a long time.

I just indicated earlier, we have not gone about to hire volumes of new staff. We are going to do it with the resources we have with some little additional staff, and we are going to do it properly. All I can suggest to her is that the paper on elder abuse is in the stages of preparation and will, indeed, be tabled when we are ready to have it dealt with in this Legislature, and all I ask is that she be a little patient.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary question to the First Minister. Can the Minister tell the House today if it is anticipated that at least by the next Session we will have legislation with regard to elder abuse in the Province of Manitoba?

* (1345)

Mr. Filmon: Mr. Speaker, when the Government is in a position to table that legislation, or table the White Paper, or table the paper that is being put forward on elder abuse, then we will be in a position to discuss it and all of its ramifications, all the pros and cons. But what happens is, if we suggest that we are looking at this, we are looking at that, we are looking at the other thing, that leads to all sorts of speculative debate, all sorts of needless non-productive speculation about what we might be doing, what we might not be doing, and she will criticize us for even thinking about doing something that she disagrees with.

When we are ready, when we have the paper and indeed the policy ready to put forward, we will put it on the table and we will let her have her opportunity to criticize it, which undoubtedly she will, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Carstairs: With a supplementary question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), all of the answers today would indicate that he does not understand the role of the Official Opposition in this Government, that we are supposed to indeed raise issues. He should have known. He was there long enough, and we will do our best to get him back here again.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Seniors' Portfolio Minister's Removal

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): My question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is that he has had a Minister literally begging to be let out of his ministerial responsibility for seniors. Will he finally put him out of his suffering and put us out of our suffering too?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): We can always expect the Leader of the Opposition to lower the level here in the Legislature. She knows the gutter very well because she spends a lot of time there.

The only thing that I have indicated from this side of the House with respect to the role of the Opposition in this Legislature is that indeed they are performing their role very poorly. That is all I have indicated by my answers here today.

Victim Assistance Program Funding Withheld

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the chairperson and Minister responsible for the Treasury Board (Mr. Filmon). The Victims Assistance Program was established in Manitoba to provide innovation and funding for victim-related services in the Province of Manitoba within the justice system of the province. It is a very innovative idea, Mr. Speaker. It is a very important component of the criminal justice system to deal with the victims of our system that are often the most neglected part of our criminal justice system.

My question to the Minister and Chair of the Treasury Board is there is almost close to \$1 million in that fund and many projects and recommendations are being held up in Treasury Board that are coming from the committee. Can he confirm that there are a number of community based projects being held in Treasury Board and can he confirm the reasons for withholding those very important projects from the people of Manitoba?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Indeed, and this is a very important question that the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) is asking. There have been many, many applications put forth to the Victims Assistance Fund for funding under the fund and there is almost \$1 million in that fund. We have approved a number of them, one being the one for New Faces, the child abuse project that Donny Lalonde has been involved with, that they have done a lot of external fund raising for.

It appeared to have been the practice previously that very little information was put forward along with the application, very incomplete information. The fund board that was set up was not in a habit, it appeared to be, of asking for full information such as whether or not these programs would lead to ongoing commitments by Government departments and how much in the way of additional service delivery and cost there would be to Government by approving these projects.

None of that kind of background information was available to us when we looked at many of the applications. We applied back to the Victims Assistance Fund Board to seek that additional information. They felt it was not their role to provide that additional information so we have had to go directly to the applicants and ask them for the additional information. That has added to the amount of time that we have required to review these applications, but clearly we want to deal with them. We want to use the fund for the purpose for which it was set up.

* (1350)

Victim Assistance Committee Application Process

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): It is very important, Mr. Speaker, that the independent and arm's length committee that has been established

under the legislation, the Victims of Assistance Committee be the one that is recommending to the Government the community-based projects and that it is treated in a manner consistent with the mandate given in the Act.

Can the Minister assure this House, and indeed Manitobans, that any project to be considered under the Victims Assistance Program will come from the Victims Assistance Committee and will not be initiated in other areas of Government or outside Government bodies?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, there has been absolutely no intention on our part to circumvent the job that has been done by the Victims Assistance Fund Board. That committee is, indeed, the proper mechanism, but clearly we have had some difficulty with the fact that they have not asked for information that we believe relevant to and pertinent to our review and scrutiny of the applications, so we have had to ask directly for that information, because the committee has said that they do not feel it was their role to ask those questions. Yet they put upon Government commitments for spending in future years, perhaps fixed program commitments for future years. We have felt that we needed that information in order to review the application and make the judgment.

Mr. Doer: It has been some four months where some of these projects have been held up.

Application Approvals

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): I would ask the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), in light of the fact that this is Crime Prevention Month and part of the components of Crime Prevention Month is victims assistance, that this project and this appearance of discrepancy between the committee and the Government be clarified immediately, so the projects that are very needed projects, community-based projects, can be approved by the Government pursuant to the mandate of the Act.

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, this Government is committed to the reduction of crime and, indeed, to community projects that serve to reduce the incidence of crime and the tendency towards crimes being committed and to dealing with the victims of crime and their suffering and their circumstances being mitigated by virtue of the money in the fund—clearly, when we wanted to have the committee do its job and perform its role. But when the committee has said to us that they did not feel it was their role to ask those questions or seek that information, we were at a difficult circumstance, and so we had to go beyond the committee to the applicants directly. That has taken additional time, but under no circumstances was it our desire to stop the work of the fund. Indeed, we want to carry on and further the work of the fund. We have to do it in the best way that we can see to accomplish that.

Victim Assistance Program Fines Levied by Judges

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Some members of the judiciary are not applying the 12 percent fine. The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) of Manitoba on August 26 indicated that he would look at cleaning up that situation. In the Annual Report of the Victims Assistance Committee, there is a recommendation that the Act be amended if it cannot be handled in a voluntary way with the judges. Our information is that situation has not been rectified. There are, indeed, some members of the bench that are not still applying that fine.

My question to the First Minister is, if he cannot clean that situation up in terms of the intent of the Act to provide support for victims, would he look at bringing in an amendment in this Session of this Legislature to make that mandatory?

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question coming from the Honourable Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer). We have a new chief judge at the level of the Provincial Court in this province, and this particular matter has already been discussed by me with him and will be discussed again.

My information is that the percentage of these levies not being made is relatively small in comparison to the number of opportunities that there are for judges to make such levies. There is also a discretionary factor involved here. I really wonder if the Honourable Member would want us to be asking the judges not to use discretion but to levy these kinds of charges, especially on accused persons who are not in a financial position to be able to make that.

The matter is definitely being reviewed. As far as judges refusing, that is the subject of discussion between the chief judge and myself.

* (1355)

Social Assistance Single-Tier System

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): My question is for the Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security (Mrs. Oleson). The 1983 Report of the Manitoba Task Force on Social Assistance called for a single-tier social assistance system which was ignored until the last minute by the previous administration. We saw election promises by the Conservatives which changed in the midst of that campaign and now the Minister of Economic Security is seemingly failing to take any action. My question to the Minister is would she tell us is she committed to establishing a single-tier social assistance system?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): I take issue with the Member's remark that I failed to take action. I have had, as I said in response to the former Minister of Employment Services, when he, as you say, at the last

minute introduced a suggestion into the House—one of the flaws in that was that he had failed to consult with the people most directly affected with the municipal and the municipal corporations. He had not consulted with them and the municipal people were not pleased with his suggestion.

I intend to, and am setting up meetings with the municipal people in order to get their views on how they can best deliver social assistance to the people or how we cooperatively can best deliver social assistance to the people in this province who need it.

Municipality Recommendations

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): With a supplementary to the same Minister, if this Minister will be having meetings with representatives from the municipalities, could she tell us will she be prepared to go by the recommendations of the municipalities even if their recommendations are that we should not go to a single-tier social assistance system?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): I, unlike the Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), am not going to prejudge the outcome of the meetings. We will meet with them and we will consult, and we will then decide what is best to be done with the program.

Standard Rates

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): With a supplementary to the same Minister, this Government campaigned on efficiency and better management in Government. Manitobans have a right to be treated equitably and fairly. There must be standardized rates and standardized eligibility requirements across the province. Will the Minister assure this House that she is willing to move very quickly to ensure that in fact standard rates and standard eligibility requirements are implemented? Will she do that and assure us today?

Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security): I have indicated to the Member before that I will be meeting with the municipal corporation, the municipal people. We will be discussing it. We will be deciding after those meetings how best to serve the people of Manitoba who are in need of social assistance.

CSIS Agreement Memorandum Tabling Request

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): My question is for the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). Yesterday in the House, the Attorney-General quoted from a memo written by him in September which ostensibly beefed up the CSIS Agreement which he signed on June 15 of this year. The memo, as quoted by the Attorney-General, instructs all Government departments not to release anything but locator information unless the Attorney-General's Department is consulted. That protection accountability is very welcomed on this side. We have been asking for it for months, and we welcome the recognition by

the Attorney-General that that protection is in fact not there in the agreement.

I wonder if the Attorney-General would be prepared to table that memo today, given that the agreement itself is a public document and this memo obviously supplements that public document.

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Somehow I think maybe the Honourable Member feels that he is making a new revelation here and the fact is there is nothing new in what happened on September 2 when I distributed a memorandum to all Ministers and Deputy Ministers in the Government of Manitoba. The fact is the people of Manitoba are quite adequately protected by virtue of the various initiatives put in place, not only by the federal Government through The CSIS Act, but also through the Memorandum of Understanding which was entered into to protect Manitobans.

The memorandum that I referred to in my speech yesterday and the one to which the Honourable Member refers in his question simply underlines exactly what he and I have been discussing. I would be happy to table it. I have it in my hand. The Honourable Member asked for it yesterday. I brought it to the House with the intention of giving it to him, but I am pleased to share it with all Honourable Members.

* (1400)

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Amendments

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Now that the Attorney-General has written this memo, and I thank him for bringing it to the attention of the entire House and the public, presumably he wanted that protection in the agreement. It was not in the agreement so he felt the need to write the memo. We appreciate that extra protection, Mr. Speaker. Will he not now take the next logical step and amend the agreement itself to include the protection in the memo, which clearly he intended to be in the agreement but it was not, so he wrote the buttressing memo? So Manitobans will have the Attorney-General to point to when intrusive information is released, and indeed they will have an agreement with that extra protection in it to point to.

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): The Honourable Member prefaces his question by saying now that the Minister has written the memo. I remind the Honourable Member and all Honourable Members the memo was written September 2, 1988. That is some time ago now.

The Honourable Member seems to think that there is something new happening. The fact is this memo refers to a meeting that was held long before I ever came to office when the honourable gentleman sitting in the loge was in my position. Meetings like that were held with people responsible for making information either available or not making information available.

The Honourable Member keeps referring to the agreement. I am quite confident that the agreement

provides more protection. The Honourable Member also makes reference to the fact that somebody is responsible. Someone has been responsible all along, Mr. Speaker, since June 15. The Attorney-General of this province is responsible when information other than information regarding name and address is being asked for by CSIS. The Honourable Member also ignores completely the fact that there are the four other processes that are in place to protect Manitobans, which I discussed yesterday in my speech. The Honourable Member would do well to read it over again.

Mr. Edwards: Indeed, Mr. Speaker, but the memo was written after it had been raised in this House. We thank the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) for recognizing the obvious need to buttress the agreement.

There is no shame in admitting weaknesses in an agreement that one negotiates. There is shame in not acting when those weaknesses become apparent. That is precisely why paragraph 7 is in the agreement allowing for amendment.

My question is, why will the Attorney-General not deal with the legitimate concerns, not just of the Opposition but of hospitals in this province, of the Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties and indeed of all Manitobans that this agreement is just plain deficient and does not include the protections that he has set out in the memo in an agreement that is a public document that people can point to? Why will he not take that extra step—it is a simple step, it is provided for in the agreement—and give that protection to Manitobans?

Mr. McCrae: The Honourable Member either has trouble hearing, Mr. Speaker, or certainly trouble understanding. Sir, he suggests that there is no shame in admitting weakness. If I am weak in any area, I have no problem with making such admissions but I make no such admission in this case.

I think the greater shame would be for any Government, whether it be a national Government or a provincial Government, not to accept its responsibility regarding the security and the safety of the people in those jurisdictions. The Honourable Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) and his Leader (Mrs. Carstairs) are not prepared to take any responsibility whatsoever in terms of protecting the rights, safety and liberty of people in this country and in this province. Mr. Speaker, I am. I accepted the job that I am in and I accept the responsibility that goes with it. If the Honourable Member is not willing to accept that, he is not only unfit to assume any other role and he is not fit to be the justice critic for the Official Opposition.

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

Free Trade Agreement Impact Aboriginal People

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupert's Land): My question is to the Minister of Northern Affairs and the Minister responsible for Native Affairs (Mr. Downey). The Minister has the responsibility to uphold and advocate the

interests of aboriginal people in the Province of Manitoba. I would like to ask the Minister whether he has met with the aboriginal organizations to discuss their views and also to obtain their views and the impact that the modern day treaty that we know as "free trade" will have on aboriginal people. I can advise the Minister that Canada and certainly Manitobans can learn from aboriginal people in this province about signing treaties without fully knowing the terminology and the long-term effects.

Does the Minister know that the aboriginal people oppose this treaty, and certainly Canada will know if we sign this treaty what it is like to be a second-class citizen?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): I am pleased that the Member raised that issue, because I think it is a good opportunity to bring to the attention of the House that I and my colleagues are very much committed to the aboriginal people in bettering their ways.

Mr. Speaker, we were brought into office or came into office when it was left by the former administration where there are some 90 percent unemployed young people in northern and Native communities, a record that I do not think that Member would be very proud of or should be very proud of or his Government. We are working aggressively to give those young people educational opportunities, job opportunities, market opportunities for their fish, for the furs that they produce, for the lumber in foreign markets. We are committed to the Native and aboriginal people, and we will live up to our responsibilities of giving them greater opportunity.

Northern Development Agreement Special ARDA Agreement

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupert's Land): My supplementary question to the Minister is, can the Minister advise us of the status of the negotiation in respect to the Northern Development Agreement and Special ARDA Agreement. These two agreements assist our Native people in the North and these two agreements will benefit the northern people if the agreement is reached in the negotiations. The Native people are concerned these two agreements will be affected by free trade because, in a sense, they are subsidies which help the Native people. Can the Minister advise us of the status of these two programs which are due to expire March 31 of '89.

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased to respond to that question. It is unfortunate that he and his Government were unable to develop a long-term agreement in their term of office. The long-term agreement ran out some two years ago, and they have been putting a band-aid approach for the people of northern Manitoba. They have only been operating on extension dates for the last two years and have not dealt with any long-term plans for the people of northern Manitoba.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have been negotiating with the federal Government. I have a commitment from Mr.

Thursday, November 10, 1988

Valcourt that we are to meet very shortly to work on the details of a more longer-term range plan for northern Manitoba.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order!

Mr. Harper: Obviously, the Minister did not hear my question and he does not understand the Native issues in this province.

Treaty Land Entitlement Negotiations

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupertsland): I would ask him this question then. Has the Minister pursued the negotiations that we have with the federal Government with regard to the Treaty Land Entitlement? I might advise the Minister, we signed an Order-in-Council in 1987 approving the Treaty Land Entitlement. The federal Government has refused to sign this agreement. Will he pursue his counterpart in Ottawa, the Minister of Indian Affairs, to sign this agreement and also not to withdraw from negotiations that have been going on? Will he do that for the first citizens of this country?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Let me assure the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) that this Government has been working very aggressively on behalf of the Native community, not only when it comes to Treaty Land Entitlement but when it comes to Northern Flood Committee that was neglected by that administration for 10 years, the livelihoods of those communities that have been devastated by the hydro projects. We have been working aggressively to resolve those issues. The Treaty Land Entitlement is being worked on and worked on very aggressively by my colleague, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner), and myself as Minister responsible for Native Affairs, very aggressively.

* (1410)

Steroid Use Random Testing

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Sport (Mr. Ernst). No one wants a repetition of the drug scandal that hurt Canada's reputation at the Summer Olympics in Seoul. The Minister is responsible for finding solutions to an obvious problem and yet he rejects random testing for steroid use. Given that the sports community sees this as the only immediate solution, what plan does the Minister have to address this clear threat to Manitoba's reputation and to the health of our athletes?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister responsible for Sport): Mr. Speaker, I thank my honourable friend for the question. Last week the Ministers of Sport from across the country met in Winnipeg and discussed at length this particular issue and the kinds of actions that can be taken to deal with it. The first thing we have to do is find out

how significant the problem is. I do not know if the Honourable Member knows, but I do not know of just how deep in the system the use of performance enhancing drugs go.

We have launched an initiation amongst all of us across the country and an investigation to determine just how serious this problem is, where it is, what kind of performance enhancing drugs there are being used, and how they are getting to the athletes. In addition to that, I am considering at the moment and have under discussion with the Sport Medicine Section of the University of Manitoba Medical School the question of a sport medicine advisory committee to deal with the question of drugs. We do have an initiation under the Manitoba High School Athletic Association, a federal grant of some \$70,000 to deal with the question of drug abuse in the high schools.

In addition to that, there will be a symposium on November 16, which the Honourable Member I am sure is aware of, to deal also with this issue. On top of all of that, we are dealing with the question on a national basis. We will be meeting with the federal Minister of Sport approximately December 15 to deal with those questions on a national basis after the information is gathered as to how serious the problem is. From that point, we will be taking further action.

Sports Medicine Council Reactivation

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, Manitoba's Sports Medicine Council has been leaderless during this Minister's tenure. In fact it has not met since this Government was elected. Will the Minister reactivate the council and seek some informed advice on drug testing and drug prevention among amateur athletes?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister responsible for Sport): Mr. Speaker, for the information of my honourable friend, there is no Sports Medicine Council. It was abandoned by the previous Government two years ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my earlier response to the Honourable Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak), I am in discussion at the present time with the Sport Medicine Section of the University of Manitoba Medical School with a view to reconstituting a Sport Medicine Council for Manitoba.

Mr. Kozak: Mr. Speaker, of course my question did deal with the reactivation of the council.

High School Athletic Association Drug Abuse Programs

Mr. Richard Kozak (Transcona): The Manitoba High School Athletic Association some time ago asked the Minister to help fund a high school drug abuse education program. How many more months will it take for the Minister to make a decision on this modest request to combat drug abuse among young athletes?

An Honourable Member: Hear, hear!

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister responsible for Sport): The answer I gave you in my first answer, Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba High School Athletic Association presently has \$70,000 from the federal Government under which they are conducting at the present time a program with regard to drug abuse in the high schools. In addition to that, as I said once we have determined the basic information as to how serious the problem is and what needs to be addressed first of all. Then we will take action to address it.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired.

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition): Could I have leave for a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Leader of the Opposition have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

Mrs. Carstairs: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tomorrow, as all of us know, and signified by the fact that many in the House are wearing poppies, is Remembrance Day.

Tomorrow all throughout Manitoba, Manitobans will gather at cenotaphs in order to remember those who died and, indeed, those who served in the Boer War in which the first Canadian contingent served as a Canadian contingent: World War I, World War II and of course the service of those in the U.N. force during the Korean war.

All of us at that point in time will not only reflect on the supreme sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice that these individuals gave, but we will also remember those who served and spent many years in suffering because of wounds and because of deprivation that some of them suffered in prison camps as a result of these encounters.

Mr. Speaker, last year I sat at the Winnipeg Convention Centre in front of a young family, and I note this because often I think the veterans that are still alive—and they are becoming fewer and fewer—feel that the young people do not sufficiently understand what it is that we are celebrating.

This family was comprised of a mother and a father and two boys. Both of them had been dressed in their uniforms. The young Beaver who was about five or six years old, and a young Cub Scout who was about eight years old. And throughout the ceremonies at the less solemn moments their mother and father had tried to explain to them exactly what we were remembering.

They spoke to them about the importance of their uniforms as a Beaver and as a Cub. They spoke to them about great grandparents who had died—great grandfathers—who had died in the war. They spoke to them about the need to prevent war in the future by eliminating the causes of war, that poverty, that prejudice are frequently the causes of war.

I was struck by this family because it said to me that we still did have within our society citizens who care very deeply and who do not want a war because none of us want war, but at the same time hold in very high respect those who have served in wars, those who have given their lives in wars and those who have put service to country above all else.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): I ask leave to make a non-political statement.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister of Finance have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, I too wish to, on behalf of the Government side, join the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) in the words that she has spoken.

As everybody knows, our Premier (Mr. Filmon) has indicated through the statements that he has made as to our commitment, our ever-living commitment to the recognition of the memory of those who have served, those who have died and those who lived in serving.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you as the next generation, coming from somebody who served in the war and who now is an associate member of the Royal Canadian Legion, that it behooves myself and indeed all of us to think back as to the commitment that was made by a young generation of men and women in the name of our individual freedoms, in the name of our nation, indeed, in the name of hopefully peace everlasting in the context of our nation.

* (1420)

Mr. Speaker, one just has to look today at those people who served, those who still are alive, and look within their eyes and at their faces to recognize what war is all about, to recognize the commitment that they had made and recognized, I suppose, that war is a horrific thing. But nevertheless, it is very important that all of our citizens, in particular our young people, remember what happened so many years ago. Mr. Speaker, in my view, the people that went to war, those who lived and those who died were soldiers of peace. Thank God for our country; thank God for 43 years of peace; thank God for the efforts of those that laid down their lives for our freedom.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): May I have leave to make a non-political statement?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Member for Flin Flon have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

Mr. Storie: I, too, would like to add the sentiments of myself and my caucus to the remarks of both the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness).

I am one of probably a generation of Canadians whose parents, whose fathers in particular, but mothers and fathers served this country in various capacities

during the last World War. My father served, as many of those who served, has not spoken very often or at length about his experiences. I do not think any of us can really comprehend, and I include in that approximately five decades of new Canadians since 1940, can really comprehend what war is all about.

I think it is important that we pay tribute not only to the principles for which they fought, I think it is important to pay tribute to the people who have used their time and energy to remind us of the importance of this day, the Royal Canadian Legion, whose purpose it is to support, promote the well-being of its members and also the memory of those who gave their lives so that we, in Canada, could enjoy the kind of style of life, the kind of freedom that we now enjoy.

The Royal Canadian Legion, its members and many other Canadians treat November 11 with a great deal of respect. In doing so, we save the memory of many people who lost their lives in vicious, regrettable battle, but I think it is also important because it should remind us of the horror of war and the need for peace.

I know that right now there are some 12,000 school teachers and hundreds of schools participating in Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is difficult to imbue in young people the significance of the sacrifices of people who have gone before us. But it is important. I think we also have to pay tribute to the many people who served overseas in particular, who fought the Second and the First World Wars, who have decided that the new role of the Legion will also be to promote peace, to promote harmony in the world, to promote cooperation where once that seemed an impossible task.

I hope that Remembrance Day means to every Canadian and certainly every Manitoba more than the remembrance of those who gave their lives but also a moments reflection on the possibility of peace on earth. I think that Remembrance Day serves its purpose well and is a fitting moment of reflection for all Canadians on both the glory of our victory and the peace that we have endured because of it, but also the possibility of peace in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Coming from a family that has served in both World Wars, and myself being an associate member of the Legion, I believe this to be an appropriate time for the Speaker to join with the three political Parties in the Chamber in remembering those who have given so much so we can enjoy the freedoms and liberties that we sometimes take for granted.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), 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.

* (1440)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer: I would like to call this meeting to order to consider the Estimates of the Department of Education. We are on Section 5., part (f) Cooperative Training Programs: (1) Salaries \$78,400.00. Shall the item pass? The Minister of Education.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): I have a few handouts here to give with regard to questions that were asked in the previous sessions. The responses to outstanding questions raised in Estimates with regard to, first of all, the first attachment is questions relating to the community college satellite centres, include enrollment figures and staffing in northern centres; a response to the question relating to PACE; participation with industry; and CJS-related programming; a background paper on the Manitoba High School Athletic Association.

In addition to this, Mr. Chairman, a question was raised as to whether psychologists and reading clinicians are able to access the French Language Bursary Program. If the person is also a certified teacher the answer is clearly yes. If the person is not a certified teacher, the answer is yes, but with the following conditions. First of all, the person is or will be delivering professional services in direct contact with students; and secondly, the person's application is endorsed by the school division superintendent.

There is one more question, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to respond to, and that was with regard to aboriginal staff at Keewatin Community College. In addition to the president, there are five technical-professional aboriginal staff members at Keewatin Community College at the present time. Thank you.

Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek): The Member for Kirkfield Park (Mrs. Hammond) said that I looked like I was almost overwhelmed by the amount of material. I would guess that half of the material has been provided by the Minister and I thank him for it. I would like to have a little bit of time now to read through it.

I just have a couple of questions with regard to 5.(f), the South Winnipeg Technical Centre, I am wondering if the Minister has any ideas. On the bottom of the page, it says there is training for 125 adults in the South Winnipeg Technical Centre. Is 125 an increase or a decrease from the previous year, can you tell me?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, there is not any significant difference. There may be one or two less or more but, in average terms, it is about the same.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there any change in status of South Winnipeg Technical Centre or is it to continue as it has been in the past?

Mr. Derkach: Its mandate has not changed and, at the present time, it is continuing, as was its intention when the college was set up.

Mrs. Yeo: I have heard reports from two different areas, one, a data-based area and the other a Kirkness Learning Centre as having placed some bids or shown some interest in South Winnipeg Technical Centre. I am wondering if there is any truth to these rumblings that you hear out in the community.

Mr. Derkach: Certainly, at this time, we do not know of any such bids to take over South Winnipeg Technical Institute. However, I can only indicate that there are students from Kirkness who do attend South Winnipeg Technical Institute.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me if there has been any change in status of a previously proposed licensed practical nursing program that would be offered out of South Winnipeg Technical Centre?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, there is no change.

Mrs. Yeo: With regard to the interprovincial training agreements, can the Minister elaborate on that particular activity? I am not certain as to what is meant by the interprovincial training agreement.

Mr. Derkach: The interprovincial agreements relate to our province buying spaces in other provincial colleges or technical training institutions and other provinces buying spaces here. Usually, that happens when we do not have the programs available in our particular community college system or in our technical institutions.

At the present time, we have 12 students at the School of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, we have three students in Optometry at Waterloo, and we have some students as well at the Engineering Faculty in Calgary. In addition to this, we are also selling spaces here in Manitoba to other provincial jurisdictions.

Mrs. Yeo: I am a little taken aback in that I thought that was covered under the appropriation No. 5.(b) where there were numbers there. I am wondering why the duplication because, at the bottom of the page under 5.(b), it talks about the optometry and veterinary medicine, etc. I am wondering what the difference is between this appropriation and that appropriation.

Mr. Derkach: The reason that it is shown in both places is that the negotiations take place under 5.(b) Financial and Administrative Services. The money is actually in the Cooperative Training Programs, so that is why it is shown in both areas.

Mrs. Yeo: So the Minister says that the administrative aspect of it is under 5.(b), but the funding is under 5.(f). That is sort of the—

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

Mrs. Yeo: Sounds to me like there is perhaps some tidying up that could be done between these two. It sounds a little like there is a duplication of some services and some paperwork, etc., that might occur here.

Under the Sponsored International Students, I am wondering what criteria are involved in the selection of those international students that are eligible for sponsoring.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the 50 international students who are referred to in that particular area are students who come to us from abroad. They are at community colleges at the present time, and they are sponsored through CIDA and such organizations.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister expand a little bit on the Kenya Institute of Technology that is mentioned, that particular project that is mentioned? It is the first time I have heard of it.

Mr. Derkach: At the present time, the Red River Community College has sold some education service programs to Kenya, and this is at the Kenya Technical Institute. There are two programs that are being delivered there, one being in water management and the other being in agriculture.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 5.(f)(1)—pass; 5.(f)(2) Other Expenditures, \$1,505,400—pass.

(g) Student Aids: (1) Salaries, \$1,342,000, shall the item pass?

Mrs. Yeo: It was interesting receiving a phone call yesterday and I finally returned the call this morning, knowing that we were going to be discussing Student Aid probably this afternoon. I received a call from a mother from Tilston, Manitoba, which I think is in the Member opposite the table's area. She was very concerned because of the poor economical situation for the farmers in that particular area. She said that they had a daughter who was attending, I believe, second-year Interior Design, who received a bursary that she said it was really a very insignificant amount. She asked if I knew whether the Government was cutting back on the aid to students. I stated that I had already asked the question, and that the Minister had assured me that they were not going to be cutting back and that in fact there was a surplus from last year. I am wondering if the Minister could tell me something about the surplus and something about the funding.

* (1450)

Mr. Derkach: What I can indicate to the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) is that certainly we know that there needs to be some attention paid to the restructuring of the Student Aid Program in the province, because we know the difficulties that have been associated especially with rural students trying to get Student Aid and bursaries. It all stems from the fact that their farm assets are taken into consideration, and yet the cash flows are very low in the rural areas

Thursday, November 10, 1988

within the farming community. So that, we know, has to be addressed and will be addressed in the near future.

With regard to the Bursary Program, there were some changes made to it in the past year in terms of the way the grants are handled and the changes revolved around the bursaries themselves, in that the bursary amount was increased but the Loan Rebate Program was decreased. So there was a shift of money so that students could have more funding at the time they applied for the bursaries. That is the only change that has occurred to date, and we realize the fact that we have to pay some very serious attention to this matter over the next several months.

Mrs. Yeo: If, as the Minister said a few months ago, there was some money left over, so to speak, is his staff making concerted efforts to advertise the availability of student loans to the appropriate facilities, the appropriate individuals?

Mr. Derkach: Certainly, we are trying to do everything we can to utilize the funds and satisfy the applications that come forth. However, all the applications have to meet the criteria that was there set in place. If we stray from the rules that have been set down, then we get ourselves into all kinds of problems. Therefore, within the scope of the parameters that have been set down for Student Aid, certainly we are doing everything we can to ensure that those students who apply in fact are satisfied.

I can perhaps mention to the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) that today our Assistant Deputy Minister and the director of Student Aid are away in Ottawa and they are engaging in talks with regard to the federal loans and Student Aid Program.

Mrs. Yeo: I thank the Minister for that response but I do not think he answered my question. My question was with regard to advertising of the availability of students loans. I have talked to a number of students who have said that they were not aware the loans were there. Certainly, I agree that some of the onus has to be on the students and has to be on the guidance counsellors, principals and vice-principals in the high schools, etc. Are there pamphlets available? Is there sufficient energy put into advertising of the availability?

Mr. Derkach: The applications and the program description, along with brochures, are forwarded to all the Manitoba high schools, post-secondary institutions and the training institutions in the province on an annual basis. I guess there has to be some onus on the school and the student to ensure that they take advantage of the programs that are offered, but up until this point in time, the information has gone to the schools and to all the training institutions. I guess it is up to the guidance counselling facilities and instructors in each of the schools to then make sure that students are aware of the programs that are available.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(g)(1)—pass.

(g)(2) Other Expenditures, \$254,700—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Just one comment, it is interesting to note that the total salaries under the Salaries is up a fair bit whereas the total expenditures is down and I find that interesting.

Mr. Derkach: I can just offer a quick explanation for that, and that is that the salaries are up because of pay equity. There was a significant amount of money that had to be put in because of pay equity. The reason that expenditures are down is that there was \$200,000 less in the rebates and more was put into the actual bursaries at the front end.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(g)(2)—pass; (g)(3) Assistance \$9,124,100—pass.

(h) Student Aid Appeal Board: (l) Salaries \$115,300—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: This mother asked me this morning about the ability to appeal a decision made by the Student Aid Board and I promised her I would ask about the process. She was unfamiliar with the process and I must admit I did not have time to look it up. I wonder if the Minister could tell me what might be done.

Mr. Derkach: In the Activity Identification, it goes through the jurisdiction or the responsibilities of the board. I might indicate that the Student Appeal Board is independent of the Student Aid Branch and does hear all student appeals that are forwarded to the board. All of the decisions made by the board have to be concurred by the Minister of Education.

Mrs. Yeo: How many people are on the Student Aid Appeal Board?

Mr. Derkach: There are six individuals on the Student Aid Appeal Board plus the chairperson of the Student Aid Appeal Board. The board itself is made up of civil servants and students.

Mrs. Yeo: Is there significant rural representation on the board?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairperson. Because the board is made up mainly of the civil servants, it is a board that hears appeals mostly in Winnipeg but does travel out to Brandon if appeals need to be heard there. Something else that might be added is that when they are hearing rural appeals and are in Brandon, then they would have rural representation on there.

Mrs. Yeo: I think it is one thing to travel out to Brandon with a team; it is another thing to have actual individuals who are familiar with rural living sitting on the board. So I am pleased to hear that.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(h)(1)—pass; (h)(2) Other Expenditures \$6,300—pass.

5.(j) Northern Development Agreement - Canada-Manitoba - Post-Secondary Career Development: (1) Salaries \$591,300—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Does the Limestone Training and Employment Agency fit in under here?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairperson, not here.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, we have talked about this agreement and its importance, I guess, to the North previously. The original agreement was for five years, \$186 million, and I am wondering if we can get an assurance from the Minister first of all that a new agreement is desired by this Government; and, secondly, that a new agreement would be of the same scope and cover the same general areas of human community and economic development.

* (1500)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairperson, the Member asked the question as though there is some suspicion that we are not of the mind of renegotiating the agreement. I think this question was also posed in Question Period today by his honourable colleague and I think the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) answered the question quite adequately in that we certainly would be renegotiating the agreement. We are going to have some input in the fact that the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey) and I are consulting and we will be consulting with the people that are affected by the agreement and those that have some input into it.

I cannot be certain that it is going to be identical to the old agreement. In fact, we are hoping that it will be even somewhat better and advanced from the former agreement.

Mr. Storie: I am pleased to hear that because clearly there were improvements from the 1977 to '82 agreement and the subsequent one. I am pleased to hear that.

I guess the other question I had, the Minister has indicated he is not unsympathetic to the possibility of establishing a northern university, a northern institution, to allow Northerners better access to post-secondary opportunities and also to give them some control, in some sense, over such an institution. Does the Minister see this as being part of the Northern Development Agreement discussions and hopefully an agreement at some point?

Mr. Derkach: I do not think there have been any confined parameters set for the scope of the negotiations, but certainly this is an idea, as I have indicated to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), that I find interesting and I am cognizant of the fact that we have to provide a better quality of training for Northerners. When we are involved in the scope of the negotiations, this is certainly an area that will be addressed.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(j)(1)—pass; (j)(2) Other Expenditures \$1,211,800—pass.

(3) Grants, \$4,823,800—the Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Storie: One question, Mr. Chairperson. Those grants include, I believe, the student allowances that

are available for students under the ACCESS programs. I note that the grants appear to be somewhat a small decrease. I am wondering whether that would indicate that no additional support, no inflation—cost-of-living allowance increase—has been allocated to the students who receive those grants.

Mr. Derkach: There has been no change to the level of student allowances but certainly there has not been any decrease in the level of student allowances.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(j)(3)—pass; 5.(j)(4) Less: Recoverable from Northern Affairs \$6,626,900—pass.

5.(k) Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Area Agreement and Renewed Agreement - Employment and Training: (1) Grants, \$1,933,300—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: Just one question, Mr. Chairperson, the \$93,600 that was listed under Total 1987-88, and nothing listed for '89, I am wondering why the change.

Mr. Derkach: That is a figure that originally was an expenditure by the department but was recoverable. That figure will not be expended in the next year, so therefore there will not be anything recovered as well.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Storie: This is the area where the Minister had indicated earlier that although this was not a full portion of the \$12 million that one would expect to spend over five years, the intention was to still maintain the same level of expenditure year over year, or roughly the same level of expenditure, in the Core Area Training Program?

Mr. Derkach: The levels of spending, Mr. Chairman, are approximately the same from year to year. They may not be exactly the same, but the levels are in the same ball-park figure.

Mr. Storie: Could we just have a list? It does not have to be immediately, but could we have a list of the training program, the number of employees or the number of trainees, a complete description of the program and copies of any evaluations that have been done on these training programs? The Minister does not have to answer, if he could just get us that information.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the program evaluations are there, are in place, and I can provide them for the Member at another time. I cannot provide them right now.

The existing programs that are in place for this year are: first of all, Human Justice, 20 students; Developmental Services, 29 students; Native Instructors, 9 students; Community Economic Development, 3 students; Furniture Manufacturing, 22 students; Financial Institutions II, 19 students; Home Renovations, 22 students; Native Clerical I, 20 students; and Retail Phase 2, 20 students.

Mr. Storie: Could the Minister table that, please?

Thursday, November 10, 1988

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, we can table all of this information, but I cannot table it for you at this moment.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 5.(k)(1)—pass; 5.(k)(2) Less: Recoverable from Urban Affairs, \$1,933,300—pass

(m) Adult and Continuing Education: (1) Salaries, \$295,300.00. Shall the item pass?

Mrs. Yeo: This is the area with regard to ESL, right?

Mr. Derkach: Yes.

Mrs. Yeo: I have had a concern brought to my attention from an adult who was taking the ESL Program, and she felt that the textbooks and all the reference material were more appropriate for young student immigrants and she said she felt that most of the material was inappropriate for older people. Are there different types of textbooks and different materials that are available to utilize when they have young individuals who require training in ESL as opposed to the older immigrant?

* (1510)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the textbooks that are available are basically for two distinct groups, one either being the young students and the other one being for adults. We do not have the program broken down so that there are programs for young adults. So there really are only two categories, one for the student-age program and then one for the adult program.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 5.(m)(1)—pass. Item No. 5.(m)(2) Other Expenditures, \$638,900.00. Shall the item pass?

Mrs. Yeo: There is a fairly significant jump in the Supplies and Services. Is that because of computerization?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairperson. That is the \$300,000 that was for the Literacy Task Force.

Mr. Chairman: 5.(m)(2)—pass?

Mr. Storie: The Grants, item No. 3 in the Estimates Book have gone up approximately \$450,000.00. Could the Minister identify who was the beneficiary of that increase?

Mr. Derkach: There are two reasons for that Mr. Chairman. One is \$150,000 for volume increase and, secondly, \$300,000 to make up for the shortfall between what Winnipeg No. 1 had spent and what the department had allocated.

Mr. Storie: Does that mean that the recovery from Canada has increased?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the recovery from Canada has increased.

Mr. Storie: So what we see here is, although it is a \$450,000 increase, the recoveries would be 50 percent of the total amount that was going to the ESL support.

Mr. Derkach: The Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) is correct. The recoverable is 50 percent of what the increase is.

Mr. Storie: I do not know whether the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) has any other questions on the task force. Just a final request to the Minister that the task force, it seems to me, is very unlikely to spend anywhere near the \$300,000 that has been budgeted.

I would once again ask the Minister to consider using some of that fund to support groups who have made application, who are awaiting word of approval to directly support those who are looking to upgrade their skill. The Minister and I have covered the ground about whether this task force is actually going to accomplish anything more than his own departmental report. Perhaps we can agree that if this money is unlikely to be spent that it should be spent commencing in the new year at least, when the Minister may have a better opportunity to define what the task force might spend. The remainder should be spent on actually doing something in the field.

Mr. Derkach: I would like to indicate once again for the Member's edification that any monies that are not expended on the Literacy Task Force itself in terms of carrying out its function as a task force certainly will be diverted towards programs for literacy or illiteracy. I think that has been a statement that I have made before. I will reiterate it here that we do not intend, just because there are \$300,000 allocated to that particular function, if that is not required, then any money that is left over or any money that is not expended will be turned over to programs.

I might say that, yes, the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and I have covered the waterfront in terms of the need or not the need for the Literacy Task Force. In recent days, we have received numerous calls supporting the concept of the Literacy Task Force and also numerous calls from people who would like to be included as members of the task force because they feel they have something to contribute towards the task force. So I guess the end result will not be known for some time, but we are optimistically looking forward to a report that will give us direction and certainly information on the illiteracy difficulties in the province.

Mr. Storie: I guess history will judge whether in fact it was worth the effort.

I guess my concern is though, the Minister says he would certainly be prepared to put any of the remainder of this \$300,000 towards literacy programming. The fact is that we are already approaching the end of the fiscal year. We have some, in effect, four months, a little more than four months till the end of the fiscal year. The Minister knows as well as anybody else that if the money has not been allocated prior to that, it disappears. I think, given the High School Review Committee spent, I believe the Minister indicated, \$165,000 for a major review. It is unlikely that this task force could not print anything anywhere near that. So I think you could say quite safely half of it can go to programming right now. I hope the Minister will do that.

Thursday, November 10, 1988

The second point was the membership of the task force. Has the task force prepared terms of reference? Have they established meeting schedules for the communities? Are they going to be travelling in northern Manitoba?

Mr. Derkach: The Literacy Task Force has been established as an arm's length committee, in that the department is not interfering in their scheduling of meetings and where they are going to meet. We want to ensure that they have sort of the freedom to conduct the review without interference from the department. Certainly, at the present time, I understand they are setting their meeting schedule for the next while. I have not received a copy of it at this time though, so therefore I cannot be much more specific than what I just indicated.

Mr. Storie: May I make a plea then to the Minister to make sure that the task force visits communities in northern Manitoba, including places like Cranberry Portage and Flin Flon, some of the larger reserves in the northern part of the province.

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that certainly is the intention of the task force and is certainly part of their mandate to cover the province as a whole and not leave out any specific areas. So certainly we want to ensure that people throughout the province have some input into what is required in terms of literacy programs in all regions of the province.

Mr. Storie: Could the Minister give us a timetable for receiving a report or recommendations from the committee?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, I had indicated in the House that we are looking for a preliminary report at the end of January or thereabouts, and we are looking for a final report at the end of March or thereabouts. Certainly as the Member knows sometimes, because of unforeseen difficulties that may not be possible right on the given date, but certainly in that period of time we expect that we will have the reports and that we will be able to embark on new programs and new initiatives and be able to negotiate federal monies for the next school term.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Storie: I have heard rumours that the task force, because of the length of time before they will submit a report, has created a situation where the federal Government has actually delayed supporting other literacy projects. One specific example, I understand, is one from the Portage Women's Correctional Institute at Portage. There are examples, I understand, where projects could have been approved but the Secretary of State is now delaying lending its support in lieu of the task force.

Mr. Derkach: I do not think those rumours can be substantiated because as a matter of fact we are going forward in the next short while with proposals to the federal Government for initiatives for this year so that

we can access the funding that has been set aside for this fiscal year. I have not heard anything of the kind that the Member alludes to, but certainly we will check that out to see where that kind of information has come from. If the Member has any additional information, I would certainly appreciate him sharing it with us. Certainly there has been no intention on our part and there has been no indication to us from the federal Government that there are delays in funding because of the Literacy Task Force. That was not the intention of setting up the Literacy Task Force and it certainly has no bearing in terms of how we are proceeding with literacy programming for this year.

* (1520)

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mrs. Yeo: Is this the area where funding for continuing ed programs that are offered in school divisions, etc., is covered?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is the area.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Chairperson, before leaving the task force discussion, I think I heard the Minister say that he had received phone calls from individuals who were interested in being members of the task force. It was my understanding that the task force was already organized. I assume he means from people who wanted to have input into the discussions?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, no. As a matter of fact these are phone calls from individuals who wanted to participate as members of the task force but because the task force has been established, we have indicated to these individuals that certainly they would be consulted, and we would welcome their input as the task force begins its deliberations and hearings around the province. We have forwarded their names to the task force so that they could be contacted at the appropriate time.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Chairperson, I have received calls too from people who say, yes, they would like to have some input into the task force discussions and I have referred them to the Minister, so I hope that is the appropriate action to take. I have also spoken in person with several people and on the phone to people who have stated how unrealistic the expectations are for this particular task force, that to have a preliminary report prepared in a suitable manner by the end of January is totally unrealistic. Certainly to have any significant kind of a substantive report finalized by the end of March is completely unrealistic.

I can tell the Minister that after having sat on three schools' review committees in really a small school division and the committee being struck mid-September, end of September, and trying to have a report of a decent kind prepared by the end of June of the following year was a tremendous accomplishment. I could only assume that to have a group of individuals trucking around the province trying to receive input from a broad variety of individuals

Thursday, November 10, 1988

would be multiple times as difficult as would a small urban single school division conducting the schools' review process.

I certainly have a lot of concern about what this task force is actually going to accomplish and will certainly be waiting with bated breath for statements that the Minister has made and that are going to enlighten the problems of illiteracy in the province tremendously. I do not like to be negative but I really doubt that there will be much in the way of significant accomplishments.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to try to make decisions or statements about the outcome of the task force until such time as we have received the report. That is why I guess I am mentioning the approximate dates and I think that what we have to do is allow the task force to begin their interviews and begin their work. Once that kind of work is begun they will be in a better position to tell us exactly whether or not they can accomplish their task in the time frame that has been set, or whether they will need an extension of some time to do that.

I think the more important thing, rather than to meet the exact deadline date, is to ensure that we have a thorough report, because when we are expending the kind of funds that we are on this task force, we want to ensure that Manitobans are heard, people who have problems with illiteracy are heard and that there is adequate time given to write the appropriate responses. This is probably no different than when the High School Review started. They had set some deadlines in terms of when the report was supposed to be handed down. As was seen, much more work was entailed in the entire project than was foreseen, and therefore there were some delays. Hopefully, we do not have to go through those kinds of delays in this particular task force, but I am going to be certainly asking for Members of the Opposition to be patient, if a little more time is required to complete the report. We are not going to extend it a year or six months or anything like that.

Mrs. Yeo: That is precisely my point, Mr. Chairperson. I believe the High School Review Committee was struck in February of 1986. It looks like some three years later, perhaps around February of '89, we will receive the report of the High School Review. I think to strike a committee and then expect to have a decent response by March of '89 is totally unreasonable.

I think the Minister said that they would entertain those individuals who were not literate, in making presentations. I would suggest to the Minister that those individuals are going to need a great deal of patience and understanding and time to make their presentations. I really cannot understand how such an unreal expectation could have been prepared. I know from having sat on the committees on which I have sat, if you have a fairly large committee that it takes a while to develop the unity, the understanding, the ability to work with individuals. It is not something that happens overnight. I would suggest, with a great deal of humility, that perhaps it will take until about March '89 before these people will feel comfortable working together.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) may well have a good point there.

Certainly, as I said, we are spending a lot of money on a task force. I want the task force to begin their work and then to report back to me as to how their work is going. Until such time I am not, at this time, prepared to say we are going to extend it for a year or whatever.

Certainly, I am not going to be close-minded about the fact that maybe the time frame is too narrow, especially in the fact that the task force was established at the beginning of October, and there have been a few difficulties encountered at this time. So as soon as those difficulties are ironed out and the task force is able to get on with its work, we will probably hear some reaction from them as to how and when they can come back to us, specifically with a preliminary report. If there is a significant amount of time required to extend the period of time, then certainly I would make that information available to the Members of the Opposition.

Mrs. Yeo: When the Minister decided that there would be a Task Force on Illiteracy, can he tell me if he had some specific criteria in mind or did he just feel it was a good idea and left the criteria up to the members of the committee to establish?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, there are expectations in terms of the areas that the Literacy Task Force will be looking into. Certainly, that has been made known to the task force. It is not a task force that is going to go around the province and just do what they feel is important. We do want to ensure that they are at arm's length, and have the ability to investigate all sorts of areas where there might be problems with literacy or illiteracy. Certainly, there are some expectations from the department in terms of the kinds of areas that we expect them to look into as well.

* (1530)

Mrs. Yeo: I have some questions with regard to the Adult Education Grants regulations. I am wondering if grants from division to division follow a consistent pattern.

Mr. Derkach: The grants that are sent to school divisions are all based on a work plan that is submitted, but the criteria are the same, or the rules of the game, so to speak, are the same between divisions.

Mrs. Yeo: Would this be true to the urban divisions and the rural school divisions? Is there a consistency there from urban to rural?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, in a general sense, the rules of the game are the same for both urban and rural school divisions.

Mrs. Yeo: Can I ask the Minister who makes the actual decisions as to what particular courses qualify for grants?

Mr. Derkach: The policy regulations for the types of programming that fall into this category were

Thursday, November 10, 1988

established some two years ago by the previous Minister of Education.

Mrs. Yeo: What about the adult who works during the day and wants to attend school at night? Would this individual have to pay the same as any other individual?

Mr. Derkach: The example that the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) uses is not one that would fit into the Adult and Continuing Education Program because those adults who work during the day and want to take evening courses, or a course in a specific subject, certainly would not qualify for the daytime Adult and Continuing Education Program.

Mrs. Yeo: Has the criteria for approval of grants changed in the last year, year and a half?

Mr. Derkach: No, there has been no change in the criteria.

Mrs. Yeo: I have a letter from one school division that was complaining because microwave cooking was not approved in their particular school division. Yet microwave, basic sewing, pattern design, down comforts and other similar home management courses in another school division did qualify. I am wondering, if there is consistency, how this sort of thing could happen.

Mr. Derkach: There was a change in the programming in the general interest programs two years ago. As a result of that, there was some reaction to that kind of deletion of programming. However, I should indicate that general interest programs are sort of the bottom of the list in terms of the priorities of programs that are offered through Adult and Continuing Education.

Mrs. Yeo: So basically what the Minister is saying is that the programs that will get priority will be programs for learning and educational-academic type programs.

Mr. Derkach: Yes, those are the types of programs that do take priority.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me, what is the per hour grant for Skill Area Courses?

Mr. Derkach: I can provide that information in a few moments if we can continue on with another question and we will come back to this.

Mrs. Yeo: I guess my other questions maybe will need a little digging as well because I would like to know what the per day, per seat is for vocational courses. What would be received per day, per seat for vocational courses?

Mr. Derkach: With regard to the per day, per seat grant, that is not the way that the grants are allocated. The hourly grant rate for Basic Education in Language Courses has been increased from \$7.70 to \$10 per hour and the Occupational Preparation/Upgrading type courses are supported at a rate of \$6 per hour.

Mrs. Yeo: I am wondering if there has ever been any check as to how this \$6 per hour compares with the grants that are given to Red River Community College instruction for equivalent programs.

Mr. Derkach: The support that is given to community colleges through CIC is considerably higher than the grants that are paid through this particular program.

Mrs. Yeo: I sort of wonder if that is fair, Mr. Chairperson.

Mr. Derkach: I guess the whole issue is that of adults in the high school system and certainly there is a difference in terms of programs that are offered at a community college than those that are offered in the high schools. The student does contribute something towards the programs that are offered in the high school. Clearly, there is a difference and I guess one can argue forever and a day whether it is fair or not and certainly I do not have the answer or I have not been able to judge at this time whether that in fact is fair or is not fair. However, I do not know whether the Department of Education wants to get involved in providing education to adults in our high schools at the expense or at the cost to taxpayers. We are having a difficult enough time right now in trying to find adequate educational opportunities at the high schools for our regular day students.

Mrs. Yeo: The Minister indicated that there was a difference in that the students were contributing to their courses here. Is the Minister suggesting that students going to Red River Community College do not contribute to their programs?

Mr. Derkach: The federally sponsored students at the community college are totally supported through the federal support program. The provincial entry students are not, but certainly the federally supported students are.

* (1540)

Mrs. Yeo: I think we hear more and more that education is a lifelong process and that people are learning all their lives, and yet it seems to me that there is a problem in that a lot of the education thrust is toward the young learner. Even some of the teaching is geared towards the young learner. There is certainly a big field in adult education and certificates in adult education, etc., out there.

The other thing that concerns me is that one of the first areas where grants are decreased or slashed often seems to fall under the heading of Adult Education. I think in the age of declining enrollment in many school divisions that one could take a closer look at the Adult Education for the seniors, the creative retirement aspect, and I would hope that this ministry might give some extra consideration to this area.

Mr. Derkach: I can agree that we have to have more flexibility in terms of the programming that is offered in our high schools, in our educational institutions throughout the province. However, we do not want to

Thursday, November 10, 1988

get into a situation where our high schools become a competitor to our community college and our training institutions.

I can see that we are arriving at an age where, with declining enrollments in some of our school divisions, schools are not completely filled, that there is an opportunity for us to offer adult programs and retraining programs for those who need it.

There is going to have to be some responsibility shared by those individuals who want to take part in programming like that. At the present time, there is a considerable amount of activity throughout the province with short-term courses being offered to adults and certainly that kind of trend, I can see, will probably continue and even probably speed up as time goes on.

Mrs. Yeo: I asked a question the other day about the NIP grants and was told to wait for 5.(m) and I almost forgot. The New Initiative Program, is it still alive and well and continuing in all school divisions?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, the program is still alive and well. Although all school divisions do not participate in it, the program is still carrying on.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister indicate how many school divisions are involved with and receiving NIP grants?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I have a list here of the New Initiatives Adult Education Projects for 1988-89 and I could read them into the record if the Member would so choose.

First of all, the Literacy in Basic Education; The Pas Friendship Centre; Birch River School; Brandon Friendship Centre Inc.; Manitoba Metis Federation S.W. in St. Lazare; Journeys Literacy Program in Winnipeg; Thompson Reading Aides Council; Salvation Army; Winnipeg Social Services Centre; Winnipeg Adult Education Centre; Camperville Adult Education Committee; Dauphin Friendship Centre; Lord Selkirk School Division No. 11; Kawaweyak Friendship Centre Inc., Powerview; and Pluri-Elles Inc., Winnipeg; and we have Brokenhead Educational Authority as well.

There are some further programs here: Further Education Preparation at St. James-Assiniboia School Division; Special Needs Education at Lord Selkirk School Division; St. James-Assiniboia School Division, this is on Employment and Life Skills Training for Adults Program; St. James-Assiniboia School Division Level I Micro Computers; and again St. James-Assiniboia School Division No. 2 Level II Micro Computers.

These are for handicapped individuals: the Society for Manitobans with disabilities in Winnipeg; Lord Selkirk School Division; Kelsey School Division; Winnipeg Community Centre for the Deaf; and the Age and Opportunity Centre in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Yeo: Just one question about the eligibility for ESL. I am wondering about Native children or Native adults whose first language is Cree or Ojibway. Do they qualify for ESL grants?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, first of all the Secretary of State does not cost-share in types of individuals. The Secretary of State only cost shares in the programs offered to immigrants. But those students whose first language is not English, if they are in the area in Winnipeg No. 1, for example, can access those programs.

Mrs. Yeo: Who pays for these people then? Who pays for the courses for them?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, if these are school-aged students, they can access the programs in the Language Development area of the school.

Mrs. Yeo: Can the Minister tell me if the enrollment for Continuing Ed in the school divisions in the U of W, if this area is involved with the U of W, etc., if the enrollment is up or is it down?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, we do not have those figures at the present time, but certainly if the Member is interested we can endeavour to get those figures. Okay?

Mrs. Yeo: Is this the area where one might talk about or ask questions about the Community Unemployed Help Centre and the Workplace Innovation Centre?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I did not get that question. Could the Member repeat it please?

Mrs. Yeo: There was funding to a community unemployed help centre and a workplace innovation centre. I am wondering if that comes under this particular heading.

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, that falls under the Community Services Department.

Mrs. Yeo: Would the Winnipeg Economic Redeployment Centre come under this department or Community Services?

* (1550)

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, it does not come under this department at all.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(m)(3) Grants, \$1,477,300—pass; 5.(m)(4) Task Force on Literacy, \$300,000—pass.

5.(n) Post-Secondary Career Development - Southern Programs: (1) Salaries, \$309,900—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: The Registered Nursing Diploma course for special needs clients, can the Minister tell me where this course takes place, where is it offered?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, this program takes place at Red River Community College.

Mrs. Yeo: Mr. Chairperson, I had a couple of phone calls with regard to this particular program and, to try

and find out a little bit about it, I contacted MARN, Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses. They had no idea what I was talking about. I then contacted MONA, Manitoba Organization of Nurses Association, and they had no idea of what I was referring to, so I thought I will have to wait until this particular point in time I guess and find out from the Minister.

One individual told me that she had applied twice and had not been granted access to the program. After the first time she applied, she was told by the committee or by somebody, by letter, that she would have to upgrade and it was recommended that she take biology and English. This individual did take both those courses, passed both of the courses, applied a second time and was turned down again. She is a single mother with two children. She has two casual jobs and one part-time job and she was told that there were people with greater needs than she. I suppose that might well be true but here is an individual who wants desperately to access this program, needs the assistance and needs the education. Despite the fact that she has followed the recommendation, she is turned down again.

I always found as registrar of a nursing school that one does not make recommendations to people and put them through a whole lot of work and effort if you have no intention of accepting these people anyway. You are off to say, we will not accept you regardless of what you do than to build up expectations in individuals.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, it is difficult to respond to an individual situation and certainly I would be more than pleased to look into the matter if the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) would give me the specifics of that case and also the individual's name. We will certainly pursue it and get back to the Member for Sturgeon Creek with regard to perhaps the responses from Red River in terms of what has transpired.

Mrs. Yeo: I would be pleased to do that and I would also hope that the Minister would send a note off to MARN and MONA and tell them that there is another nursing program in the province.

Is there an appeal mechanism for students who are rejected from this program?

Mr. Derkach: First of all, this is not a new nursing program or a different nursing program. It is the regular nursing program except that there is the ACCESS program to it. With regard to an appeal mechanism, yes, there is an appeal mechanism set up for those students who have been rejected.

Mrs. Yeo: I am surprised that it is the regular nursing program in that it talks about a three-year registered nursing diploma course, being that the course at Red River Community College is a two-year diploma course.

Mr. Derkach: Because it is an ACCESS program, they take the same program over an extended period of time.

Mrs. Yeo: Congratulations, a great innovative education idea.

Mr. Chairman: 5.(n)(1)—pass; 5.(n)(2) Other Expenditures \$959,100—pass; 5.(n)(3) Grants \$2,826,800—pass; 5.(p) Market Driven Training: (1) Salaries \$1,250,000—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$750,000—pass.

5.(q) Northern Training and Employment Agency: (1) Salaries \$1,133,700—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: I have a question—a couple of questions I guess it will end up being—about the Limestone Training and Employment Agency. Is this the one that was transferred into this section from the Jobs Fund?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, this is the program that used to be entitled Limestone Training and Employment Agency and it has been transferred now to the Department of Education.

Mrs. Yeo: Have the objectives then of this whole program been expanded fairly significantly or are they very similar to what they were?

Mr. Derkach: At this point in time, the objectives of the program are basically the same as they have been in the past. Certainly as a new addition to the department, it is going to require some time for us to try and take a look at all the training programs in northern Manitoba to ensure that there is not duplication and to ensure that we are offering the best possible opportunities to residents of northern Manitoba.

Mrs. Yeo: I was going to ask the Minister if there had been an evaluation of the effectiveness of the LTEA.

Mr. Derkach: Certainly, Mr. Chairman, there have been responses in terms of questions asked with regard to the effectiveness of the programs offered by the Northern Training and Employment Agency and the manager of the program has certainly provided for myself and for Treasury Board in Cabinet a great deal of information with regard to what has been taking place with regard to training opportunities under this program, under this agency, and we are still in the process of gathering that information.

I might indicate that I intend to personally go to Thompson and take a first-hand look at the programs that are being offered, but until such time that the House prorogues, we are not going to be able to do that.

Mrs. Yeo: Are there many Native groups that access this program?

Mr. Derkach: Approximately 80 percent to 85 percent of all entrants into the programs are of Native origin.

Mrs. Yeo: Do these trainee graduates, which I guess they are, obtain permanent employment, many of them, or what is the percentage upon completion?

Mr. Derkach: About 70 percent of the graduates have received and have been able to gain employment. Of that 70 percent, about half have been able to gain employment with Limestone.

Mrs. Yeo: In the evaluation that is forthcoming, will the successes or failures in meeting the original objectives by the Government, by the employers, by the Native groups, be evaluated?

Mr. Derkach: We want to evaluate the program in terms of how effective the program is at the present time, what types of needs there are in northern Manitoba at the present time, in terms of the job opportunities and in fact how we can complement the program in terms of providing training to the northern residence of the province.

Mrs. Yeo: The LTEA Target Group were northern Natives, I understand. I am wondering how many Native trainers there were in the professional/technical group?

Mr. Derkach: Of the instructors that are presently at Thompson and involved with the training of the students, 29 out of 31. That includes instructors and temporary staff that are Native.

Mrs. Yeo: So that is the figure, adding the professional/technical and administrative support together?

Mr. Derkach: I should clarify something. When we were talking about the staff under Limestone, that is not the professional/technical that is here. Of the ones that are in Thompson, out of the 11 instructors, there are 10 who are Native.

Mrs. Yeo: I am having difficulty following this. I am looking under Salaries and there is an SY listed of 24.34, there is an administrative support number listed as 8. Yet, I am being given figures that do not fall in line at all.

* (1600)

Mr. Derkach: I know this is going to be a little bit confusing to walk through.

Mrs. Yeo: Maybe I better stop.

Mr. Derkach: No, I would like to explain it.

Of the 24.34 professional technical staff that are listed, there are five of Native origin. If the Member would go down to Other Expenditures where it shows \$3.33 million, now that is the Limestone training area in Thompson of which there are administrative staff and teaching staff within that lump sum figure. That is the figure where I said there were 10 of the 11 teaching staff who were Native.

Mrs. Yeo: That was not so hard at all. How many—oh, back one step. Has there been or is there an ongoing follow-up evaluation of the LTEA graduates?

Mr. Derkach: Under the manager, Mr. Ferris, the tracking of these graduates is done on a continuous basis to see how they are doing and how many are gaining permanent employment and so forth.

Mrs. Yeo: I congratulate that individual because follow-up is a very, very difficult thing to do being that we

are a transient society. Can the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) tell me how many are still employed of the LTEA graduates at Limestone? I think he had a figure.

Mr. Derkach: In the tracking of these employees, 25 percent to 30 percent of employees have been employed by Limestone training at any one time. However, at this time of the year because of construction, the process has slowed down so there are some who are not working at the present time. But certainly the tracking is being done on those individuals. It is very difficult to say how many there are right at this given moment. In a global sense, there are anywhere from 25 percent to 30 percent employed at Limestone.

Mrs. Yeo: In the follow-up, what sort of a percentage would they find as their responses from people who are graduates, who are employed at other work outside of Limestone?

Mr. Derkach: Of the graduates, as I indicated, about 30 percent of all graduates are employed right at Limestone and the other graduates are employed, of the 70 percent, are employed elsewhere, at other places and other jobs.

Mrs. Yeo: That is assuming that all the graduates are employed.

Mr. Derkach: About 70 percent are employed.

Mrs. Yeo: Okay. So of the 25 percent to 30 percent that are at Limestone, the other 40 percent or around there would be employed outside of Limestone. Would those individuals who are employed outside of Limestone have a similar sort of job description than they were prepared for, or is that hard to answer?

Mr. Derkach: That is difficult to say, but if machine operators or truck operators or truck drivers, their job, although it may not be identical to that one at Limestone, but certainly they will be doing something that they have been trained for. If they are carpenters or construction workers, they may be employed at other construction or carpentry sites throughout the northern part of the province.

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

Mrs. Yeo: I would just be concerned if an individual were prepared to do food services and they were out driving a truck. I can certainly see machine operators, there are a lot of different machines that might be used. Of the 30 percent that you are saying are unemployed, is there any rationale, is there any thought as to why this figure is there?

Mr. Derkach: Of the people who are not employed on Limestone or who are not tracked as employed persons at the present time, these people have gone through the program and have acquired skills in a variety of trades, in the northern parts of the province. In fact, they could be at some point partially employed or could

be working on other projects that certainly do not relate to Limestone or large projects in the northern part of the province.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. Hammond): Shall the item pass—the Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): A couple of questions, does the Limestone Aboriginal Partnership Directorate Board get funding from this area?

Mr. Derkach: No, that is done through the Department of Northern and Native Affairs.

Mr. Storie: Would the youth program that is sponsored, delivered by the LAPD come from funding in this area?

Mr. Derkach: That funding comes from, again, the Department of Northern and Native Affairs. The programs are delivered through Northern Training and Employment Agencies.

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

Mr. Storie: Could we have some indication on two points. How many people have actually been trained, received some level of certification apart from the pretraining program? Perhaps you could give us the total number and then a breakdown of those who have received some certificate level of training.

Mr. Derkach: There are 2,172 individuals who have been trained through the programs at the Northern Training and Employment Agency; in the simulated and womens programs, there were 1,300 who have been trained; in the community-based programs, 544. In the Limestone ACCESS programs, 328. That figure was to March 31, 1988.

* (1610)

Mr. Storie: Just a comment before I have a further question on the community-based training, I appreciate the questions asked by the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

I think the Limestone Training and Employment Agency, now the Northern Training and Employment Agency have been probably one of the most successful chapters of the higher training effort in northern Manitoba over the last couple of decades. The numbers that we have just been given are testimony to the success of the program and its acceptance by a lot of northern people. I think it would be appropriate to pay tribute to the people who have worked to make this happen and worked in a consultative way to make it accessible, convenient and appropriately train individuals. I think it served as a model. I guess my concern is that now that it has become part of the Department of Education and because the Limestone project is winding down, in fact there will be significantly fewer people employed there next year than there were this year. It leads to questions about where we are going to be training people for in subsequent years, assuming that there is not an immediate decision to

proceed with another hydro project development. That may happen and we would all wish it would, but where are we going to focus our training effort in the immediate future?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Acting Chairperson, as the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) knows, there is a shortage of all kinds of tradespeople in northern Manitoba at the present time because certainly we, as a province, have not fulfilled our responsibility in providing adequate training opportunities for people from northern Manitoba. So, therefore, the focus certainly has to be on providing the kinds of opportunities for training individuals in the trades and the skilled areas so that these individuals can then go out into their communities and be productive individuals in those communities.

Mr. Storie: I am wondering whether the Minister has made any effort to contact groups who may be requiring trained personnel now or in the immediate future, companies like HBM&S, the mining companies, Manfor, Manitoba Hydro in terms of its ongoing operations of its generating station, for example.

Mr. Derkach: That is done through, of course, the Northern Training and Employment Agency itself, and certainly through CJS firms such as HBM&S will come to both the Northern Training and Employment Agency or Keewatin Community College or Red River Community College to request specific forms of training for individuals who may be employed with their firm at that time.

Mr. Storie: Just two other brief questions, No. 1, we are coming to the end of this fiscal year in not too long. I wonder what planning is under way, what the Minister foresees in terms of budget for the coming year. Are we going to see, does the Minister have any plans to make any major changes to the NTEA?

Mr. Derkach: As the Member well knows, the planning for the Estimates process and the Budget process is under way at the present time for the following year. So, therefore, there is work being done in that regard. I guess the Member will have to wait until we get into the next year's Estimates to debate them to see what has transpired.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. Hammond): The Member for Flin Flon, with a final question.

Mr. Storie: I appreciate the—it is hard to say, Madam Acting Chairperson. I appreciate the Minister's reluctance to share planning details with the committee at this point, but it is noted on the record that the Minister has indicated that we need to do more in terms of providing opportunities for secondary training or for adult continuing education opportunities. I hope that means that when we proceed through the Estimates next year we will not find the Northern Training and Employment Agency emasculated or reduced in any significant way. I agree with the Minister. His comments here have been taken as sincere, and I am sure they are intended that way. I am hoping that other

opportunities that present themselves, whether they be with major upgrading at The Pas or mining opportunities, are going to be taking advantage of.

I had one other question about community training projects. This year there were five. Could we have a status report on those projects, a brief status report?

Mr. Derkach: The Member wanted a brief answer, and certainly I would love to provide a brief answer but he goes on and on with the question, and within the question makes all kinds of suggestions that have to be corrected. Therefore I have to indicate to the Member and, of course, we indicated an interest to ensure that programming in northern Manitoba and programming opportunities in northern Manitoba are increased for Northerners, it does not mean that we will proceed on the same road that the former Government did because they had kind of a blundering record, so we will certainly attempt to do better than the former administration.

With regard to the five projects, first of all, there were three projects in road building, one at Manigotagan, the other at Cormorant and one at The Pas, it was road building and ditching. At Snow Lake there was an airstrip project and at Grand Rapids the project was held because there are still some problems in terms of finalizing the desires of the community.

Mr. Storie: Just a question on the Snow Lake project, I gather that it has not been completed. I am wondering whether there is any difficulty with assuming that would be completed next spring.

Mr. Derkach: The project is not complete because of weather conditions in northern Manitoba. The manager felt that there was considerable waste of resources and money because of the weather conditions and has decided that project will continue once weather conditions are suitable in the spring.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. Hammond): Shall the items pass—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Iva Yeo: I, in the initial presentation for PACE, stated some of my concerns for the methods of appointment, and the lack of competition, etc., and I wonder if I might be given some freedom before we leave PACE to make another comment or question. It still is under the umbrella of PACE and there have been a number of concerns brought to my attention with regard to the lack of competition and the fact that some of the appointments have been sort of parachuted in without competition and without following the existing policies and procedures. In fact, a number of middle-level management senior staff positions have been appointed.

* (1620)

The statement was made to me that the Minister of the Day, and this is not the current Minister but the previous Minister of the Day, did interfere with the operations of PACE and with some of the staffing, and altered some of the personnel decisions. There was concern by some of the people within PACE that there

was no point in even applying for competition because there were courtesy interviews, if you will, granted to some of the people prior to even the posting of the positions.

The other concern that was raised to me was that although males are no more qualified than females, 88 percent of the staff earning over \$50,000 happened to be of the male—I will not say gender because one of my colleagues will be upset with me—but were males. When one looks at the median salary, the median salary of males in PACE is something like \$52,000 and the median salary of the females is something in the neighbourhood of \$33,000.00. That certainly is something that I think could be looked into.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

I would hope that this particular Minister will not consider filling vacancies other than by competition which is what he assured this committee at the last meeting, and that job-related aspects of merit will be looked at because, in fact, there is a great concern by some of the people out there that appointments have been made without looking at the particular job, specific qualifications of the individuals who hold these positions. I will leave it at that but I do have a great number of concerns and I think that this is one department that the Minister could, if you will, clean up because it is not in great shape.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairperson, I do not intend to speak for the former administration. I think their record speaks for itself but certainly as Minister of Education I certainly intend to follow through with the proper procedure in terms of filling positions. I guess one can from a distance argue whether or not proper procedure is being followed, but I think there are some very specific guidelines that are set down as to how you fill vacant positions.

There are times when a position, especially when we are talking about Market Driven Training, where you need employees very quickly or instructors very quickly, and there is a kind of a bank of instructors who have been employed in those areas previously and who, because they are on term contract, are kind of in the wings. In those instances certainly the best possible individual will be sought to do the instructing for that particular program. When we are talking about the permanent positions when they need to be filled again, certainly the appropriate steps will be taken in filling those positions.

Mrs. Yeo: I think it is one thing, Mr. Chairperson, to say that there are criteria established. It is another thing to follow those criteria. I certainly think the criteria should be followed, that job-related qualifications should be looked at very carefully and that competition should be followed very carefully. Initially my concern was with Red River Community College looking for a new president, for instance, that there are great possibilities for that particular agency in our education set-up and that I do not think that those possibilities have been met, certainly in the last few years, by that agency. I think that the former president of the community college would probably be one of the first

one to say that there was perhaps some disappointment in meeting the potential, I guess is a good word for that particular facility, and I look forward to great things happening, hopefully in the next few years.

Mr. Derkach: Certainly, there is a selection committee in place now that has been established, and I think I read into the record the numbers of members who are on that committee and I am certainly not involved in the short listing or the interviewing of the candidates for that position. It is my hope that certainly the best individual will be chosen through the appropriate screening and interviewing process. I really cannot add much more than that at this time.

Mr. Chairman: Item (q)(2) Other Expenditures, \$2,449,200—pass.

Item (q)(3) Payments to the Training and Employment Agency, \$3,330,000—the Member for Flin Flon.

Mr. Storie: Just one question there, the Recoverable from Canada, CEIC originally had an agreement that included the Limestone Training and Employment Agency in terms of their agreement to support the initiatives under the Limestone Hydro Project. I am wondering whether this will affect the Recoverable from Canada at any point down the road.

Mr. Derkach: Is the Member asking whether the transfer into education would affect?

Mr. Storie: Yes.

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairperson, that will not affect any recoverable funds from the federal Government.

Mr. Chairman: Item (q)(3)—pass.

Resolution No. 45: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$77,702,600 for Education, Post-Secondary, Adult and Continuing Education for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1989—pass.

Item 6. Universities Grants Commission. Provides grants to the Universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Brandon and St. Boniface College to enable them to maintain existing services. Included are grants for debenture sinking funds and interest payments. (a) Salaries, \$213,800—the Member for Sturgeon Creek.

Mrs. Yeo: I would like to waive my right, I guess it is, to a question first. The Member for Flin Flon is unable to join us in our next sitting so I certainly do not mind if there is no objection having him ask whatever questions he might have.

Mr. Storie: I appreciate the Member for Sturgeon Creek giving me this latitude. It is much appreciated.

A couple of questions, the first one I guess relates to the requirement of the universities to comply with pay equity legislation. I wonder if we could have the amount of money that might be required for each of the universities to be in compliance with the legislation.

Mr. Derkach: Although we do not have it, because it is such a recent occurrence I guess, I do not have the final breakdown, the specific breakdown for each of the universities, but the total figure is about \$800,000, and about \$600,000 of that will be to the University of Manitoba.

* (1630)

Mr. Storie: I am sorry. I was just handed a report from the—actually, it is Plan '89 from the University of Manitoba, which gives me those figures on their projection at the University of Manitoba anyway. Thank you to my colleague from Fort Garry (Mr. Laurie Evans).

The Premier (Mr. Filmon), I understand, has made a commitment to provide additional support for the universities for this particular expenditure. Has that been formalized? Are the universities expecting to receive that?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I think the Premier did indicate to the questions in the House that this is a matter that has to go through the appropriate procedures of Cabinet, Treasury Board and so forth, and he also indicated that although those negotiations on pay equity have been sort of finalized by the university, the following steps that have to be taken are that the request for support will go through the proper channels and will be dealt with by both Treasury Board and Cabinet in due course.

Mr. Storie: If I can paraphrase the Minister, there is no certainty in it?

Mr. Derkach: We have not written the cheque yet.

Mr. Storie: I am assuming, given the scope of the requirement, that the universities will be making the case to this Minister and the Government that they should receive support.

I noted a change in the attitude of this Government towards pay equity which, as we all know, they opposed when it was introduced. The First Minister—the Premier (Mr. Filmon)—is now saying that they intend to abide by it, and I think that is healthy and I am sure the universities would appreciate the support. I think you could make a justifiable argument for providing that support.

A second question to the Minister, the universities had prepared a list of capital projects that they wanted to proceed with and the previous Government had responded by developing a fund called The Manitoba Universities Development Fund. I am wondering whether funds are flowing from that. Have they been rolled into the miscellaneous capital and the other money that is being provided onto capital budgets this year, or is that still a separate fund?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the funds to the universities are flowing and the fund is still intact as a separate fund and there have been no specific changes made to that fund.

Mr. Storie: We have identified for us then projects that will be proceeding this year based on either major miscellaneous capital projects or major fund projects.

Thursday, November 10, 1988

Mr. Derkach: The University of Manitoba is doing some building renovations to the tune of about \$2.5 million; the Brandon University, of course, is upgrading its steam plant to an amount of about \$300,000; the University of Winnipeg has installed some computers and some minor renovations to an amount of about \$500,000; and there are some minor projects being undertaken by the St. Boniface College as well.

Mr. Storie: Are there no major capital projects scheduled for this year?

Mr. Derkach: Outside of the completion of the Athletic Centre at the St. Boniface College, there are no major capital projects outside the Universities Development Fund.

Mr. Storie: I am wondering if the Minister could tell us what the status of the Universities Grants Commission's Role and Mission Statement is?

Mr. Derkach: The Universities Grants Commission has issued their Mission Statement. Of course, the University of Manitoba has reacted to that statement. There have been no responses, to my knowledge, from the other universities in the province at this time.

Mr. Storie: I am just wondering whether the Minister could advise us of his position or the Government's position when it comes to the relationship between the Universities Grants Commission and the universities?

Mr. Derkach: Neither the Government nor this Minister intends to get involved in the relationship between the Universities Grants Commission and the universities in a technical way in that the Universities Grants Commission has the right to state their Mission Statement. They have every right to make that statement, and then it is up to the universities, who are autonomous bodies, to react to the Mission Statement and that has happened.

Mr. Storie: I was wondering whether the Minister could identify for us his position when it comes to the more or less autonomous relationship between universities and Government? The Universities Grants Commission is an arm of Government and they have the right. They were requested to produce a Role and Mission Statement so that we could sort of firm up what they were to be and how they were to operate. That was done for the Government's purposes and for the universities' purposes.

My question is really trying to define or have the Minister define for us where he sees the Universities Grants Commission playing a role. How directive can they be? How is the Government going to ensure that?

Mr. Derkach: I do not see any difference in the way that the department or Government is going to conduct itself with regard to the universities. Yes, the Mission Statement was made, it was responded to, and I do not intend to intervene in any way, shape or form in trying to strong-arm the universities into accepting or, for that matter, rejecting whole-heartedly what has been said or stated by the Universities Grants Commission.

Mr. Storie: So the Minister's position is that if the University of Winnipeg were to decide that it wanted a School of Music and requested funding from the province, the Minister does not feel that he has any role to play or the Universities Grants Commission has any role to play in assisting the university to coordinate its activities, its programming. Universities are funded by the taxpayers of the province. I am interested to see the Minister has maintained such a laissez-faire attitude to the problems that face Government when it comes to funding universities.

Mr. Derkach: If we wanted to get directly involved with universities, we would not bother having a Universities Grants Commission or any body of that nature, and it would be a direct relationship between the Minister and each of the universities. At the present time, that is not the attitude and was not the attitude in the previous Government. There is a Universities Grants Commission that is at arm's length to the Minister of Education and to Government which has authority for conducting affairs. I do not see the role changing at this present time. It is business as usual. The relationship between the Universities Grants Commission and the universities is the same as it was previously.

Mr. Storie: I appreciate that. I guess a further question then in the same area in terms of policy, I am wondering whether the Minister has had a chance to meet with the university students' union to discuss some of their concerns and, in particular, tuition, and whether the Minister has given any assurances to those groups that their goal which is to have tuition rise by no more than 4.5 percent or inflation. Has the Minister been able to give any assurances that kind of a policy will be part of this administration?

Mr. Derkach: As the Member well knows because he was a Minister of the Crown before, those kinds of issues are not dealt with during Estimates for the ensuing or the following year. I have met with the university students' association on one occasion. Certainly, there has been an intention to meet with them again and to discuss the issues that affect them most directly.

It is of course our goal, as I guess anybody else's, to provide the best possible learning opportunities for university students, to ensure that our universities are not eroding, so to speak, in terms of the facilities that are there and equipment that is there. Some of that has happened over the last six years or so. There has been some neglect to the facilities and to the equipment and that has some concern for students who are attending the universities, but I do not think that those concerns are unusual. I think we find them anywhere we go in the country.

I have to say that I do believe that we have a fairly good quality of education at our universities. No one is going to say that it cannot be improved, but certainly we do not have to take a back seat to very many institutions when it comes to the quality of education that is offered at our universities. Now, we need to do more, we know that. We need to do more in terms of

Student Aid in providing those students who are disadvantaged, those students who cannot get access to the programs at the universities. We have to ensure that there are ways in which these students can get the same kinds of opportunities as those students who can afford to pay for their way through a university education.

Yes, I have met with the students' association. They have concerns and so do we, and certainly we are going to work towards trying to address them as we move through the next year. We certainly know that we will not be able to meet all of them, by no means.

Mr. Storie: There was one question on the Universities Grants Commission Role and Mission Statement that I neglected to ask. That was whether there have been any changes to the board of the Universities Grants Commission.

* (1640)

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, at this time, there have been no changes to the Universities Grants Commission.

Mr. Storie: Just following up on the tuition one, currently the proportion of tuition that tuition pays towards the operating expenses varies between 14 percent, 15 percent, 17 percent, 18 percent, 20 percent. I am wondering whether the Minister has formed any opinion yet as to what is a reasonable proportion of operating costs for tuitions to cover. Is that something the Minister has considered at all?

Mr. Derkach: It is about 15 percent at the present time and certainly that is a consideration that will be taken into account as we formulate the next set of Estimates for the Department.

Mr. Storie: Has there been any concern expressed to the Minister about course reductions this year? Has the Minister received any significant volume of mail about course reductions at any of the universities?

Mr. Derkach: No, I have not received any significant amount of mail with regard to reduction of programs at any of the universities or the college.

Mr. Storie: Does the Minister have any list? Does the Minister obtain any list from the universities about either entire programs being eliminated, course reductions or course sections being reduced? Do we have that?

Mr. Derkach: We could ask for that list from the universities, but we do not have that list at the present time. It is not normally information that is sent to us on a regular basis.

Mr. Storie: Is the Minister aware of any faculties that are currently in jeopardy of losing their accreditation?

Mr. Derkach: I guess I am happy to say that in the last day or so, I received a letter from the University of Manitoba indicating that they have received full

accreditation for their Dentistry Faculty, and certainly that kind of takes the burden off or lightens the burden on the shoulders of the university because there was some fear of losing that accreditation. As a result of injecting some funds for improving the facilities, the university has been able to be assured that full accreditation will be retained. At this time, we are not aware of any programs that are in danger of having their accreditation lifted.

Mr. Storie: Did the \$3 million that was designated for the Faculty of Dentistry come from the Universities Development Fund?

Mr. Derkach: That will be in the following year. Half will come from the Universities Development Fund and half will come from other sources.

Mr. Storie: Half will come from other sources, meaning the universities' own courses or from the department?

Mr. Derkach: No, from Government.

Mr. Storie: Forgive me for pulling a question out of the Expenditures Related to Capital, but there is some \$7 million that have been set aside for Capital Grants. Does that include miscellaneous capital?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, it includes miscellaneous capital as well.

Mr. Storie: The \$7 million includes the grant that we just referred to, to the Faculty of Dentistry. That is in addition to that?

Mr. Derkach: The grant for the School of Dentistry will be in next year's Estimates.

Mr. Storie: How much of that \$7 million is actually for miscellaneous capital?

Mr. Derkach: It is \$4 million that will be expended for miscellaneous capital.

Mr. Storie: Is that not a reduction from \$5 million the previous years?

Mr. Derkach: In the past, it was \$4 million for miscellaneous capital and \$1 million for the UDF. This year it is \$4 million, and \$3 million for the UDF.

Mr. Storie: The \$790,000 that was set aside in the previous budget as well for the ACCESS Fund, could the Minister indicate how many students that accommodates?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, those are still being negotiated with the universities and they are affected by the program right now, but the ACCESS Fund are about 100 students to 150 students.

Mr. Storie: That includes dentistry, medicine, engineering?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, no. These are special and additional programs, ACCESS programs.

Thursday, November 10, 1988

Mr. Storie: Mr. Chairperson, the original announcement of this ACCESS Fund was announced prior to the election?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is the \$800,000 that was announced in February, I believe.

Mr. Storie: I apologize for having to ask this, but who is delivering this ACCESS program?

* (1650)

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, the programs are being delivered by the universities. The fund has been set up and the universities can access the fund.

Mr. Storie: In terms of the administration out there, are the same people who are delivering the other ACCESS programs at the university involved in the decisions for this or is it completely separate?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, no, this is a separate body that is involved in this particular ACCESS program.

Mr. Storie: Are the criteria the same or similar to the other program's criteria?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, the criteria are different for this kind of program.

Mr. Storie: Could you elaborate on how different and in what way they are different?

Mr. Derkach: There are a variety of programs, Mr. Chairman, that have been negotiated for or asked for and are going to be delivered. As an example, for the disabled persons, there are audio tapes for the visually impaired students who want to attend university. There are also services for the disabled in terms of equipment that is suited for individuals who may have disabilities where they cannot write or so forth. Then there is one program now that is in the works with regard to women in science and engineering.

Mr. Storie: I would like to move to another area now. I wonder if the Minister is still the chairman of the Council of Education Ministers?

Mr. Derkach: No, Mr. Chairman, I am not. The chairmanship changed at the end of September at the annual conference in Regina.

Mr. Storie: I am just wondering whether the Minister could inform the committee of the current status of the proposals that came out of the post-secondary education forum in Saskatoon in the fall, in October of 1987. Has there been any follow up? Has anyone at CMC, CMEC, CDMC been working on those proposals? Has there been any progress made on the whole range of issues that were addressed at that conference?

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Chairman, I guess on all of the issues that are mentioned in this particular report—I guess it is a report—there are considerations and discussions

going on. I could point to the example of the Student Aid situation where we have the Student Aid Federal-Provincial Committee that is meeting today in Ottawa, and we have representatives at that. As a matter of fact, it is being co-chaired by our Assistant Deputy Minister, Nancy Sullivan. So we have representatives there.

But I guess, if you were to take any of the topics, there is consideration and discussion going on in each of these areas through CMEC in one way, shape or form.

Mr. Storie: But the Minister cannot point to anything concrete that has come about as a result of that in terms of decisions on policy issues?

Mr. Derkach: Well I guess something positive that has come out of the forum is that there has been a post-secondary subcommittee struck of CMEC that is considering all the post-secondary concerns or issues. I guess that is one of the positive results of the forum.

Mr. Storie: One of the other issues I think, one of the major issues this Minister is going to have over the next few months or years is the whole question of the support that comes from the federal Government for post-secondary education. I am wondering whether at the forum any of the participants have contacted the Minister about the role of the federal Government in supporting post-secondary education. Is that one of the areas that has been a focus sort of post-conference?

Mr. Derkach: With regard to that particular issue, there has been discussion of that of course at CMEC level. I might indicate that there has been increased cooperation between the federal Government and CMEC in terms of dealing with this issue and in terms of the data base that was set up. There is certainly better information with regard to the EPF transfers of our funds. So there is work ongoing.

But in terms of anyone contacting me specifically about that issue, no there has not been, except that we have met with the Canadian Association of University Teachers. I met with them prior to the September conference with regard to their concerns, and certainly they have requested a meeting on an annual basis with CMEC. Of course, that kind of issue will be taken up by the new chairman who is the Minister of Education from Ontario at the present time.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Storie: The Minister referenced the role of CMEC in collecting data. I am wondering whether the Minister has had an opportunity or whether in fact the Secretary of State has changed his practice of tabling a report on post-secondary education funding. Several years ago, for many years actually, there has been a lot of controversy over the way that those reports are compiled and the data that is contained in them. I wonder if we have got that issue straightened out.

Mr. Derkach: I guess the response in general terms has to be that there has been much, much more

cooperation between the federal Government and the provinces in terms of the relationship and the workings between provinces and the federal Government. Certainly, the provinces table their reports and, in turn, the federal Minister or Secretary of State tables his report in the House then.

Mr. Storie: So the Minister is indicating that the practice that was started by Mr. Crombie some couple of years ago of the provinces actually tabling an addendum to the report is still going on?

Mr. Derkach: I guess over the last couple of years or over the last year, there has been much less criticism of the report in terms of the approach by the provinces and the federal Government. I guess what it indicates is there is a better working relationship between the federal Government and the provinces. Hopefully, that kind of spirit will continue in the future as well.

Mr. Storie: Since I will not be here and I assume that we will be able to conclude the Estimates on Monday—I am hoping that we will. I will leave it in the hands of my colleague to determine whether that actually occurs.

I am wondering whether the Minister could answer the question of whether the Manitoba Council on AIDS Education is in danger of being disbanded.

Mr. Derkach: As I have indicated to the council and I will indicate to the Member and I have indicated in the House, we do have a new Government in place at the present time. Therefore, we are looking for ways of better communicating the information on AIDS to students and to parents and to teachers in the province.

What we are doing now is trying to establish a working relationship between the two departments, the Department of Education and the Department of Health because the AIDS problem is common to both departments in terms of the delivery system in the information aspect. Therefore, we are looking at the committees that are in place right now, whether we can more effectively use the committees, whether we can perhaps combine some of the committees in a way which will give us better information to the departments and provide a better way of delivery of information out to the public in the province.

But certainly at this time, I have not in any way indicated the disbanding of any committee. As a matter of fact, the Manitoba Education Council on Aids have just met with me and I have requested that they look at several issues, which they are looking at now and, as soon as they have considered those issues, will be making recommendations to me as Minister. So the work of the committee is certainly ongoing or the council is ongoing. There have been no definitive kinds of conclusions or decisions made about combining or tearing apart of any of the committees at this point in time.

* (1700)

Mr. Chairman: The hour being five o'clock, it is time for Private Members' Hour.

Committee rise.

* (1430)

SUPPLY—HEALTH

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

Item 2.(b)(1) Communicable Disease Control: Salaries—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Chairperson, there is a major concern among health care professionals working with sexually abused children in which it is noted that there is an increase of diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases under the age of 14 and older.

Can the Minister tell us what kind of program they have in place to track these cases and who is participating in the program and is there any study going to be done and who will be evaluating the program?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): The issue that my honourable friend is questioning about I think flows from the newspaper article back a couple of months ago and the report on child abuse and an unacceptably high degree of identification of sexually transmitted diseases amongst abused children.

First of all, any of the program—program is not the right word—but any of the investigation that is undertaken with the adolescents so involved is undertaken by the child abuse agencies and their staff in cooperation with or with assistance from Public Health nurses as our compartment's component but the lead department, if you will, on that is through the child abuse agencies.

The report has been studied and we have had some input into the report and its findings and some analysis given on the findings of that report, but again I have to indicate to my honourable friend that in terms of the Department of Health, ours is a backup and supportive role rather than a lead role in this specific issue.

Mr. Cheema: As the Minister has indicated, it was a major news that was about four or five weeks ago, but still it should be a part of the Communicable Disease Control that these children under the age of 14, and some above the age of 14, and being sexually or otherwise abused, and some of them have gonorrhoea or other forms of disease. So who is going to take a lead to follow those up? I think it should be a part of the Communicable Disease Control, because we are taking the other goals of any communicable disease, why this has to be treated differently. We do have a good mechanism already in place and I must say that the work done by Dr. Margaret Fast and her staff has been an excellent example.

So I think rather than having a two system, one system for the different age group and one for the younger age group, I think it will create more confusion rather

than have—I will suggest that we should have under one system so that we can track the cases and we can utilize the present resources.

Mr. Orchard: I accept my honourable friend's point of view, but the broader issue is the issue of child abuse, sexual abuse being a component of that; and that, as I indicated in my earlier answer, is the responsibility of the child abuse agencies and they operate within their framework, their staffing.

We provide from the Department of Health support in two ways—the Public Health nurses, as I have indicated, and for the specific areas of the spread of STDs in terms of sexually abused children. That tracing component and the information liaison with the MMA and the college still flows from communicable diseases, but our involvement is in the narrow aspect of, not even sexual abuse, but in those instances where there are sexually transmitted diseases as a result of. Still the lead department and the lead initiator is the child abuse agencies.

Mr. Cheema: Could I know what are the specific measures being taken to track those cases? Are there any special coordinators who are being employed at the children's centre to otherwise employed counselling also to the patient and to the families and also report—is there any mechanism of reporting those cases to the school boards or in different school divisions so that there is coordination and there is not a duplication of services?

Mr. Orchard: No, there is not that kind of information provided. These are treated as a medical matter, as they are even in the adult population, in cooperation with the medical aspect of STDs in terms of a contract tracing the assurance of treatment, etc., etc.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister indicated yesterday that there is an evaluation program that is being done by the Public Health nurses. Could we have the finding from that evaluation study so that we could have some input of how to help the system?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I cannot provide my honourable friend that because it, in essence, does not exist. We provided advice to the child abuse agencies on the findings narrowly specific to the STD aspect of sexually abused children, and that is not an analysis of the problem overall of abused children.

Mr. Cheema: I would like to make some comments about the excellent work done by Dr. Margaret Fast for the last few years. I have been receiving her notes as a member of the medical community and I am proud that we have people like her, who has done tremendous work and who updates all the information every month.

My question is that in health there was a paper in October 1988 regarding information that there were two cases of rabies identified in two horses and there were several skunks in Manitoba who were supposed to be infected with rabies. Is there any special request received for prophylaxis in those areas? Has any human being received any prophylactic treatment?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I am informed that, not specific to the incident that my honourable friend has referred to, but the yearly average of humans that are provided treatment because of exposure, potential or otherwise, to rabies approximates 50 per year.

* (1440)

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us what public information they have provided other than to physicians? Is anything being done to circulate the information to the affected communities in that area?

Mr. Orchard: Nothing specific except for, one would hope—and usually this is not a hope, it is a reality—that the news media carries, whether it be Winnipeg, if it happens to be Winnipeg or in the rural areas, the news medias of those areas often report as a news item the incidence of rabies. I know in our own personal case, whenever that happens, the first thing we do is get hold of the vet and have our pets immunized as a precautionary measure. That is a responsibility of the individual owners. That is an individual responsibility and the vaccine is provided of course through Ag Canada.

We would send out press releases indicating an area in which rabid skunks or foxes or coyotes had been positively identified and, as with all our news releases, we rely on the news media to make that information available through either print or electronic media.

Mr. Cheema: I believe this year there was a shortage of MMR vaccination. Was that problem addressed so that we do not have that problem in the future?

Mr. Orchard: There is no vaccine shortage now.

Mr. Cheema: This is not a medical question but a technical question. There has been a certain change in the polio vaccine. There is some change in the colour. Is that just that the laboratory has changed the colour, or there is some other reason, financial or cost-wise, or is the efficacy still—it is in the notes that the efficacy will still remain the same, but is it for cost measures or just that the laboratory has made up their own minds?

Mr. Orchard: I am informed that is the same company's vaccine. It is a slight change in the manufacturing process that has caused the physical appearance and there is no change in the efficacy of the vaccine.

Mr. Cheema: The reason I ask the question is that some parents did ask that question about why there was a change in the colour.

My next question is are there any special pamphlets being issued to the physicians, to the Public Health nurses, to explain the possible side effects of immunization, because certainly there are a few parents who sometimes question the role of immunization. Also, certain patients are even requesting that their child may not be immunized. Under those circumstances, what is the role of the department?

Mr. Orchard: I have only got the one copy here today so I will send it over to my honourable friend and we

will get another copy for the critic for the New Democratic Party, but these are the pamphlets made available through the department to the providers of vaccination. When a Page comes in, I will have them sent over to my honourable friend.

Mr. Cheema: I have a major concern that the new Canadians, new immigrants, when they are coming in, the younger age group, some of those countries do not have an effective way of reporting the immunization record. Those children that are coming here, they come to the offices and say they are being immunized. They have already received all immunizations. Certainly the schools are giving them the papers that you go to your doctor, get this thing filled, have the MMR anyway, because we do not have a record.

Under those circumstances, is there any communication from the Department of Health to the Department of Immigration Canada to make sure that, because the standard medical examination form for the Canada Immigration Centre does not have a column for this special thing. I think it will be a good suggestion maybe to have some communication so that physicians do not have to go through the same thing, families do not have to—and I think it will be cost saving and also we will have a better record system.

Mr. Orchard: I accept my honourable friend's advice on that. It is good advice and it has been discussed with Ottawa, particularly in the immigration form. I am informed that if any new Canadians have proof of vaccination, that is adequate. It is only when there is not an accurate enough record or reliable enough record that the request for immunization is made, but where good records are available, that suffices.

Mr. Cheema: Just in my personal view, when these people are coming from the immigration section specifically, they should have some separate form and their form should come with them when they enter the country, because it would save the physicians' time and save the families' time. It will also help the communicable control centre to have better access to the system. Also it will help to update the computerized system which is already available in Manitoba.

Mr. Orchard: Again, Mr. Chairman, that is the nature of the discussions that the department has had with federal officials.

Mr. Cheema: Last year and in 1986 there was a large number of malaria cases which specifically came from southeast Asia and most of them, fortunately, I was the physician involved in treating them. After those incidents, I did send a copy of my recommendation to the Canada Immigration Centre because specifically they must have some mechanism of sending the information through the Communicable Control Centre from this department to the physician involved who was seeing these new Canadians, so that the diagnosis of malaria is kept in mind, so that the cost savings there would save money doing all those tests just for a fever. I think that if the Minister agrees with that suggestion, it is easily traceable because we do have a few physicians who are seeing more ethnic patients

than the others, or the information be made available to those people to provide better information.

My next question is that Western Equine virus had a few cases I think about two or three months ago. Does that problem still exist?

Mr. Orchard: I missed the question, I am sorry.

Mr. Cheema: I said, Western Equine Encephalitis, we had a few cases a few months ago. Does that problem still exist, and what is being done?

Mr. Orchard: There was only a very small positive identification, under less than 10 horses, I think, and it never materialized. I suppose primarily because we had such a dry summer, our mosquito population was significantly reduced and it was not a problem and is not a problem now.

Mr. Cheema: We do have a centralized system where all the records are going to the schools and to the department. Could the Minister tell me, what is the evaluation program being done to see that that system is effective or not?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, there are complete records on immunization, and that is to be fully computerized January '89, as I indicated in addressing the resolution by my honourable friend's colleague from Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo). That is part of the new MIMS that will computerize what has been to date a manual system.

Mr. Cheema: What is the procedure being used to send the vaccination to the rural communities? What is the mechanism in place to make sure that this vaccination is not being wasted? Who is updating the information?

Mr. Orchard: It is delivered to the rural Manitoba areas, as required by the shipping instructions. If it has to be frozen, it is sent frozen. The quantities are determined by the deliverers of the Immunization Program. It is the director's job to assure that those quantities are accurate and not wasted.

Mr. Cheema: Under the Lifesaving Drug Program, there is a standard policy that forms have to be filled and signed by the physician and that is only done by written permission. Why can we not include the emergency cases in those? If there is someone who cannot afford to pay for that medicine, why do they have to wait for a few weeks to be clarified and have a written report and signed by the physician and then the department will look at that? Why can we not just add the emergency cases into the policy?

Mr. Orchard: Because it is not an emergency program. It is a Lifesaving Drug Program on a more continuous basis and not on an emergency program basis.

* (1450)

Mr. Cheema: But still there are certain patients who cannot afford this and some of them cannot wait for

a few days to have their form evaluated. I think we should have some mechanism where even a phone call can be made and some arrangement should be made to pay for those medications.

Mr. Orchard: If there is the need, as described by my honourable friend, the program is accessible by those individuals. It is not by a phone call. It is the normal process of application. I would think it is served reasonably well and ought not to unduly inhibit anyone, including the individual so described by my honourable friend.

Mr. Cheema: What is the mechanism of using that program in the rural communities and the northern communities? Do those people have to also approach the central office or can they go to their own agencies?

Mr. Orchard: As I indicated the other day, the assessment is done regionally. In northern Manitoba it is done regionally. The application form comes to the directorate and is either approved or denied there.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister please explain to us what is Canada's Meat Inspection Program and what is being done to promote or to investigate or have an ongoing evaluation of that program?

Mr. Orchard: They assure the quality and safety of red meat products and feathered meat products.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell me what the specific programs are which are being conducted to promote the full sanitation in the food industry, in institutions and the general public? What media advertisement is planned for this year and for next year?

Mr. Orchard: The Public Health inspectors and the Public Health nurses have that responsibility to have both institutions and private sector food services comply with provincial regulations.

Mr. Cheema: Are there any special seminars or pamphlets or other forms, a media campaign to address that need?

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I do not have any further questions in this section. I will ask my honourable friend from Churchill.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): Mr. Chairperson, I want to follow up on some of the discussion, questions and debate which were ongoing on Tuesday with respect to AIDS. As we know, this is one of the major medical challenges that we all face in today's society. We are at a point in time where we know that action is required. We know that positive action is required if we are to deal effectively with this very serious medical condition and disease.

In order to do so, I think it is important that the Government be very clear with respect to its own

approach on how to deal with this particular problem. There are a number of things that have been put on the record in the past by the Progressive Conservative Party when it was in Opposition, which I believe did not reflect the proper approach with regard to dealing with the AIDS problem. The Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns) says, well, as if perhaps I am wrong in that assumption and that may well be, but I want to reiterate the fact that I did not believe it to be an appropriate approach.

I would like the Minister now to take the opportunity to clarify the Government's position now that we have not a Progressive Conservative Opposition but a Progressive Conservative Government, with respect to some of the issues that they talked about while in Opposition and some of the issues which he talked about shortly after having assumed his portfolio as Minister of Health.

The first issue which I want to address is with respect to mandatory AIDS testing. The Minister will agree that one of his colleagues last Session brought forward a resolution which would have required mandatory AIDS testing as a Private Members' Resolution.

I would ask the Minister now, given the fact that at that time it was apparent to us, at least on the Government side, that this resolution had widespread support within the Progressive Conservative caucus, if there has been a discussion of this resolution within his caucus or within his Cabinet, and if there is a change in position on the part of his Government from a position which was taken during Opposition with respect to mandatory AIDS testing?

Mr. Orchard: That resolution my honourable friend refers to is now being discussed at the federal-provincial level in terms of undertaking testing of groups within the provinces of neonatal Canadians to establish the incidence and establish base line tests presumably.

Mr. Cowan: I think you will recall, Mr. Chairperson, the testing also called for mandatory testing for persons being admitted to hospital, those seeking pregnancy tests, and couples applying for marriage licences, in addition to those that were called for under mandatory testing. The resolution contemplated the testing of individuals, as I indicated earlier, who are being admitted to hospital, those seeking pregnancy tests and couples applying for marriage licences.

I would ask the Minister if he could provide us with a response on those particular aspects of that resolution.

Mr. Orchard: That resolution was debated to some degree in this House and feedback was received and, indeed, is part of an ongoing information base. There are now, although I cannot say that it is in Manitoba, but for instance in the Maritimes, there are physicians who—and my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), passed the information over to me the other day—where they are recommending population testing to establish the incidence of the virus amongst the general population. Those are areas of discussion that are ongoing at the federal-provincial

level and there have been no decisions made as to whether that is an appropriate utilization of resource.

Naturally, my honourable friend would concur that is entirely the purpose of Private Members' Resolutions in order to broach a topic into seeing how appropriate that topic is for implementation into public policy, and certainly those discussions continue not only provincially but at the national level as well.

* (1500)

Mr. Cowan: What position will the Minister be bringing to the table during those federal-provincial discussions with respect to mandatory testing per se and with respect to mandatory testing for patients being admitted to hospital, those seeking pregnancy tests, and couples applying for marriage licences. I ask him the question because I believe it is important that the general public in Manitoba have some indication as to what sort of position this Government is bringing to those discussions on issues of extreme importance to all of us.

Mr. Orchard: Any position we bring forward to the table at the federal-provincial level will be one arrived at through consultation with a number of individuals in this province and indeed internationally, which will appropriately and effectively represent sound public policy. If that were to be recommended by the experts flowing from new information always available to us in terms of AIDS as an appropriate dedication of resource, I would have no hesitation in recommending that. I have not received that definitive advice to this date and, therefore, I cannot provide to my honourable friend this afternoon what policy and advice I would take to federal-provincial discussions on that matter.

Mr. Cowan: What is the Minister's position on mandatory testing for those groups?

Mr. Orchard: My position on that will be the Government's position, based on advice from experts who we rely on to give us that kind of information, not unlike to my honourable friend's position on that in Government, relying upon advice given to him. The only difference being that the advice is changing as more information is evolving on AIDS.

Mr. Cowan: I think the Minister will agree that as we deal with this particular issue and as we learn more and more about it that we will always be bombarded in some sense with new information, because it is an area where a great deal of research is being done. It is an area where a great deal of ignorance exists today and has to be dealt with, and the research is designed to answer some of those questions.

So if a Minister or Government were to rely on the excuse—and I believe it is an excuse that he is using now—that they cannot come forward with a position at any given time because there is always the possibility of new information becoming available to them, I believe in this particular circumstance they will never be able to develop a position, at least not in their short tenure in Government, because there is constantly going to be new information being provided to them.

The Minister was not afraid to take positions when he was in Opposition with respect to these issues and he was very clear in his positions and he was very forthright in his positions, and he was very strong in the way in which he put forward those positions. Now that he is in Government, I believe he has the responsibility to put forward similarly clear and strongly held positions with respect to this problem. The fact that we were in an area where there was a rapidly evolving bank of knowledge a year ago did not prevent the Minister from making some very concise statements with respect to his opinions on AIDS and his approach to AIDS. One can assume that those opinions have stayed with him unless he is prepared now to deny them in this public forum, because they are a matter of the public record.

So I would ask the Minister, if he cannot use the excuse, which I believe it to be, that we are always going to—let me rephrase that, so I am fair to him—that we are in a process of learning new things about this all the time and we cannot develop a firm position at this time because of that continuing and increasing level of knowledge. That is not a fair answer. He has to, on the basis of the information which is provided to him and on the basis of whatever speculation he cares to make with respect to the unknowns and the questions, provide the public of Manitoba with either a confirmation of his policies and his statements when he was in Opposition, or new policies and new statements which would clarify his earlier comments.

I am asking him, and I will ask him on a number of issues, but I am asking him specifically, is he prepared to make those sorts of position statements today with respect to mandatory AIDS testing in the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: I would be delighted to spend the rest of the afternoon discussing this with my honourable friend. I have already answered that for my honourable friend three questions ago. I realize the answer is not satisfactory. It is not the one he wants. He may have, as his colleague for Brandon East (Mr. Leonard Evans) had for Autopac committee, a press release already written and he may now have to rearrange it because he did not get the answer he wants. I owe no apologies to my honourable friend for that.

I have indicated to my honourable friend that when one debates an issue in Private Members' Hour, it is to stimulate public discussion, to bring forth ideas on the issue, to bring the varying solutions to the public forum, to seek out the best kind of advice that is available. Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what we are doing. The issue is under study by federal-provincial officials at the national-provincial conference level. Recommendations may well flow from that in time for the spring meeting of Health Ministers, and they may not. You know, my honourable friend may have his own fixed policy initiatives that he would like to pursue and that is his right. Although he may or may not agree with some of the expert opinion that comes down from time to time, that also is his right.

What we will follow is the policy that has been followed in the past and will be followed in the future. That is

of taking the best advice possible, making decisions on that advice as to what we ought to recommend in terms of policy. That process will be followed. Policies will develop and flow from that. I am unable, unfortunately for my honourable friend's agenda, to give him the answer he wishes this afternoon.

Mr. Cowan: I assure the Minister that I do not have a press release already written on this subject. I also tell him that, as far as I am concerned, his answers are not satisfactory. I tell him that I do not need a press release because I have his own comments, which I want to read back to him now in order to get some indication as to whether or not he still believes this to be the case.

There was an opportunity not that long ago and it was not in Private Members' Hour—it was actually in debate on a Bill before this House—for Members of this Legislature to stand on the record and put their positions forward with respect to this particular issue. I want to read to you what the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) said at that time and I want to ask him—and I know he will consult with his staff to determine whether or not this is the case here in Manitoba—if he stands by these words or if, because of new information that has become available to him, he is now prepared to amend his earlier opinions with respect to AIDS and homosexuality in this province.

I am reading from Thursday, July 16, 1987, Hansard from the Manitoba Legislature, page 3,993. The Minister at that time is reading from or quoting from a book called, "The AIDS Cover-Up, by Jean Antonio." He says about that book: "It's a recent publication and, if you read it, you will be shocked at what the threat to society is of AIDS. There is no question—and this has been established not only in this book but other books—that AIDS is primarily, at this stage of the game, a disease of the homosexual community." Then he goes on to say: "Madam Speaker, this book details testimony from infected male homosexuals and, in San Francisco, there is a particularly active group of AIDS-infected male homosexuals. Do you know what their purpose in life is?" I am quoting from the Minister of Health a year ago or a little over a year ago. "Their purpose in life is to undertake some heterosexual relations so that they can spread the AIDS to the heterosexual community through the women they have sexual intercourse with, even though that is not their lifestyle. And why do they do it? They do it because they want the heterosexual community to get the AIDS virus and the AIDS epidemic quicker. Those are the people that you are saying need protection under The Human Rights Act of Manitoba."

* (1510)

And then he goes on talking about mandatory testing in that same quote or in that same speech to say: "Madam Speaker, what are we doing? We have the inclusion of AIDS as an STD in the Province of Manitoba. But we didn't make contact testing mandatory because education is going to do the job, the same education program that's failed in San Francisco." And he goes on to say that we are undercutting the moral principles that built this country with that particular Bill.

In that speech, he specifically implied that he was concerned that we did not have contact tracing mandatory in the Province of Manitoba because he thought that the approach that we had charted out, which was an approach with respect to education, would not work as it had not done in San Francisco.

So I would ask him the specific questions, and I do so not to embarrass him. I do it so as to allow him an opportunity to set the record straight. Is he still concerned about the situation in San Francisco, which he implied could result in this province because of the passage of the Human Rights Code last year or has anything, any new information come to this attention that would dissuade him of that viewpoint? Is he still concerned that we do not have contact tracing mandatory for AIDS in Manitoba at this time?

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend reads from my speech on Bill No. 47, I believe it was, in which I quoted passages from a book which, to my knowledge, the passages and the information put on that have not been refuted. My honourable friend ought to contact the author to see if those quotations I used have been refuted.

Mr. Cowan: Well, what I want to do is make some contact with the Minister to see if the specific statements he has said, in his mind, are still appropriate and if he is prepared to refute them or stand by them now. In the one statement—and I will put the particular statement on the record so there will be no doubt about it—he said, when referencing our Bill No. 47: "Those are the people that you are saying need protection under Human Rights Act of Manitoba." The implication is that those people are people who would deliberately go out and infect the heterosexual community as a way of spreading the AIDS virus.

He said that. That is a matter of the record. I imagine it was probably late in the evening when he said it. I would imagine that he might well have regretted it immediately after having said it. But the fact is he did say it and it is the latest bit of information on the public record with respect to the Minister's opinion with regard to that particular problem. I would ask him at this particular time, has he had any further consideration based on new information that might have become available to him with respect to this particular problem. Does he still feel that is a problem here in Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: The information that my honourable friend refers to is information out of San Francisco, documented in a book, to my knowledge not refuted. As I have indicated to him earlier on, he might contact the author to see if that information in the book has been refuted. I cannot indicate to him that it has been. So my presumption is that group may well still exist that I referenced in the book, a group of homosexual males undertaking activity designed to, according to the author of that book, bring the AIDS epidemic into the heterosexual community. My honourable friend ought to contact the author of that book to see whether he still stands by that statement. I have not done that. My honourable friend seems deeply concerned about it. He ought to contact the author and find out if the author still stands by that.

Mr. Chairman, those individuals, according to the author of that book, were homosexual males. In case my honourable friend did not know what he was passing when he passed Bill No. 47, it provided protection under The Human Rights Act for homosexual males.

Mr. Cowan: Is the Minister then saying there are homosexual males in the Province of Manitoba who are undertaking that sort of activity?

Mr. Orchard: To the best of my knowledge, and I think my staff would confirm, we are not aware of any homosexual males engaged in that activity which the author of the book indicated was occurring in San Francisco. The statement was simple, was direct and was accurate, that the Bill passed in Bill No. 47 provided protection under The Human Rights Act for homosexual males. That is a fact that is irrefutable, Mr. Chairman, and that was my honourable friend's legislation.

Mr. Cowan: There is also another fact, Mr. Chairperson, that is irrefutable, and that is because it is a matter of the public record. Perhaps I am not going to see the Minister today have the courage to stand up in his place and say, "I was wrong on that occasion. I now have more information which is available to me which has persuaded me that this is not a problem in Manitoba." But on that day, when he stood in this House, he very clearly said—and I will read the statement one more time—"Those are the people that you are saying need protection under The Human Rights Act of Manitoba."

Now, what he is referencing there is not male homosexuals, but what he is referencing there is male homosexuals who would—and I will read his words exactly—"a particularly active group of AIDS-infected male homosexuals. Do you know what their purpose in life is? Their purpose in life is to undertake some heterosexual relationships so that they can spread the AIDS to the heterosexual community through the women they have sexual intercourse with, even though that is not their lifestyle. And why do they do it? They do it because they want the heterosexual community to get the AIDS virus and the AIDS epidemic quicker." And then he says, "Those are the people that you are saying need protection under The Human Rights Act of Manitoba."

We are not talking about The Human Rights Act of San Francisco, we are not talking about The Human Rights Act of California, we are talking about The Human Rights Act of Manitoba. In making that statement, he very clearly indicated that he believed that there were those sorts of people in this province at that time who needed this sort of protection. Now, if he does not want to clear the record on that, then I think he will have to, over time, pay the consequences as being one who is not working towards a solution of this particular problem, but in fact is working in a way that will prevent the solution of this particular problem.

We all know that education is important in the battle against AIDS. It is probably the only effective weapon that we have right now. What is education but a matter of trying to provide to others full factual, hopefully non-

biased, information which they can use to make good decisions. In this case, there are people who face some very difficult decisions, some because of their lifestyle, some because of circumstances beyond their control, others because they happen to be in a particular situation at a particular time. If they are going to have to make those decisions, then they need good information available to them, information which stands the test of review, which stands the test of scrutiny, information which is, to the extent possible, non-prejudicial and which does not turn people away from seeking more information but draws people closer to the answer by encouraging them to think about the issues in a serious and rational fashion and encouraging them to seek more information as it becomes available.

I think the Minister does a disservice by letting this statement stand on the record today. I really believe he does that. I think he works against the goal which I believe he will say his Government shares with respect to battling this very serious problem, and that is the goal of education.

I believe the Minister is in a particular problem here. I believe that these comments are indicative of the way he thinks about this particular subject. Without being overly personal, I think that he, as many Ministers do on many different subjects, faces a dilemma sometimes when the issue at hand conflicts with their own approach and their own feelings, be they strongly held and be they honestly held feelings on a particular subject.

I believe the reason that we do not have a pamphlet out now with respect to AIDS, which is part of the education process, is because the Minister has had difficulty in trying to deal with his own feelings and develop a pamphlet which reflects his personal concerns, which are honestly held I believe and sincerely held, although I disagree with them. I respect the fact that he holds them sincerely—which reflects those concerns and also reflects the need for full and factual information.

When the Minister assumed his portfolio, there was Part II of the AIDS campaign, Phase II it was called, sitting on his desk and ready to go. The fact is we are now seven months later and we have not had—

An Honourable Member: Six months.

* (1520)

Mr. Cowan: Six months later, I am sorry.- (Interjection)- So that the record is straight, yes. How come it seems like seven then? Perhaps it seems even longer, but that is an aside.

The fact is that it is now many months later and there is no Phase 2 of the AIDS campaign. We asked the definitive question in this House as to when is there going to be the pamphlet, which is just a part of the campaign. He says, we may have a pamphlet before the end of this month. Well, by the time this month has ended we will be out of these Estimates, and we will not have this opportunity to ask the Minister directly why that pamphlet is not available, if it is not available.

So what I would ask the Minister now is, can he indicate exactly where in the process that pamphlet

is? What has been done to complete that pamphlet? What is the exact timetable? I know, if he is a good manager of his department, he will have asked for an exact timetable with respect to when the pamphlet is prepared through the certain stages, and when it will be ready for distribution.

I will also ask the Minister how that pamphlet will be distributed. How will it be gotten out to individuals who require this sort of information and education? I will ask him if he has any contingency plans with respect to that pamphlet if it is not available by the end of the month.

Mr. Orchard: No, to the last question, because I expect the pamphlet will be ready, and the timetable will be as quick as it is printed.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I know my honourable friend, in collaboration with his honourable friend from Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), is attempting his little smear game on AIDS, which is fine.

Mr. Orchard: -(Interjection)- You know my honourable friend from Thompson (Mr. Ashton), the wellhead of wisdom from the North, ought to have participated a little more in the debate rather than come in here and shoot from his lip -(Interjection)- Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend maybe does not yet recognize the implication of the inclusion of sexual orientation in The Human Rights Act. The statement I made is correct, that if an individual in Manitoba were undertaking those activities, as identified in the book from which he quoted, they would have protection under The Human Rights Act as proposed by my honourable friend from Churchill.

Is my honourable friend from Churchill saying that is not correct? Is my honourable friend for Churchill saying that those individuals with the behaviour I described from the book, residing in San Francisco, is my honourable friend saying they do not have the protection of sexual orientation under The Human Rights Act that the NDP passed in the last Session? Is he saying they are not protected under the Sexual Orientation clause, because if he is saying that, then he was not telling the truth when they passed the Bill. I believe those individuals, if they were in Manitoba, would be protected under the Sexual Orientation clause of The Human Rights Act. If my honourable friend has different information or different legal opinion saying they would not be, then I would welcome the opportunity for him to put that on the record.

Mr. Cowan: I would like to read, Mr. Chairperson, to the Minister, an excerpt from an article from the Free Press, May 14 of this year, and it is after the Minister suggested that some AIDS carriers should be quarantined.

He said, and I am quoting from the newspaper, Mr. Chairperson. "Orchard citing the hypothetical case of an active male prostitute with AIDS said the action is equivalent to murder. It is like walking around with a loaded gun in your hand," Orchard said. "Orchard said earlier this week he would bring in legislation to quarantine those who spread the Acquired Immune

Deficiency Syndrome virus deliberately, but yesterday he said he was not aware The Public Health Act already allows it. He said his department officials told him yesterday the province's Public Health Act gives authorities the power to confine sexually-active AIDS carriers and seize their possessions."

His Premier, by the way, was astute enough not to support the Minister of Health in this regard. The next line in that article says, "Premier Gary Filmon refused to say yesterday whether he would endorse such measures. 'I cannot tell you whether he was speaking out of turn. I have not had an opportunity to discuss this with Mr. Orchard,' Filmon said before turning away from recorders." Also the one person who did refute what the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) said was the Minister of Health at the federal level, Mr. Jake Epp, who said that the Minister's proposals were inappropriate.

What the Minister is saying just recently on May 14 is the department does have the ability to quarantine those who are sexually active in spreading the AIDS virus. Indeed, Mr. Chairperson, his own two statements are somewhat contradictory, the statement on May 14 and the statement of just a few moments ago. I would ask the Minister, is this article wrong or does the department have the ability to quarantine as the article says: "The Public Health Act gives authorities the power to confine sexually active AIDS carriers and seize their possessions."

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, as I answered to my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) I believe on Monday, yes, we do have that authority.

Mr. Cowan: To the Minister's knowledge, is that authority overridden by The Human Rights Act?

Mr. Orchard: I would hope not.

Mr. Cowan: Then the Minister makes our case, and when I say "our" case I include the Liberals because I think they have given their comments. They feel the same way about his earlier comments and what he said here today that, no, the problem that he tried to use as a scare tactic during the debate on Bill No. 47 is not a problem in this province. If he did have any integrity and courage, he would stand in this place today and say, I thought it was a problem at that particular time. However, as Minister of Health, I have learned some new things. I understand the situation a bit better and I do not believe it to be a problem now.

I want to go one step further because he has said some very severe criticisms of The Human Rights Act that was passed last Session, and this is an area that does impact in his mind at least on the AIDS problem in Manitoba. We have his comments earlier where he correlated the two and he has not refuted or moved away from those comments today. Is his Government considering the repeal of that particular section of The Human Rights Act?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, my honourable friend has not made the case he wants to make. The Human Rights

Act as proposed, as passed by the NDP last Session, and I believe supported by the Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs), and I know all of her caucus Members support the sexual orientation inclusion in The Human Rights Act, and there we can have a philosophical difference with my honourable friends from various constituencies in Winnipeg. My statement still stands that The Human Rights Act provided protection for the homosexual community because sexual orientation was amended into The Human Rights Act.

That statement still stands and my honourable friend has not made a case, that it is not there. As a matter of fact he has made the case, it is there, and that is exactly what we have told him, and that is exactly what I said in debate. My honourable friend is enjoying this debate and I am too, and I hope that we can spend the rest of the afternoon on it. As a matter of fact if you want to spend all next week on this debate it would be most productive.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, the question I asked specifically was, is the Government considering the repeal of the sexual orientation provision of The Human Rights Code? I asked that question because, given everything the Minister has said today and some of the comments from his colleagues from their seats, it is my impression that they still believe that there is a tie-in between AIDS and The Human Rights Code. Given that and given their very virulent and somewhat strongly held opinions during the debate on The Human Rights Act, is he now considering the repeal of that particular section?

* (1530)

Mr. Orchard: As is always the case, any legislative amendment to any Act is brought forward in due course, presented to the Legislature. At that time my honourable friend is informed of any decision of Government. If he wishes some variation to that standard practice of introduction of legislative amendments today to suit his particular purpose, I have to tell him today that I am unable to comply with his desire in this debate. Legislative amendments on any Bill will be presented in due course in this Legislature by this Government.

An Honourable Member: Then you will have a chance to—

Mr. Cowan: It is interesting to hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) speak from his seat with respect to our opportunity to debate it, because the Minister of Finance knows that a Bill he just brought forward followed an entirely different process. That was The Crown Corporations Accountability Act. That was a Bill that the Government said, we have a particular problem with this area.

They said it during the campaign, and then they said after the campaign, we are going to bring forward legislation to deal with that particular area. We know that the Government is seriously considering repeal or repeal of provisions at least, of The Final Offer Selection Act, because in Opposition they said they were opposed to The Final Offer Selection Act and if they got in

Government, they were going to repeal The Final Offer Selection Act. They have indicated very clearly, publicly, that they are considering the repeal of that particular Act.

All I am asking the Minister to do is to do what many of his colleagues have had the courage to do on their own particular Bills in their own particular subject areas, and that is to indicate whether or not there is some consideration being given to the repeal of that particular amendment.

It would also go back to my earlier question and ask the Minister, because I asked him for a timetable with respect to the development of the pamphlet, if he can provide that timetable to us. He did not, in answering my question. I would ask him, does that timetable exist, and if so, is he prepared to provide it to us?

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Ed Helwer, in the Chair.)

Mr. Orchard: I would prefer not to speak on the legislative agenda of one of my colleagues who has responsibility for that Act and I know my honourable friend would not want to cause dissension in the Cabinet room by asking me to do that.

Mr. Orchard: Should that be the dastardly ulterior motive my honourable friend has, I would have to say that I simply cannot comply because there is nothing but love and human compassion in that Progressive Conservative Cabinet room.

I have indicated to my honourable friend that the new AIDS pamphlet will be available this month. As my honourable friend said when I indicated to him that I had a given time frame that I hoped to adhere to in terms of the Health Advisory Network, my honourable friend in his kind and gracious way got up and said, well Mr. Minister, you have to be careful because it may take you longer than that. It may take you six weeks to get that, and you ought not to set those definitive time lines, and I took that advice very seriously from my honourable friend.

Mr. Cowan: Then the Minister will know that I also asked in my earlier questioning if that time line is not met, does he have a contingency plan? He told me, no, they did not have a contingency plan which would lead me to believe that they believe the time line is going to be met or they are totally inept. Either you believe the time line is going to be met, and you are certain the time line is going to be met, and you do not develop a contingency plan, or you say, as things happen from time to time, schedules can go astray, and let us have a contingency plan in the event that we are not ready by the end of the month.

I would ask the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) if, at this point in time, because we are mid-way—a third of the way through the month—I would ask him if they have put together the mock-up of the pamphlet which would include wording and graphics?

Mr. Orchard: Following again my honourable friend's due caution and advice—I think you are being called.—(Interjection)—My honourable friend says that call may

be for a job for him. If it was a call to give someone a job, I do not think they would be calling for him.

Mr. Chairman, I am hopeful that—

An Honourable Member: One of the conditions is you would have to work.

Mr. Orchard: That reminds me of—I have a very good friend in Newfoundland. He was my counterpart when I was Highways and Transportation Minister. He reminded me back in 1980, when we had occasion to get together at a ministerial meeting, he said he had this good friend of his called Mickey O'Dooley. Mickey O'Dooley, he lived in one of the outports and he was a little hesitant to work all the time. He was in the local establishment which sold intoxicating beverages.

The server in the establishment serving the intoxicating beverages said, "Mickey." And Mickey says, "What do you want?" He said, "You have a phone call." So, Mickey, he goes off to the phone, and he came back and he was white-faced and he was shaking and he could not speak for the next five minutes. He sat down at the table and everybody was quite taken aback because Mickey was a bit of a life of the establishment. Finally, his friend asks, "Mickey, what is the problem?" He said, "I got an obscene phone call."

"What do you mean, Mickey? This is an outport and they have never had an obscene phone call in the outport for quite a while. Mickey, what was it like?" He said, "It was terrible, somebody offered me a job!"

Now, Mr. Chairman, I forget what the question was. Ah! I remember now. The pamphlet, as I indicated some time ago, I am truly hopeful will be available for distribution this month. That is why I indicated to my honourable friend in the negative to his supposed question as to whether we had a contingency plan. I am not aware, as of noon today, that there were any reasons to believe that the scheduled arrival of the pamphlet would be delayed past the end of this month.

Mr. Cowan: I have seen Ministers go a long way in this House to attempt to avoid a question, but I think the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) is setting new records in that regard.

Yes, he did forget the question. He remembered the previous question, but the last question was, do they have graphics and wording available for the pamphlet as of yet?

Mr. Orchard: I think we are back to square one now. We are on the agenda of the pamphlet. I would have to tell my honourable friend that when the pamphlet is ready, as I expect this month, that the graphics and the printing and the layout will have been accomplished in preparation for publishing and printing of that pamphlet.

Mr. Cowan: Is the Minister undertaking any consultation with different groups outside of Government with respect to that pamphlet? I asked him that question to determine whether or not he is

allowing an opportunity for input into that pamphlet before it is finalized so that the pamphlet can reflect not only the concerns and needs of the Government but also the concerns and needs of the clientele which will be affected by the distribution of that pamphlet. I would include with that not only the general public, which one would sometimes test pamphlets with respect to, but I include also the professional groups, doctors, the MMA, nurses, groups of volunteers and other professionals who are out there working in this area such as those involved with the Village Clinic and other medical facilities that deal with this particular problem.

Is he going to undertake a consultative process, or has he undertaken that consultative process with respect to the exact wording and the exact layout of that pamphlet so that it can reflect, as much as possible, the needs of all those who will receive it?

Mr. Orchard: We have undertaken some fairly broad consultation on the development of the pamphlet. We are very hopeful that the final product will meet with quite wide acceptance.

Mr. Cowan: Can he tell us which groups have been consulted with respect to this pamphlet?

Mr. Orchard: I would be at some difficulty to indicate the groups. I can indicate to him that we have relied on professional input where we thought we were getting good advice.

* (1540)

Mr. Cowan: Perhaps because his staff are here and they have probably been involved in the development of this pamphlet, they might be able to provide him with that information.

I will tell you why I ask the question now. When we were questioning along this line earlier in the section on Communications, I asked very specifically, where do we talk about the AIDS pamphlet and the AIDS communication efforts? The Minister indicated we would talk about it in Communicable Diseases because that is when I will have the staff available to me to be able to answer detailed questions. So we have waited until the staff are available to him. I am certain that they have been involved in the preparation of this pamphlet and perhaps they can provide that answer to him.

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend will, I think, be satisfied with—maybe I should not say that. I hope my honourable friend will be satisfied with the finished product of the pamphlet. I think it has been arrived at using information and layout and hopefully visual contact which will make it a pamphlet that people will want to read from seeing it on display stands, etc., etc.

I know my honourable friend, no doubt, he may wish to find some fault with it and I accept that, but we are reasonably satisfied with the professional input that we have had that the pamphlet will accurately provide information, will adequately serve the objective of the education campaign that we embarked on.

Mr. Cowan: The Minister has carefully avoided answering the question and I would ask him point blank,

Thursday, November 10, 1988

is that because he does not want to answer the question with respect to what professional groups were involved in reviewing this work?

I know that they would have professional groups develop it. What I am asking him is, has he had consultation with groups with regard to the layout and design and the wording of the pamphlet? Has he shown it to representatives of the Manitoba Medical Association? Has he shown it to representatives of MONA or representatives of MARL or representatives of CUPE? Has he shown it to representatives of the Village Clinic? Has he shown it to representatives of family planning organizations, all organizations which have an interest in this particular area?

Mr. Orchard: I do not believe that that has been undertaken.

Mr. Cowan: I thought that might be the reason why we were not getting a more definitive answer all along, Mr. Chairperson.

I would then ask him, now that we know with whom he has not consulted, and he has indicated that he has worked with professional groups to develop the pamphlet, what are the professional groups with which he has worked?

Mr. Orchard: One of the objectives of Government is to work to create needed materials, in this case a pamphlet. Government has undertaken to do that. The pamphlet, as I have indicated to my honourable friend, ought to be available this month. I think my honourable friend may well be reasonably satisfied with that pamphlet. If he is not, I will take any criticism he wishes to throw at me for any lack of forthright information or any criticism that he may see fit and he can advance those criticisms on behalf of any organization that he so wishes.

We are creating a pamphlet which we think is an appropriate pamphlet for AIDS education, an important and an appropriate communication tool. We have had professional input into that. We are satisfied that the pamphlet will serve the purpose for which it is being printed. If my honourable friend would find some fault with that after he sees the finished product, I would welcome his criticism.

Mr. Cowan: I am trying to avoid that situation which is a lot like putting the horse behind the cart. The time to make constructive criticism is in the development of the pamphlet before it is finalized and printed and run off the printer so that if there are areas where the pamphlet can be improved they are done previous to that expense being undertaken. I am not suggesting that I can give the Minister any better advice on that pamphlet than his experts around him can give him, but I do believe that there are groups out there, outside of his experts, that with a different perspective and a different approach might be able to supplement that very good advice which is being given to him by his staff and by professionals.

So what I am trying to do is help him avoid some of that criticism by encouraging him to undertake

widespread consultations with regard to the layout and the design and the tone and the wording of that particular pamphlet before it is completed, before it is finalized, before it is printed and before all that expense has been undertaken, so that in the event that there was constructive criticism that could be provided to him, it could be provided on the front end. I think that makes good sense.

They talk about being an efficient Government. They talk about being in Government that uses money wisely. I think that is probably the way to use this particular money wisely. I do not believe he is going to do that, however, and I do not want to take up all afternoon on that particular subject.

I have to express some regret, No. 1, that it has taken so long for that pamphlet to come into existence and it has not yet been completed. I think I have explained why I believe that to be the case, and we have an honestly held difference of opinion on that—I accept that—but I regret the fact that it has taken so long.

I also regret the fact that the Minister, after having tried to stonewall the questions for a while today, then clearly indicated that in fact there is no outside consultation, at least not with any of the groups I mentioned which I believe would be some of the primary groups for consultative efforts being taken in the development of this pamphlet and I think he is missing an opportunity by not doing so.

The media, about three weeks ago, reported the leak of a survey or a study which was done by the federal Government with respect to the AIDS issue. I am just reading from the October 25, 1988, Free Press article on it, quoting Mr. Glen Murray of the Village Health Clinic under the headline, "Surveys impact on AIDS feared eroded by leak." The lead paragraphs say the apparent leak of a survey that was to be kept under wraps until December will erode its impact on a federal education campaign against AIDS, a Winnipeg AIDS activist said yesterday. "We were all sworn to secrecy about the findings, that is why I am astonished to see it in print," Village Health Clinic spokesman, Glen Murray, said. Murray said he does not blame Ottawa for the apparent leak but the leak means the report won't make as strong an impact on the public. He said the survey on young peoples' sexual practices was published in Saturday's Free Press and Canadian press coverage of a Toronto Health Education Conference.

Has the Minister been made aware of that survey? I am not going to ask him to release it if he has, but I will ask him if he has been privy to the information contained within that survey?

Mr. Orchard: No, I have not seen the survey. Staff have seen an almost complete version of it apparently.

I think, to give full information to my honourable friend's quotes from the newspaper, I believe that Mr. Murray, maybe a couple of days prior to that, was quite critical of the federal Government and I believe was making the illusions they were not going to release that report prior to the election because of its sensitive nature of its information. Then, when for some reason or other, aspects of it were made public in an unofficial

way—I think a leak is what my honourable friend indicated—he expressed some dismay that it was going to cause problems or cause harm to the campaign. I do not know how those two positions balance out.

The information and the study has not been in my hands to date. We are looking forward to receipt of it in a finalized version.

* (1550)

Mr. Cowan: The Minister indicated those comments by Mr. Murray were previous to the comments I had read. In fact, they were not. As I had indicated when I was reading the article, I was reading the lead of the article, but he does, later on in the article, make those comments. He said, "The apparent leak is the second mistake made in the report's handling." I am quoting from the article again. He said last week that he believed Ottawa deliberately delayed making the report public until after the November 21 federal election. That accusation was refuted by Eric Alexander, spokesman for the Health Minister Jake Epp. The Minister of Health said, in his comments here today, that he did not understand how those two statements squared, the one statement being that they were mad because the report had been, in their opinion, held off until after the election and at the same time they were made because of a leak.

Well, I will read him, and it is contained in the article, why it is they were angry about the fact that it was leaked, and I am quoting again. He said, "The apparent leak has caught his group and probably others off guard and unprepared," Murray said. "We are in no position to respond and we do not even have a penny to promote this thing," Murray said. "The groups are made up of Government, hospital and community officials in health and education," Murray said.

So I think what Mr. Murray is suggesting is that because the report was leaked and because there was not time for the groups to prepare on how to respond to the report and how to make the most effective use of it, that it was a mistake in the handling of the report. I note today that in the Question Period one of the Ministers—I believe it was the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae)—or yesterday, stood up and said it was necessary to hold onto reports that they have with respect to the ticket problem because they needed time for the Government to prepare a response to it and prepare their comments on it.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Penner) held onto a report over a weekend so that the same thing could happen. I am not saying that in a derogatory sense, although I think he was wrong in that particular instance. I have been in Government and I know quite often you hold onto a report until you have time to put, in the context of that report, your position forward.

These groups felt, according to Mr. Murray and what I can read from the article, that they were a part of the process. Because the report was leaked, their ability to help the process by putting together a position to respond to it appropriately was compromised. The groups that Mr. Murray talks about in this particular

instance are groups he said that are made up of "Government, hospital and community officials in health and education." Are any of the Minister's staff part of those particular groups?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairperson.

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, this is again information that is valuable to those who wish to fight the AIDS problem, and it is probably a survey that will play a role in developing policy and developing a general response to this particular problem. If the survey is completed, and my understanding from this article and other conversations I have had is that the survey is completed, I would encourage the Minister to encourage his staff to encourage the federal Government to release this report as soon as possible. I think, if information of this sort is being held back because of a federal election—I do not know that to be the case, but it has been suggested to be the case—then one is doing a disservice to the authors of the report and those who seek the use of the report for productive purposes.

If it is not being held back because it has not yet been completed, which could be the other possibility, then I would hope that the Minister would encourage his staff to encourage the federal Government to complete this report as soon as possible and to work with all those groups so that there can be an organized response to it which will ensure that this report gets the best reading possible. By that, I mean the widest distribution and the best dissemination of the information contained within it to professionals and non-professionals who may be interested in this particular area. So I make that suggestion to the Minister and hope that he will follow through on it with his own staff.

I have one more question in this area, and there are a lot of other areas in this particular subject matter that I would like to discuss but time is limited and I do not want to take up any more time today on this particular subject. But I would ask the Minister how the Manitoba Education Council on Aids relates to his departmental staff. Are they involved in that work? Are there any committees in the Minister's department which are dealing with this problem on a similar basis, and what sort of direct reporting relationship is there between that council and his own department?

Mr. Orchard: I accept my honourable friend's encouragement to me that I encourage my staff to encourage Ottawa on the encouragement of releasing the report and that encouragement that my honourable friend had encouraged me to urge encouragement onto my staff has borne fruit, because I am told and I am encouraged by the information given to me by my staff that the federal report will be released December 1, on World's AIDS Day. Mr. Chairman, my director sits on that committee.

Mr. Cowan: Is that the only reporting relationship between the Education Council and his department, and the supplementary part of that question, are there any committees within his own department that have been struck to deal with this particular issue?

Mr. Orchard: That is the relationship, and I rely on the Communicable Diseases to work within the department.

Thursday, November 10, 1988

Mr. Cowan: Is the department at this point in time contemplating setting up a coordinating mechanism such as a committee or a council within the Department of Health to pull together the different personnel within the department, as well as individuals from outside of the Government, with respect to dealing with this issue?

Mr. Orchard: Yes.

Mr. Cowan: I thank the Minister for that information. Could he be a bit more explicit as to exactly what that committee or council will be undertaking as its mandate, and when it is to be structured, and who will be involved on it?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot provide my honourable friend with all of the detail he requests. The proposed committee will be a committee composed of departmental staff, professional staff from outside Government who have knowledge and expertise to provide a broader overview of AIDS and its implications in terms of Government policy, Government program. The committee, hopefully, will coordinate and collect various new information, in conjunction with Communicable Diseases, so that it will be a multidisciplinary window not only on information but on policy development for the Government.

Mr. Cowan: What will that committee's relationship be with respect to the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS?

Mr. Orchard: That has not been determined yet.

Mr. Cowan: We have seen some hesitancy on the part of the Government to meet with the council, although I understand there has been a meeting recently. There was a concern that indicated a desire by the Government to reduce the work of the Education Council on AIDS. I would ask the Minister if they are contemplating or considering the reduction of the mandate of the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS or even the elimination of the council.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I think my honourable friend is in the wrong committee to get that answer.

Mr. Cowan: No, I believe I am in the right committee, Mr. Chairperson, because it has been suggested that the reason the Government would in fact reduce the mandate of the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS would be because there would be a Department of Health Committee which would be undertaking much of the same work that the Council on AIDS was doing. What would happen is, where we now have the locus for education on AIDS particularly in the school system located in the Department of Education, we would have a Government-wide locus of responsibility located in the Department of Health.

I did not catch everything that the Minister said when he was relating to us the mandate of the committee, but he did say that it would have a responsibility for Government policy, not departmental policy but Government policy. That leads me to believe that they

may in fact very seriously be considering replacing the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS with a council or with a committee in the Department of Health.

So I have asked him the question in perhaps not as clear of terms as I should have in the first instance, but I hope this clarification would help him better understand why I believe that question should be answered in this particular section.

* (1600)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated to my honourable friend in an earlier answer, those decisions have not been made, and I can provide him no more definitive answer than that.

The indication I give to my honourable friend that part of the overall responsibility of the committee will be in the area of policy for Government is as a resource group which would, no doubt, review what other jurisdictions are doing in terms of their policy implementation for AIDS as well as other nations, if you will, and provide us with the ability to analyze, collate information from national and international sources which will be helpful in steering this Government into policy directions. Those policies will still be the responsibility of individual Ministers as they apply to our institutions, for instance, of health care or to our educational high schools and facilities in schools. The role of the various committees is yet to be determined. When we have finalized their role, we will certainly communicate that to the general public.

Mr. Chairman, before I sit down, I have a head lice pamphlet for the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch).

Mr. Cowan: Mr. Chairperson, the Minister indicates that the decisions have not been made, and I go back to my earlier question. My question was not have the decisions been made. My question was, is the Government giving consideration to replacing the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS with a group that would be located in the Department of Health. I am not asking him to make a definitive statement because it is, to my understanding, a process that is under discussion, but I would ask him specifically is that consideration being given.

I think it is an important question, and the question becomes even more pertinent given the fact that in his latest answer the Minister referenced education in schools as part of the mandate of this particular committee, based on its review of policies in other jurisdictions. I believe, quite frankly, that they are giving very serious consideration to replacing the Manitoba Education Council on Aids with a departmental committee that would undertake much of the work the council was doing. I would ask him, given that is only a belief based on what I have heard generally in the community, if that is an area that is under consideration by his Government.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect to my honourable friend, I would simply ask of him some patience. The direction of the committee when struck and its mandate will become abundantly evident to my

honourable friend. I am not going to indicate to him what decisions will flow from Government regarding this issue until those decisions are investigated, discussed and decided upon by Government. When those decisions are made, my honourable friend will be informed as will other Manitobans.

I regret that I am unable to share with him the planning process but my honourable friend, having been in Cabinet, knows that is something that one does not always share with Opposition Members either in this Government. I am not particularly anxious to share it with my honourable friend nor would my honourable friend in his tenure as Government have shared preliminary discussions on any policy direction that was being formulated. I do not want to play the games my honourable friend may want to play.

We will be announcing a direction which we think will be appropriate for AIDS education, AIDS policy formulation. The direction Government takes that policy will be in our estimation a reasonable policy, appropriate for the issue, and will be made public when decisions are made after consideration is given to various aspects. My honourable friend will only have to share some of the patience that I know he is legendary for for those announcements.

Mr. Chairman, I have got some information on immunization services for my honourable friend from Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), and I have information as to the last seven years of incidence of tuberculosis for the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan).

Mr. Cowan: The Minister is at least partially right in his response. One does not always share with those outside of the department or those outside of Government what one anticipates doing as part of the planning process as a Government. But he is only partially right.

There are other occasions when one does share with those outside of the department and outside of Government that planning process. It is really based on what you hope to accomplish and how many people are affected by the planning process. I will admit, quite frankly, that we were not a perfect Government in this area. We tried and we made some errors and we had some successes. In hindsight, I think we probably should have shared a bit more than we did, although I think we shared more than any Government previous to us did, and I believe this Government will share more yet or I hope they will, because I think that is the way in which the development of Government is evolving into a more open process.

I do not want to go into the history of it, but the Member has been in this House as long as I have and I think he has seen a change over a period of time. If one reflects back historically and reads what happened previously, one will see an even more major change with respect to the opening up of the Government process. I think that is beneficial. I wish we had done more and hope that he is more successful than we were in that area.

Having said that, there is a need for Cabinet secrecy and Cabinet solidarity and caucus secrecy and caucus

solidarity and keeping things under wrap from time to time, but that need is predicated on specific reasons. In this particular instance, if you are dealing with a body that is already existing that extends beyond Government, and you are dealing with an issue that is of such major and profound impact on so many people, I think you would want to open up the planning process rather than shut it down or close it.

I would, in this instance, then say that he is wrong with this approach, although in other instances he may well be right with that closed policy development process. He says that they are involved in a process now and I think, if one reads between the lines and it is easy enough to do in this House, the Minister is very clearly stating to us that is a plan that is under active consideration by the Government, particularly with this Minister because he will tell you flat out if he thinks you are wrong. If he has thought he has caught you on something, he will try to rub your face in it, quite frankly, and embarrass you. He has done neither in this particular instance, which just leads me to believe that either he has mellowed an awful lot in the last 25 minutes or there is some substance with respect to what is happening within the department.

So he said the process is as follows. There is decision making on whether or not to proceed, then it is discussed and then it is decided upon by the Government as to which course of action to take. I am going to encourage the Minister, if this is the process that they are undertaking, to broaden the planning process and to seek out input immediately so that people can buy into the process. I say that not in a derogatory sense but in a positive sense, so they can become a part of the process early on with respect to changes that they may be contemplating with regard to the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS and a departmental committee. I do not know if that is going to be good or bad, but I do know what will be negative is if they make this decision internally and they totally internalize it so that there is no input from those who are going to be most affected by it and then go out and try to implement it. It is just not going to work.

* (1610)

I believe the Manitoba Education Council on AIDS has great potential. I believe, if the Government uses it well, it can provide them with major benefits. I do not know what this Department of Health committee can do or will not do because I do not have any information regarding it. But I do know that if they are planning on changing a process, they should try to incorporate as much as possible the viewpoints of others in that planning process. I would suggest that they very quickly indicate publicly what they are planning to do here and involve as many people as possible in shaping that new committee. We may oppose it, we may support it. One cannot say until one sees the actual results of their work, but I can tell him that there will be opposition that maybe need not be there if it is a closed door process and done within a closed circle, and then tried to be implemented without that developmental process.

So that is advice I give him. He can take it; he can leave it. But everything he has told me today leads me

to believe that they are proceeding along that path. To what extent they will proceed, I do not know, but as they move along it, I hope they will take the advice of many others.

That concludes the comments I have with this particular area. I am saying that so that the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) can get back to his seat. I am saying that concludes my comments in this particular area, and I know he wants to pass this item and go on to other items, but I just want to say in closing that it is an issue that demands very much of all of us. It is one that is not an easy issue. It is one where there is a great difference of opinion honestly and sincerely held, with respect to how to approach this particular subject area.

But the advice I can give to the Minister is that if he approaches it with the intent of being open-minded, with the intent of trying to understand not only the specific of the problem but the causes and effects of the problem, and trying to understand the people involved, most involved with this particular problem and trying to relate to the extent possible to their concerns, to their needs, then he will come up with better solutions in the longer term. He has said things in the past which I imagine he does regret. We have all done that from time to time. We have them read back to us in this House from time to time as well.

I am certain if he searches through the record—the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation (Mrs. Mitchelson) finds some interest in that. She missed the part earlier where we were talking about her resolution last year on mandatory contact testing. Maybe she would like to stand up on the record and indicate if she still supports what she put forward in that resolution. But I do not think she will take that opportunity to do so because I think she would now have to deny that which she proposed earlier, and I do not think she wants to do that.

The fact is though, notwithstanding what has been said in the past, there is new information becoming available, and hopefully we are learning by that new information. I know my opinion on this and other subjects has changed over a period of time. I anticipate that it will change further as I become more learned, hopefully, in respect to what the issues are with any particular subject matter. I think we have to have the courage from time to time to say what was said in the past, in fact at that time was an opinion that we honestly held and an opinion that we believed in but maybe now, with new information, we are prepared to change a bit.

As Minister of Health, I think he has a responsibility to correct some of the statements that have been put on the record previously. Perhaps he will not take this opportunity to do so, but I think there will be other opportunities that are presented to him. I hope he will do so when that is the case.

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helwer: Item 2.(b)—pass.

Mr. Cowan: I appreciate the information which was provided to me. I believe probably some of this

information should go to other Members. I think I have all the copies of it. But on the information it states, new cases of tuberculosis, treaty Indian, non-treaty and total. Does that non-treaty column include non-Indians as well, or is that—that would be the general population, not just non-status and Metis? Thank you.

Mr. Orchard: That includes non-Native and Metis.

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helwer: Item 2.(c) Maternal and Child Health: (1) Salaries \$262,600; (2) Other Expenditures \$355,600; (3) External Agencies 633,600; for a total of \$1,251,800—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Last week I requested that a financial statement be made available for the in vitro fertilization program from Health Sciences. Could the Minister tell me if that information is available today or not, or could we have it at least for Monday?

Mr. Orchard: I think that would be a reasonable expectation.

Mr. Cheema: We will need that Monday so that we can have some discussion on the In Vitro Fertilization Program.

My question will start with the family planning clinics. Can the Minister tell us how many family practice clinics are existing in Manitoba, and can he have a breakdown for rural, urban and northern Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: Those activities, family planning activities, seminars, informational meetings are provided by two departmental family planning clinics, one in Brandon, one at St. Boniface, through the urban health centres, through Lac du Bonnet, through a rural health centre at Lac du Bonnet, as well as through our Public Health units.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us who is providing the family planning clinics in northern Manitoba? Is it the physicians who are doing it or are there separate clinics as such that we have in Brandon or other place? If not, why not?

Mr. Orchard: Physicians are providing that service in northern Manitoba.

Mr. Cheema: Considering the shortage of physicians and considering the shortage of other health care professionals in northern and rural Manitoba, on what basis has the decision been made that those clinics are not considered important in those areas?

Mr. Orchard: There has been no such decision made, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell us, why not expand these services to those areas?

Mr. Orchard: The physicians in northern Manitoba are providing that.

Mr. Cheema: As I have indicated earlier, there are certain communities that do not have physicians and

certain communities are so fragmented and they do not have as good an access to health services as other parts of Manitoba. I think it will be even better for those communities to have a clinic such as this rather than having a place where there are already enough numbers of physicians providing those services.

Could the Minister please consider at least a proposal to expand such services under those areas?

* (1620)

Mr. Orchard: My staff will give that consideration, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister tell me about these two clinics in more detail? Who is coordinating those clinics? Who is in charge? How do they communicate with the public? What is the reference system?

Mr. Orchard: Those services are provided by nurses on staff and physicians on contract within those facilities.

Mr. Cheema: Part of my question was, who is referring the patient there? What is the method being used to attract people to those clinics? What is the cost effectiveness of these particular clinics as compared to the services being provided by the family physicians or other primary health care centres?

Mr. Orchard: I think they are providing a balance to the service availability. Certainly no one expects, nor I think do the providers within the department expect, that they will be the sole vehicle for family planning in Manitoba, that we fund a number of external organizations who are involved. I think about four external organizations are funded, who provide with the assistance of Government funding and some substantial volunteer contribution, the opportunity for family planning throughout the Province of Manitoba. This is part of the range of service available throughout Manitoba. It appears to date to be a reasonably effective component.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell me what the major components are of these family planning clinics?

Mr. Orchard: Counselling, family planning supplies, birth control supplies, and reference to other sources of information, depending on the client's individual choice.

Mr. Cheema: Before I go to a further question, could the Minister tell me, who are these four agencies who receive funding for these special clinics and how much more they are receiving?

Mr. Orchard: Planned Parenthood is the one organization that is providing educational service; Serena Incorporated also provides counselling advice and service; Youville Clinic, again counselling and educational services; Committee on Unplanned Pregnancy is the fourth one; MACFE is the fifth one.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister please tell us what is the mechanism in place to evaluate the function of

these agencies? My next question will be, what is the target group of these specific family planning clinics? What other area are they addressing? Is there a special group they are targeting?

Mr. Orchard: The evaluation is the normal evaluation that we undertake through the department on any external funded agency wherein they provide to us their schedule of activities during the year to indicate to us how they have utilized our support funding in indicating the number of individuals that they have provided either informational services, educational services, counselling services, too depending on the nature of their undertaking. The efficacy of that service delivery is monitored by the department, but I am sure my honourable friend will understand that again is the less-than-precise science to indicate how effective any program is, although I think there is some indication that our efforts in targeting the young school age population, that we are having some success in terms of our educational programs and approach.

Mr. Cheema: I think the Minister indicated that they are just supplying birth control pills. What other form of counselling is being provided?

Mr. Orchard: Basically—not basically, comprehensively—a wide range of counselling on decisions in terms of the sexual activity information, the level of activity, all the counselling is very, very wide ranging and very much individual client responsive.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister indicate approximately how many clients are being served by these two clinics?

Mr. Orchard: Which two?

Mr. Cheema: The Brandon, as well as the Winnipeg.

Mr. Orchard: Nine hundred and eight in 1987 and St. Boniface, 316.

Mr. Cheema: Just for clarification, is that number a total 900 per year or is that per month?

Mr. Orchard: No, those are the annual figures.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us how many staff are working in each of the clinics serving 900 and 300 clients?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, the staffing is—first of all, the clinic in Brandon runs every other week and it is a little difficult to give you a definitive staff figure in terms of whether it would be half a staffperson or—that is not easy to determine. The number of individuals will vary, depending on how large an expected attendance there will be at a given meeting held biweekly.

Mr. Cheema: I think the importance of family planning clinics is extreme. They are very important but, if they are serving 900 clients and 300 clients, then what is the cost effectiveness of these types of clinic? We would like to know how many staff total are working, how

many support staff are there, what is the amount of grant being paid, what is the amount being spent on the counselling services and other services provided through these two clinics.

Mr. Orchard: I will tell you what we will try to do. Between now and Monday, we will attempt to find out how many hours of service or some semblance of the best guesstimate we have internally, but these are not as if the clinics run from nine till five. They are evening clinics. The staff go to them for several hours. There is, no doubt, some preparation for them, although for professional staff that is holding them on a regular basis it is a readily presented forum that they undertake. But we will attempt to give my honourable friend some idea as to how many hours of staff time dedication there is. It will not be a precise figure. However, it will be as good a guesstimate as we can put together for my honourable friend.

* (1630)

Mr. Cheema: We will wait for those answers because I do have a lot of questions regarding the efficacy of this program. Definitely this program has a role but, if it is not serving the purpose as a cost-effective measure, I think then we have to look at promoting the use of family planning clinics and maybe making them more efficient.

My next question will start with—about Government assessment of high-risk infants. Can the Minister tell us what kind of program this is? Is it available in Winnipeg, and what are the criteria of selection for this program? Do they have any study right now? Was there a study done last year? Do we have the findings?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that program my honourable friend refers to involves high-risk births and involves follow-up service and follow-up analysis, I guess would be a fair terminology, to assure that our program is meeting needs.

I do not know what my honourable friend wants to get out of this. Would he just try to give me an idea of what information you want, and I will try to provide it to you?

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairman, just to speed the process of Estimates, I will ask him four questions just to make sure what kind of program this is. First of all, how long has this program been there? What is the effectiveness of this program, and what have we learned from this program?

Mr. Orchard: I will have staff put together a brief little note and we will give that to you on Monday.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, earlier during the Estimates, the Honourable Minister indicated that we have a current program going on at Health Sciences Centre for low-birth infants, which is being followed for those patients who are in the intensive care nursery or the intermediate care nursery. Is that program a part of this assessment?

Mr. Orchard: No, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, we will wait for more details maybe on Monday.

We will move to the next topic of three-year-old assessment clinics. Would the Minister tell us if there is any clinic in Winnipeg?

Mr. Orchard: Let me see now, Child Health Clinics—no, the three-year-old assessments, here we are. There were 900 clinics held, 3,600 people in attendance, primarily in rural Manitoba because in Winnipeg most individuals see a private physician.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister tell us what is being learned from this program? Is there continuous follow-up, and how often are these children being seen, and what are the major complement of the assessment clinics?

Mr. Orchard: Clinics are providing physical growth and developmental assessment of those children, according to standards and protocol developed by the pediatricians.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us how long this program is there and could we have the results of this program for the last two years, and what is being done this year? Also what have we learned from that program? I ask a special question, what are the major complements of this program, other than growth and development? Are cardiologies being a part of this program, ophthalmology being part of this program?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, yes and yes. They project they are going to have 1,000 clinics this year with 4,000 in attendance; 1987-88, the estimated, because the figures are not final, are 900 clinics with 3,600 attending. The actual for '86-87 were 917 clinics with 3,063 in attendance; and in 1985-86, there were 517 clinics with 2,221 in attendance.

Mr. Cheema: Could the Minister indicate to us what kind of follow-up program is with the three-year-old assessment clinic? Who is coordinating that program, and who is communicating to the families and physicians?

Mr. Orchard: We are coordinating it, and the Public Health nurses are providing the information to the families.

Mr. Cheema: Could we have in this House the copies of those coordinating forms? Are there any special forms to see the efficacy of this program by individual families, by the individual physicians? Do we have any solid evidence how this program is being affected?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot indicate anything but what we think this program is reasonable and is effective. If my honourable friend, for instance, from a professional standpoint has some opinion to the contrary, I will be pleased to know because Government is always wanting to assure that their programs are working effectively.

Mr. Cheema: The intent of my question is just to see how might this program be effective and what is the

Thursday, November 10, 1988

cost effectiveness of this program and how we are following this program, and that is my question. Could we have some evaluation? Has there any study been done in the past, or are we conducting any study at present to see the efficacy of this program?

* (1640)

Mr. Orchard: Look, Mr. Chairman, I guess I am at a bit of a loss to give my honourable friend an answer. Over here, by spending on this component of the program, a portion of \$262,000 in Salary and a portion of—where am I with Other Expenditures?—\$355,000 of Other Expenditures, a portion of the \$633,00 funding to External Agencies which, no doubt, will have some impact on this program.

I cannot pull out how much this is costing and say that this has given us a benefit of \$4 for every dollar we invested. I would love to be able to do that for my honourable friend, but the one thing that these clinics are attempting to do is to give early assessment of children to try to identify problems early, because I think my honourable friend, particularly with his trained skills, will recognize that early identification of problems often leads to the most inexpensive resolution of those problems if they are curable or treatable problems. The purpose of this program is an attempt to provide potential problem identification at an early stage. I think we would all agree that we hope that the assessments of all three year olds would give them a perfect bill of health. Unfortunately, that does not always exist and, where it does not, we have with problem identification the ability to provide early treatment.

Mr. Cheema: We should not be affecting this program in terms of what kind of problem had been detected by having these visits. Could the Minister please indicate to us what are the major findings of this program? That is what I am asking. I am not questioning the motives of the program. I am asking the specific problems which had been identified through the evaluation.

Mr. Orchard: What we are unable to provide to my honourable friend is a quantitative output of how many three-year-olds of the 3,600 we assessed last year have a hearing problem or a sight problem or a dental problem. We cannot give you that information, but what we are providing in the majority here is a level of service availability to citizens who cannot readily access a pediatrician, such is the availability of service to most residents in the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, that is exactly what I am trying to get at, that we have a good program, as you say, and then we have identified the problems and we would like to know in which areas the problem has been identified so that follow-up can be done. What kind of mechanism do we have to follow those patients?

Mr. Orchard: They are referred to the specialist providing the treatment for the identified problem. I am not right up on my specialists. But I would think that if there was a problem with teething identified, an orthodontist might be referenced or referred to. If there

was a problem with hearing, possibly an ear, nose and throat physician might be referenced. If there was a problem with—well, my son was born with his toes turned in too much. We took him to a doctor and the doctor gradually put casts on to get his feet pointed straight. It worked, and I am thankful for that.

Mr. Cheema: I do not think the Minister has answered my question. What I am saying is that if there are problems, could we have a breakdown of those problems? I would like to know how many of those patients are being followed up? Prevention is the cornerstone. That is why we are providing these services. Could we have a breakdown of those maybe Monday or Tuesday if not today?

Mr. Orchard: We do not collect that kind of information. I am sorry, I cannot provide it to my honourable friend.

What I will do is what we will do in the Estimates development process is we will find out how much it is going to cost us to implement the kind of information that my honourable friend wants. Then I am going to have to make a decision as the Minister of Health as to whether I am going to spend the money on information collections so I can tell them what the problems are or whether I am going to see more children and identify those problems and have them referenced. I think from the outset my preference is going to be to expand the program to see more children rather than give my honourable friend detailed information that we simply do not have. The program is providing service to Manitobans who cannot access pediatricians. Particularly in rural Manitoba, it appears to be an effective program. If it is not, then I would take any advice my honourable friend might be willing to give us in terms of future directions to the program.

Mr. Cheema: We are not questioning the program. We are simply asking the question that when you identify the problems, that those problems should be followed up. We are not saying programs should be expanded. How can you follow up the problem when you do not have the numbers?

Mr. Orchard: They are followed up. The whole idea is to identify the problem and have it followed up for the child.

Mr. Cheema: Who is following those problems?

Mr. Orchard: The parents.

Mr. Cheema: To learn from this program, to identify certain sections of the problem which are more prevalent in certain parts of Manitoba so that we can find some kind of prevention program or teach the public or teach the parents or the physicians all the other stuff, that is what should be done. That is what I am asking. Unless we have the numbers, how can we tell if their problem is more prevalent than the other. Could the Minister at least consider that?

Mr. Orchard: I thank my honourable friend for his concerns and I will give them due consideration.

Mr. Cheema: Thank you.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): In regard to the three-year-old assessment clinics, the Minister I believe indicated that primarily the clinics were conducted in rural Manitoba—I would assume that probably all of the clinics are conducted in rural Manitoba—and he indicated that it was done in rural Manitoba because there is less access to physicians. The Minister is then indicating that in the City of Winnipeg that individuals have more access to their physicians.

He also indicated that part of that screening that was done, part of the assessment was in regard to physical growth and development assessment. Could he indicate, is the Denver Developmental Screening Test one of the primary methods used in that assessment?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think my reference to service outside of Winnipeg was not to physicians but to pediatricians.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister then clarify, given that we were providing this service in rural Manitoba and not in Winnipeg, I would then assume that the Department of Health feels that in fact assessments are being conducted by pediatricians? Do pediatricians routinely use the Denver Developmental Screening Test as part of assessments?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot provide that information. Staff does not have it.

Ms. Gray: I would assume that in fact pediatricians do not routinely use that particular type of screening tool, and I would ask the Minister of Health does he see a need for three-year-old assessment clinics in Winnipeg, or is he as Minister, and his staff in his department, feel comfortable with the fact that this type of assessment of what is being provided in the assessment clinics in rural Manitoba, that that type of service is actually getting to the people in the City of Winnipeg through pediatricians?

* (1650)

Mr. Orchard: I am having a little difficulty following the line of discussion here from my honourable friends in the Liberal Party. Are you saying that the professionals in Winnipeg are not providing as good a service as the department is in terms of three-year-old assessment? Are you saying that we ought not to have that in rural Manitoba and that Government ought not to fund it? I am certain you are not saying that? And, you know, Mr. Chairman, the best thing I can do is to offer my honourable friend from Ellice's comments in Hansard, when it is printed, over to the College of Physicians and Surgeons and they might wish to somehow pursue her concerns.

Ms. Gray: The Minister is trying to present a side issue or avoid the main question. He must be aware as Minister that in fact with various professionals in the health care field, they do provide a variety of services

and a variety of specialties to clients, so that in fact in rural Manitoba where it is primarily the Public Health nurses who provide these three-year-old assessment clinics, that in fact the type of service that they provide is somewhat different than what a pediatrician or a physician provides, and there is a place for all professionals within the health care system.

My question is for the Minister. If in fact we were conducting these assessments in rural Manitoba because of the fact that pediatricians are not as available, I am assuming that the Minister of Health and his staff are comfortable with the fact that this specific type of assessment, such as the Denver Developmental Screening, is being done or is at least accessible and available for individuals within the City of Winnipeg, and could he answer that for me?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that for my honourable friend. It is an assessment system that is used in rural Manitoba. It is, I presume, a reasonably effective assessment system.

Now, I cannot answer for my honourable friend whether the Public Health nurses using this assessment system do a better job than pediatricians in Winnipeg not using them. I simply cannot answer that.

Is my honourable friend saying that the children of three years of age in Winnipeg, because they do not have access to this program as in rural Manitoba, are being underserved? Is that what she is saying? If that is what she is saying, then that is a need identification we will take under consideration; but if she is simply saying that she wants to establish a system of service in Winnipeg which will add to services available without enhancing the quality result, the identification of problems at additional cost, without additional benefit, then I have to tell my honourable friend that I will not give that consideration.

If she is saying that the pediatricians of Winnipeg are not adequately serving the people, then please let me know. We will have it investigated and we will assess the needs and the costs but, if she is asking me to provide a duplicate and parallel system in Winnipeg for reasons that do not reflect an improvement or filling a gap in service or a need in service, then I am sorry I cannot accede to that. What is she suggesting? Are the children of Winnipeg underserved by the pediatricians?

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us why there are child health conferences held in the City of Winnipeg when we have a large number of professionals—pediatricians, specialists in child medical health—why we hold child health conferences in the City of Winnipeg?

Mr. Orchard: I would presume to provide a form of education.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister indicate, is the Denver Developmental Screening Test something that is conducted routinely at child health conferences in Winnipeg?

Mr. Orchard: I am told that those conferences involve information provision on immunization and infant feeding primarily.

Ms. Gray: In fact Denver Developmental Screening Tests are not routinely conducted at child health conferences?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I am not indicating that. If my honourable friend can tell me if they are, they are not, please do and get on with the point you are trying to make. I fail to see where this conversation is leading to. Do you have a suggestion, as your Leader has often said that you are going to be an Opposition that comes up with suggestions that are good and positive? If you are leading to a suggestion, just make it.

Ms. Gray: Could the Minister tell us, and again he may have to get this information from his staff, has there been a suggestion in previous years that the three-year-old assessments should be expanded into the City of Winnipeg?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, before we get into that, will my honourable friend come up with her suggestion. What are you leading to? You shook your head when I said no, that it was immunization information and infant feeding information. You shook your head as if you had some great revelation. What is it so we can maybe help you get through whatever problem you have got?

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I do not have a problem. I simply asked a simple question and I would assume that with four staff from the department and the Minister they could answer if in fact Denver Developmental Screening Tests are something that are routinely carried out at child health conferences. It may have changed since I was within the Department of Health. I am asking a simple question.

Mr. Orchard: Routinely, I am informed, no.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I am assuming that we may have a difference of opinion as to how one defines "routinely."

Could the Minister indicate to us, has there been a change in policy given that child health conferences within the last two to three years, that Public Health nurses did Denver Developmental Screening Tests with young children at specific ages? Now that used to be what was routinely done. Can the Minister indicate if there has been a change and that does no longer occur?

Mr. Orchard: Bingo. They were done. Bingo. They are done from time to time.

Ms. Gray: I would like to indicate—and I have some further questions on child health conferences and the three-year-old assessment clinics—that in fact the reason there are specific needs that are identified by clients and by families who utilize child health conferences and the three-year-old assessment clinics and various professionals such as Public Health nurses and home economists and physicians or pediatricians all have a role to play in various types of services that they provide to the clients. So no one on this side of

the House, as much as the Minister of Health would like to attempt to put on the record, is suggesting that pediatricians do not provide a valuable service to individuals.

What we are trying to attempt to do on this side of the House is to get an indication from this Minister and from his staff as to which programs are currently being carried out in the Maternal and Child Health Program. The Honourable Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) has asked some very valid questions about evaluation of these programs if in fact they are deemed to be cost effective. We are asking these questions because when you are providing staff years and resources, it is important to know if we are doing an adequate job. It is important for the people of Manitoba to know that in fact their dollars are being spent wisely. We have had difficulty in getting responses which are clear from this Minister this afternoon. But he has got three days to get ready for Monday. We will hope that when Monday comes we will have some better answers and more clarification on these specific programs.

Mr. Orchard: As I indicated to my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), the evaluation is not available. But yet without that evaluation, my honourable friend from the Liberal Party wants the program expanded. Now that does not seem to make good policy. Maybe I am missing something that my honourable friend from the Liberal Party will give us further information on and we will know what they are trying to say. Today, this afternoon, it has been a little confusing.

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helwer: The Member for Kildonan, the time has expired.

Mr. Cheema: Just one second.

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helwer: Okay, the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I just want to correct the record that on Monday night, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) was not the only person who wanted to end committee that night. I just want to make the correction on the record.

* (1700)

The Acting Chairman, Mr. Helwer: The hour being 5 p.m., it is time for Private Members' Hour. Committee rise.

IN SESSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Edward Helwer (The Acting 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 Member for Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer), that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

**DEBATE ON SECOND READINGS—
PUBLIC BILLS**

**BILL NO. 2—THE BUSINESS NAMES
REGISTRATION AMENDMENT ACT**

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 2, The Business Names Registration Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur L'enregistrement des noms commerciaux, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

**BILL NO. 3—THE CORPORATIONS
AMENDMENT ACT**

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), Bill No. 3, The Corporations Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur les corporations, standing in the name of the Honourable Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae). (Stand)

* (1710)

**BILL NO. 13—THE MANITOBA
HYDRO AMENDMENT ACT**

Mr. Speaker: On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Hydro-Manitoba, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Gimli (Mr. Helwer)

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): It is indeed an honour and a pleasure to stand and speak and make some comments on Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), his Act, since we do not agree with it, Hydro will not be affected by the Free Trade Agreement. I think we have that on good account by a number of—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Helwer: This is a paper put out by the Canadian Alliance for Trade Job Opportunities. I would hope the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) would read this. I think he could probably get enlightened.

Also, there have been a number of groups, a number of very credible groups who have said that energy will not be affected by the Free Trade Agreement and I am sure that these are all very credible groups. Another report says that free trade in energy will help our energy business thrive and in this way, if we can help our energy thrive, it will also help create jobs in Manitoba, jobs and economic development. That is what we need in Manitoba, not taking away things. Certainly, we can use it to support Manitoba. We can use it to support Manitoba—

An Honourable Member: Speaking against the churches, Ed.

Mr. Helwer: —support some industries.

An Honourable Member: When is the last time you have seen the inside of a church?

Mr. Helwer: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. The Free Trade Agreement, I am sure, will not affect the churches of Manitoba or of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure Honourable Members want to grant courtesy to the Honourable Member for Gimli who is attempting to get his remarks on the record.

Mr. Helwer: I think our energy in Manitoba is a very important item to Manitoba, to us, and to this Government, not like the past Government where they just gave it away to the Americans for less money than they charged our Canadian friends, our Canadian customers, our Canadian industries.

How can we provide jobs in Manitoba —(Interjection)— Certainly we will. Free trade will help. Some of the things that we can do in Manitoba to provide jobs for Manitobans with the hydro-electric power such as an aluminum smelter, but it is difficult to because of the former things the former Governments brought in such as the payroll tax, items such that are very difficult to attract industry into the Province of Manitoba now. It is going to take us at least a couple of terms to get rid of some of the things such as the payroll tax, to bring in new initiatives, to bring in some industry into Manitoba, so we can use this hydro-electric power at home rather than export it to the United States and give it to the Americans.

We would much rather create employment in Manitoba for our young people than—there are many other benefits to the Free Trade Agreement that are also really energy-related. In Manitoba, if the Free Trade Agreement comes in, we can look at savings for up to \$6 to \$600 to \$1,000 per household, if we can get the Free Trade Agreement through.

Also in the construction and furnishings for a new house, if you would like to build a new house in Manitoba, you can save yourself between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Helwer: Other things that the Free Trade Agreement will do is improve the climate for our business people and that in turn will provide jobs. We can look forward to 12,000 new jobs in Manitoba over the next 10 years if we can get this Free Trade Agreement in. This includes everything, including energy, including the Manitoba Hydro, including companies that are going to be high energy intensive. These are benefits that Manitobans need and people of Canada need.

Some of the other items that are going to benefit Manitoba and especially western Canada and Manitoba is some of the commodities in agriculture, in the wheat. Malting barley is another example. We are shipping malting barley to the United States and this will increase under the Free Trade Agreement. What is wrong with

shipping our barley to the United States? If our barley can make better beer, if the Americans want it, why not give it to them.- (Interjection)- Sell it to them, right. Of course, sell it to them.

Canola is another item that is very important and has a great potential. I am sure that over the next number of years we can see great increases in the export of canola and canola oil. This again - (Interjection)- Certainly I can get back to that if you like, to the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman).

Some of the other items that the Americans want that we have in Canada, that we have ready for export, and would benefit Canadians, benefit Manitobans and benefit the farmers of Manitoba are such as flax, flax seed, hogs, cattle and oats. Oats, that is an item that is getting in real short supply.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Helwer: The Opposition and the Leader of your federal counterparts there say that we are going to take away the marketing board and things of that nature. That is not right. Turkeys, chickens, things like this are protected in Manitoba. They will continue to be protected under the Free Trade Agreement.

What about the increased export market for high-quality cattle? The Americans are interested in our livestock and certainly there is a demand down there. We have the production in Canada. We have the capabilities to produce these things in Canada. Under the Free Trade Agreement, certainly this will benefit Manitoba, create jobs in Manitoba and help our farmers grow and prosper. Our Opposition here were using scare tactics to try to prevent people from voting for the Free Trade Agreement that would benefit all Manitobans.

They have come up with the idea in the last couple of days that we should have a referendum. Did the Liberals have a referendum on the metric system when they brought it in? No, that was under the Trudeau administration. They just forced it on us. Once it is in, you cannot very well drop it.- (Interjection)- We did not have any choice though, we do not have any choice. That was one of the things that we are going to regret for many, many years. How can the Liberals criticize our Free Trade Agreement now and say we should have a referendum, when we did not have that opportunity under their former administration? They are scaring people -(Interjection)-

What about the scare tactics you are trying to use in our social programs such as the pensions and health care. There will be no such things and these things are protected in the Free Trade Agreement. These are basic items that we certainly have no intention—our Prime Minister and our federal—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Helwer: The hydro will not be given away under the Free Trade Agreement and certainly the hydro is no different than our other social programs; it will not be given away under any circumstances.

What about the Opposition who said the Free Trade Agreement would create regional subsidies? This is not

right. It is time we in western Canada should get some of the benefits of our production here, of the entrepreneurs here in western Canada so we can export our products into the United States. It will give us a market that certainly we have never had and this will make western Canada grow and prosper like never before.

One of the items that the Member for Lac du Bonnet (Mr. Praznik) said the other day, he spoke about what the Japanese banks said, and I will quote this: "A Japanese bank is quoted in the report as saying 'The Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement is very important to Japanese investors who view North America as one market. If the Free Trade Agreement goes ahead it will enhance the attractiveness of Canada as a place to invest.'" This is a Japanese bank, Research Institute remarks, Mr. Speaker.

These are other benefits that we can certainly acquire from the Free Trade Agreement so that we can prosper in western Canada.

What about the Western Perspective? The Canada West Foundation is also another very credible company. The foundation says that a reduction in tariffs and other import restrictions will benefit consumers through more choice of products. Local real prices and costs will increase purchasing power for our Canadians and Manitoba people. What is wrong with increasing the purchasing power of our Manitobans?

An Honourable Member: It is all over.

Mr. Helwer: The polls are good. It is not over, I can assure you. I have one minute. Thank you.

I guess one of the other main things in the agreement is the fact that we will have a vehicle that we can settle disputes because there will always be disputes for many, many years to come. In the Free Trade Agreement, one of the main things is the vehicle to settle the disputes we may have. This comes at a very excellent time when the Americans are becoming more protectionist.

I think that concludes my remarks, but we certainly support the free trade.

* (1720)

HOUSE BUSINESS

Hon. James McCrae (Attorney-General): Mr. Speaker, I am not rising to seek the floor to make a speech. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper) will be pleased about that. I am just arising to announce that the Standing Committee on Public Utilities and Natural Resources will meet on Tuesday at 10 a.m., in Room 255, to continue its deliberations on the consideration of the Annual Report of the Manitoba Telephone System.

**BILL NO. 13—THE MANITOBA HYDRO
AMENDMENT ACT (Cont'd)**

Mr. Elijah Harper (Rupert's Land): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak on this Bill No. 13, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act. This is a very important Bill that was introduced by my colleague, the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie). I can advise the Members in this House that we are very concerned about our resources, and also about the selling of our resources to the United States.

I can also speak with experience about signing of treaties with a big country. When we signed our treaties with Canada we have yet to receive many of the benefits. I feel the same kind of comparison can be made with this Free Trade Agreement that we are making with the United States. We do not fully understand what is in the agreement, the long-term effects it is going to have on Canada. We should not sign anything that we do not understand. I say that to you from experience, and also the experience the aboriginal people have had in this country for over 100 years.

An Honourable Member: Your forefathers.

Mr. Harper: My forefathers have signed it. Those people say and assure us, trust us, they say, a leap of faith, that we should take their concerns and trust them that they will protect the interests of Canada. I am very concerned about the aboriginal people because Canada has still outstanding obligations to the original people of this country. Resources like hydro should be benefiting the aboriginal people in Manitoba. Yet many of the northern communities in northern Manitoba do not even have hydro services.

Yet when those resources in the development of hydro took place, including the Liberal Government, the Conservative Government and many other Governments have destroyed the traditional lifestyles of many of the aboriginal people, flooded their lands for the benefit many of the Canadians and Manitoba have received. Yet the first citizens, the first people of this country, the people who received people from various parts of this world and welcomed them to this country, are still poor. They still have poor housing, no safe water supply, water and sewage, unemployment running as high as 90 percent. We signed an agreement with Canada and yet we have not received any benefits. That is why I caution Members in this House and the people of Manitoba, what are we entering into with the United States? I do not want Brian Mulroney to sell Canada before at least it has fulfilled its obligations to the people of this country.

I can give you an example of what is happening in Canada because of the pressure that Brian Mulroney, the federal Government, received with the Lubicon land claims. Getty jumped in to help out the situation because of the federal election. I can tell you that the federal Government after the election will not pursue the matter with the Indian people, because that has been our experience, and action or inaction speaks louder than words.

Even then ourselves, when we signed the Treaty Land Entitlement by passing an Order-in-Council and referred

it to the Minister of Indian Affairs, as a matter of fact, changed some of the negotiations that we negotiated for; a complete change without even consulting the Indian people and also the provincial Government.

That is why I say this agreement will not benefit the aboriginal people in Manitoba. We are cautious as to what will happen. We are concerned about regional development initiatives, about the Northern Development Agreement, the Special ARDA agreement. Those agreements will expire in 1989 and we are concerned as to what subsidies do they mean by the word "subsidies." They have not defined it.

In most of the northern communities, we do not have the resources to start promoting economic development on many of the reserves. We need the assistance of the Governments. As a matter of fact, in the Canadian Constitution there is recognition of regional disparities and recognition that there should be equalization of payments to poorer provinces and different regions of Canada. Yet the Free Trade Agreement goes against that principle which is the fundamental principle in our Constitution, to recognize different aspects of the different parts of this country, Saskatchewan, Alberta, B.C., right up to the Atlantic provinces, and a different mosaic of this country, not like the United States, a melting pot. We have to protect this unique country of ours in which our own sovereignty should be exercised without the interference of the United States.

Indian people actually had a guarantee to sign an agreement called the Day Treaty which was promised by the United States and also Great Britain, which meant the free movement of goods between borders. It has never been fully implemented, never been fully exercised. Because of the free trade deal, many of the aspects of the free trade deal will have an impact as to how we do business in our province and also in the country. I feel that the free trade will have a devastating impact on the aboriginal communities in the North, in our own communities. In terms of determining our own future, they say that we should establish an equal level playing field, but the United States, they want their rules to apply, not our Canadian rules to apply.

I have done a lot of reading and I speak with experience when they are signing treaties. We should learn a lesson from the Indian people in this country about making deals with a greater power than us, greater power that the United States has. I hope this Government will consult and also get the opinions from the Native leaders in the Province of Manitoba to solicit their views because I know that many of the aboriginal organizations, the aboriginal people do not support free trade. It is up to this Government to ensure that the rights of aboriginal people are protected and I expect to see the Government fulfilling that.

I see many things being questioned, even the Treaty Land Entitlement toward the land claims being questioned because it relates to the free trade thing which we are trying to protect in our resources. Subsidies, even if you establish an industry on the reserves and it becomes non-taxable because it is on the reserve, that could be viewed as a subsidy, unfair competition not favourable with the United States. So there are many questions that have to be answered

by this Government. I hope this Government will see many of the aboriginal organizations and hear them out about the free trade issue.

I am speaking from experience about many of the resources. Most of the resources that go to the United States, because we have to sell our hydro where the rates are the same price as we make it available to our own people. How can we convince American companies to come into the Province of Manitoba if we sell the same rate of power as to the United States? There should be an incentive for them to come to Manitoba because it is a lot closer, it is our own resource and we should be able to dictate the rates that these companies pay. They would be able to produce jobs.

If we offer the same rate, same price that the consumers are paying here in Manitoba to the companies in the United States, they would not be coming into Manitoba. There would probably be manufacturers setting up industries or manufacturing goods in the United States, south of us here. That is why I say that there should be sovereignty, at least to be able to make decisions for ourselves in terms of our own business, our own resources and not to sell our resources away and make it available to the U.S., as we have completely in the Free Trade Agreement with respect to energy.

* (1730)

I speak with experience when I say the Member speaks for the rights of aboriginal people, that we have given up these resources that have not been fulfilled, the resources that were given away. So it is not only for the rich people. Certainly, the aboriginal people have not received their share of resources. Those agreements that the Member refers to, I can tell you that after the election they are not going to be issues in the forefront of this Government. I have seen Brian Mulroney speak on national TV about aboriginal rights, not even one can mention that they should call a First Ministers' Conference on aboriginal matters. Our Leader, Ed Broadbent, called for the First Ministers' Conference to deal with aboriginal rights. Brian Mulroney to say that the circle is not complete without aboriginal people, that is just cheap talk.

An Honourable Member: Your Leader speaks with forked tongue.

Mr. Harper: You speak with blue tongue.

We are concerned about the vision of this country. We want to be part of this country and the resources like Manitoba Hydro. We want to be able to control our own resources for the benefit of our own people. I have said here that we still have communities, Red Sucker Lake, my home town, still has 15-amp service—Garden Hill, Gods Lake, Oxford House, those communities. We, as a Government, promised to fulfill the hydro service in those areas. We approached the federal Government. I hope the Members opposite from the federal Government, I mean from the Opposition, were able to reach agreement with the federal Government in achieving an agreement to receive that, because we were in the process of negotiating with the

federal Government. As I know, they have been included that in their Throne Speech, and I look forward to getting achievement on that.

In conclusion, I speak on behalf of my constituents, mostly aboriginal people, about our resources like hydro and our natural resources and the sovereignty of this country, and also the free trade that we are about to sign if Brian Mulroney is to win this election.

I speak with experience, so I hope that the Members here will listen to the aboriginal people about their caution proceeding with the Free Trade Agreement. Thank you.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): I wish to rise on this particular Bill and I will speak on exactly what it was intended, the thought in mind, on free trade. First of all, it is some degree of concern of mine that I rise this afternoon to debate on such an important issue facing not only the future of this province but also the future of this country.

Mr. Speaker, the debate on free trade has degenerated, at least to my mind, in these past weeks as a result of scare tactics and fearmongering which have been initiated almost entirely by the Liberal Party of Canada, but with the New Democratic Party contributing in no small way. As much as I try to discern some sort of rational logic in the Liberal tactics and the Liberal rhetoric, I find none and so I have to call it as I see it. It is a classic case of crass political opportunism. Mr. Turner has been ideologuing and continues to indulge shamelessly in overblown rhetoric and outright distortions of this commercial agreement.

Mr. Speaker, before I discuss the reasons why this Free Trade Agreement is good for this province and this country, I wish to give a short preamble on the political opportunism which has characterized the federal elections and which I know will fail the Liberals because the Canadian people are starting to see under the bluster of John Turner. The Liberals and the Liberal Party of Canada have no vision for this country, have no economic platform for this country and have not presented a credible—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. Order! The Honourable Member for Concordia, on a point of order.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the present Member is not addressing the Bill before this Chamber and by any latitude he is far beyond into a dispirited attempt to defend their federal brethren.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order. The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, in preambuling on Bill No. 13, I have suggested that the Liberal Party has presented no alternative to the Conservative Party's agenda for this country's affairs which is underlined by the Free Trade Agreement.

The New Democrat Party's opposition to the Free Trade Agreement is largely based on a protectionist

point of view dictated somewhat by the largest individual backers, the various and sundry unions, which dot this country. Further, Mr. Speaker, the N.D. Party opposes the Free Trade Agreement because they believe that a Government should intervene more strongly in the economy and that Government somehow can perform tasks and create wealth better than its own citizens. Mr. Speaker, I must say that I fundamentally disagree with my Opposition, N.D. Party friends, on this point. However, it is at least, I must say, an intelligent honest approach for them to take based on their Party's general philosophy and principles.

More curious is the view of the federal Liberal Party in which they are joined by the Manitoba Liberal Party in opposing the Free Trade Agreement. We will certainly hear from Mr. Turner and the Leader of the Opposition that this particular agreement they oppose, that they are for freer trade, but their stringent rhetoric, particularly Mr. Turner's stringent rhetoric, has eclipsed by far even that of the NDP. That is certainly telling of the desperation and the moral bankruptcy of the current Liberals and their provincial Party wing here in Manitoba.

It is fascinating to see the once proud Liberal Party of Canada reduced to this type of rhetoric. The lack of intellectual honesty or underpinning of Mr. Turner's statements and his shameless approach to the free trade issue would only hasten his demise from the Canadian political landscape.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, who are socialists, as our friends, the NDP, have recently signed an agreement to end all trade barriers between their two countries within five years. They have done so after signing an agreement in 1983 which provided for a reduction in trade barriers and tariff barriers which accounted for doubling of trade between the two countries with no evidence of ill effects.

As I stated earlier, the N.D. Party have followed the Liberals in indulging in low shameless tactics in their opposition to this deal. Yet in his more thoughtful moments, the Leader of the N.D. Party, Ed Broadbent, has brought forward at least reasoned argument, based on NDP philosophy, which places faith, undue faith in my opinion, on the ability of Government to generate wealth and prosperity, as opposed to the wealth and prosperity being generated by the people themselves.

* (1740)

Mr. Speaker, this explains the Liberals inflamed rhetoric in the absence of reasoned argument, in the absence of any intellectual underpinning to their opposition. They distort and confuse, speak loudly and yell slogans. Unfortunately, to be a Liberal in 1988, is to be part of a shameless exercise, which I might add, does much to add to the public cynicism about the political Parties and the political process.

The Liberals especially have failed to deliver any economic blueprint for the balance of the 20th Century. With that admittedly lengthy preamble, let us talk about the Free Trade Agreement, what it means for our nation and specifically for the province. The lengthy preamble was needed because the current so-called free trade

debate is mostly about what it is not in the agreement than what is actually in this commercial agreement.

Mr. Turner has been forced to create the boogeyman which he now purports to defend Canadians against. But let us not talk about what is not in the agreement. The main features of the Free Trade Agreement are the elimination of tariffs, at least the progressive elimination of tariffs, from January '89, to January of 1998. It also deals with the trade liberalization of services, safeguards for existing industries, a procedure for managing adjustment problems which will safeguard us against rising U.S. protectionism and finally for model lateral trade negotiations for the world at large.

It will provide, Mr. Speaker, a much needed model for the current and ongoing GATT negotiations. The Western Perspectives, a publication put out by the Canada-West Foundation recently, published an evaluation of the Free Trade Agreement and how it will affect western Canada and specifically the four western provinces.

For Manitoba, it predicts a net benefit to the province with the Free Trade Agreement. The effect of the Free Trade Agreement will not be as great in Manitoba as it will be to our three western neighbours. This is because we do not have as much reliance on a resource-based economy as our three western neighbours, so consequently the net effect of this trade agreement on Manitoba will not be as important. Nonetheless, Manitoba will do better under this agreement. More importantly, perhaps, is that this commercial agreement will facilitate and generate a more favourable business and investment climate in this province.

Northern Manitoba, in particular, will do well under the Free Trade Agreement, and it is with some irony that the MLAs from these areas are against the trade deal. Mining in Thompson, Flin Flon, Lynn Lake, will all benefit; forestry in The Pas will benefit. Mr. Speaker, it will be good for our Hydro industries, which are mostly situated in northern Manitoba.

Our agricultural sector will do better under the Free Trade Agreement as well. While the City of Winnipeg will also be better with the expansion of activities both in northern Manitoba and in the agricultural-based rural economy of southern Manitoba. Expansion of these sectors will have important spinoffs for our construction, transportation and other service industries.

Mr. Speaker, under the previous Liberal administration which governed this nation in the late Sixties, through the Seventies and in the early Eighties—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order. I am sure you would want to give the courtesy to the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs to finish his remarks.

Mr. Ducharme: The philosophy of the federal Government of the Day was that you could spend and borrow your way to prosperity. A budget deficit and a little inflation was all that was needed to spur economic growth. But now western countries, including Canada, Mr. Speaker, have learned that the Government's role should be to keep downward pressure on inflation and to create an environment with private enterprise and

initiative can flourish. Governments do not create wealth, only people do. The Government's role is to provide policies to encourage them to do it.

Finally, I would like to say that this commercial Free Trade Agreement negotiated between the federal Government and the U.S. Government is part of a worldwide trend toward the lowering of trade barriers and tariffs. In the last 40 years since Canada became a founding member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, known as GATT, the level of tariffs worldwide have diminished between 75 percent and 90 percent.-(Interjection)- You will get your turn. During this same time, world trade has quadrupled. Canadian output after inflation has increased five times. Our standard of living has tripled.

The Opposition Parties have claimed that the commercial Free Trade Agreement is somehow disassociated from GATT. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Free Trade Agreement only continues a process which GATT began and eliminates the final 20 percent of the remaining tariffs of goods progressively in the following decade. Mr. Speaker, it is possible, however, that the Free Trade Agreement will be a model for GATT as a dispute settlement mechanism, which is embodied in the agreement, has binding rulings, whereas GATT's rulings currently are not. If anything, this stabilizes the trade even more between the two countries.

Mr. Speaker, I will touch briefly upon the question of our social programs. I believe that much of the fears generated by the Opposition Parties have been allayed in the past week as eminent Canadians such as Mr. Emmett Hall, the father of Medicare, have come to the rescue of truth of these points. What I will say on the issue of social programs is this, it does not matter which Government is in power and how much the desire they want to protect and enhance social programs, Mr. Speaker. If the economic base of the country is weak,

no Government will be able to provide Medicare, Unemployment Insurance, etc., as we know them today. So, yes, there is a relation between our social programs and the commercial Free Trade Agreement. It is this, only through a vibrant and solid economy are we able to provide these social programs. Our economic well-being depends largely in this country on trade. As trade becomes more global in nature, so must all countries, including Canada, adjust.

As Europe has now moved to freer trade, New Zealand and Australia have moved to freer trade. The Far East countries have flourished under the liberalized market, so must Canada now throw its hat in the ring and enter and prepare for the 21st Century and will become more global in nature.

Canadians have never been afraid of trading, Mr. Speaker. In fact, more than most countries in the world, we depend on trade because of our small domestic market. I am confident that when Canadians take all the information on the commercial Free Trade Agreement they will understand that it is the necessary step in assuring—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Member's time has expired.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Transcona (Mr. Kozak), that debate be adjourned on this Bill.

MOTION presented and carried.

* (1750)

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to call it six o'clock? (Agreed)

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday.