



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

DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)

37 Elizabeth II

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Speaker*



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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fourth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

| NAME | CONSTITUENCY | PARTY |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| ALCOCK, Reg | Osborne | LIBERAL |
| ANGUS, John | St. Norbert | LIBERAL |
| ASHTON, Steve | Thompson | NDP |
| BURRELL, Parker | Swan River | PC |
| CARR, James | Fort Rouge | LIBERAL |
| CARSTAIRS, Sharon | River Heights | LIBERAL |
| CHARLES, Gwen | Selkirk | LIBERAL |
| CHEEMA, Gulzar | Kildonan | LIBERAL |
| CHORNOPYSKI, William | Burrows | LIBERAL |
| CONNERY, Edward Hon. | Portage la Prairie | PC |
| COWAN, Jay | Churchill | NDP |
| CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon. | Ste. Rose du Lac | PC |
| DERKACH, Leonard, Hon. | Roblin-Russell | PC |
| DOER, Gary | Concordia | NDP |
| DOWNEY, James Hon. | Arthur | PC |
| DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon. | Emerson | PC |
| DRIEDGER, Herold, L. | Niakwa | LIBERAL |
| DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon. | Riel | PC |
| EDWARDS, Paul | St. James | LIBERAL |
| ENNS, Harry | Lakeside | PC |
| ERNST, Jim, Hon. | Charleswood | PC |
| EVANS, Laurie | Fort Garry | LIBERAL |
| EVANS, Leonard | Brandon East | NDP |
| FILMON, Gary, Hon. | Tuxedo | PC |
| FINDLAY, Glen Hon. | 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 |
| MANNESS, Clayton, Hon. | Morris | PC |
| McCRAE, James Hon. | Brandon West | PC |
| MINENKO, Mark | Seven Oaks | LIBERAL |
| MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon. | River East | PC |
| NEUFELD, Harold, Hon. | Rossmere | PC |
| OLESON, Charlotte Hon. | Gladstone | PC |
| ORCHARD, Donald Hon. | Pembina | PC |
| PANKRATZ, Helmut | La Verendrye | PC |
| PATTERSON, Allan | Radisson | LIBERAL |
| PENNER, Jack, Hon. | Rhineland | PC |
| PLOHMAN, John | Dauphin | NDP |
| PRAZNIK, Darren | Lac du Bonnet | PC |
| ROCAN, Denis, Hon. | Turtle Mountain | PC |
| ROCH, Gilles | Springfield | LIBERAL |
| ROSE, Bob | St. Vital | LIBERAL |
| STORIE, Jerry | Flin Flon | NDP |
| TAYLOR, Harold | Wolseley | LIBERAL |
| URUSKI, Bill | Interlake | NDP |
| WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy | St. Johns | NDP |
| YEO, Iva | Sturgeon Creek | LIBERAL |

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, November 14, 1988.

The House met at 8 p.m.

SUPPLY—GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshamer: I call this meeting to order to consider the Supply for the Department of Government Services. We are on item 3.(e) Material Supply: (1) Salaries \$744,800—pass; (e)(2) Other Expenditures \$4,905,600—pass; (e)(3) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$5,090,200—pass; 3.(f) Telecommunications: (1) Salaries \$570,400—pass.

(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$2,400,900—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): Could the Minister indicate the reasons for the rather significant increase there on the Other Expenditures from \$1,976,700 to \$2,400,900.00?

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Government Services): Part of that is the MTS rate increases, the Manitoba sales tax increase, MTS Centrex location charge and new federal sales taxes.

Mr. Plohman: What is the most significant factor there? Is it additional usage, as well, volume increases in telephone use?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that it is basically the MTS rate increases, primarily.

Mr. Plohman: First of all, since I have the first opportunity, I would like to indicate to the Minister that we may be going past nine o'clock and I thought that he could maybe indicate to his Highways staff that it would not be necessary for them to stay around, because if we get past 9:30, I do not think it makes much sense to start at that time. We might be closer to ten o'clock. We want to definitely finish but we do not see us finishing at nine, so I just wanted to indicate. The Minister can make his own decision.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I appreciate that comment. The Highways staff will be checking after a while and I will indicate that to them.

* (2005)

Mr. Plohman: I wanted to ask just a couple of questions on this area dealing with telephone use. One of the areas that we had contemplated seeing rather significant changes was in the area of travel. There is a lot of rural buildings, Government buildings where staff travel significant distances to Winnipeg for meetings that may be very short in nature, sometimes various departments. A lot of travel costs are associated with that where teleconferencing could be a much better use of our dollars, a more efficient use. We could save

dollars in the long run and certainly result in as good a communication, if not better, being established among various branches of departments and Governments and so on.

I wonder whether the Minister can indicate whether that initiative is continuing, whether it will be expanded, whether we are seeing results and whether any analysis has been done as to determine the kind of cost efficiencies and cost savings that can result from teleconferencing as opposed to travelling.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate to the Member that in light of budget restraints, various measures being taken can prove cost efficient. Manitoba Government Services offer teleconferencing facilities to help defray potential travel costs. The initiative is still there and continuing.

Mr. Plohman: I did not catch it, I was being asked a question, but it did not sound like a very in-depth answer, Mr. Chairman. I just wonder whether the Minister can indicate whether he shares that desire to expand vastly the use of telephone as opposed to travelling among various centres, and whether he sees a tremendous benefit developing there.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate to the Member that I support that initiative and certainly the department is working on that. To ensure the broadest use of teleconferencing facilities, necessary equipment will be maintained at specific locations in Winnipeg and major provincial office buildings in rural areas. I am supportive of the initiative and I think it is a positive one in terms of cutting down travel costs.

Mr. Plohman: Could the Minister indicate which centres are now equipped for teleconferencing and whether there is the video component being added at all at this point?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that we have not advanced it to the video type of approach but we have locations in most of the provincial buildings in Winnipeg and the major rural centres at the present time.

Mr. Plohman: Could the Minister indicate whether his staff has undertaken any studies to determine the costs of the video component, and when is it actively being considered to be added? It seems to me that that would make the acceptance of this method of communication versus travel much greater by the staff, if the video component was a part of it. Therefore, if it is not extremely costly it should be pursued. I wonder whether the Minister has undertaken any analysis to determine the cost impact of it.

Mr. Albert Driedger: First of all, I think the audio type of system is a very costly type of system, the video system is a very costly type of system. We have begun

looking into that at this stage of the game but before we get into that kind of a cost venture we want to make sure that there are benefits from the system.

Mr. Plohman: Just on that, Mr. Chairman, I think a couple of years ago we had undertaken a study to determine the cost effectiveness of at least the audio teleconferencing. I do not know that it included video at that time, but it would seem to me that you would have to analyze or take a count of all of the trips that are made from various centres to determine how much money is being spent at the present time and then a percentage of that would have to be applied to the cost of providing the video equipment, capital costs and the operating costs to determine whether it was cost effective. Has that work been done?

Mr. Albert Driedger: First of all, I believe that a year and a half ago the teleconference study was done. It is only a year and a half ago so we are just into that, to some degree, in promoting that. In order to do the video thing, we have to make sure that we have stations at both ends, that the cost benefit would be there in order to go into that kind of a venture. I am sure staff will be looking at what stage of the game we give further consideration towards that aspect of it.

* (2010)

Mr. Plohman: That is exactly the question I was asking, whether the cost effectiveness has been yet determined? Obviously, there would be a cost. That is what I was wondering, whether it has been determined.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Staff tell me that theoretically, even if it looks like it is making sense, we have to make sure that there is usage at both ends. Comparing it to other jurisdictions, we have to be very definite in terms that there would be that kind of usage before we go make that kind of investment. This is the stage where we are at right now in terms of looking at that possibility.

I am told that even audio, at this stage of the game, has not got to the point where they can indicate whether it would be economically feasible to do it, to buy the equipment, stations and stuff of that nature.

Mr. Plohman: I am just not wanting to prolong this but want to encourage the Minister to pursue that and to determine whether the client departments would be interested in a video system as well in some of the major centres, rural centres. I think it would be more acceptable than just audio. In any event, I would encourage the Minister to pursue it rather quickly.

I just wanted to ask one other question under Recoverable from Other Appropriations. It is the next subsection but there is a rather large increase there. I just wanted the Minister to indicate the reasons for that.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Part of the major increase there is part of the increase cost and the other is the installation of Centrex in the Brandon area.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, which has resulted in greater cost recovery?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That is right.

Mr. Plohman: Thank you.

Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital): I am really surprised. I know the Official Opposition—and I have a question here. We took a position that we wanted to delve into the important departments of Manitoba Health, Education, social programs. There is a lot that is very important that perhaps the NDP does not care about. They did not in the past. That is why this province is in trouble. Economic support, Highways, Northern Affairs, City of Winnipeg, that could take a whole 63 hours in itself—is what is going to be left tonight. Law and order, a big item. Labour.

Earlier we heard that we maybe finished at six o'clock. They went over items that had already been gone over before. They are great, this Party, at inconveniencing people. We saw that by their continued efforts to try to call quorum in the House. They do not realize how many thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money is wasted when they do such silly things like tonight indicating that we would be through early and bringing extra staff into here and all the expense involved with it. Inconveniencing people seems nothing to this Government.

I can understand that for 16 or the 20 years, of the 20 years that we have had a socialist regime and the problems that you were faced with, a Government that would like to get into the retail business of selling surplus goods to their friends and associates, ones who would like to put all retail businesses out of business by dealing directly with Government, I want to assure you that I was really pleased in not having to make this a learning process as much as we might see from a rookie MLA in that I had great cooperation from the department and from the Minister and continue to have such when I have questions to do with internal Government operations. I want to go on record that I am completely appalled at even myself who may have made personal plans for earlier in the evening and that, and which I will stay here.

I guess my question to the Minister, through you, Mr. Chairman, of these forward-looking initiatives that we keep hearing about from the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman), how diligently did they pursue them in the last 6.5 years when they were in power?

* (2015)

An Honourable Member: No, you have a lot to learn, because you are on your way—

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Minister.

An Honourable Member: You worry about your own education; I will worry about mine.

An Honourable Member: Do not be such a fool.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

An Honourable Member: You sound like a fool.

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Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

An Honourable Member: You look and sound like one. You have made an ass of yourself in public on many occasions.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Minister.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not mind this kind of debate going on.

An Honourable Member: I would not call it debate.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Based on the question from the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose), I cannot really indicate with what extent the initiatives were moved forward by the previous administration. All I can say is that whatever there has been available in the short period of time, my staff have very capably drawn it to my attention and we have tried to move ahead in terms of trying to be as efficient as possible in terms of providing this kind of services. As you are well aware, Government Services is not a high profile type of department. It is sort of a service department and I think everybody is very conscientious in terms of, you know—we have basically not deviated in this period of time from the course of action that was there before. We are following along the same lines in terms of trying to provide service as cheaply as possible for the people of Manitoba and for Government in terms of what they have to provide. Certainly that would be the initiative that I would be promoting together with staff in terms of trying to provide the best service at the best possible price.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? The Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, just briefly, as we go on to Postal Services.

Mr. Chairman: We are on (f)(2).

Mr. Plohman: Okay, I will wait till Postal Services.

Mr. Chairman: (f)(2) Other Expenditures, \$95,100—shall the item pass? The Honourable Minister.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I hate to interrupt. I just want to clarify the statement that was made by the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) that we would not be getting into Highways tonight.

Mr. Plohman: Let me comment on this because the Member for St Vital (Mr. Rose) suffers from a superiority complex and has great deal of difficulty understanding the process in this House and has begged some answers.

The fact is that the House Leaders have undertaken to discuss the remaining Estimates and to determine how they should be allocated and that has not yet been settled. That is in the process of negotiation. Unfortunately, it has been delayed somewhat by the fact that the Liberal House Leader (Mr. Alcock) has been in the States working on the American campaign

and therefore has not been available to discuss it. That is unfortunate. However, there have been numerous hours and hours—

Mr. Chairman: On a point of order, the Member for St. Vital.

Mr. Rose: I imagine he is alluding to our House Leader. I think if the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) has some proof of his allegations then he should come forward, but for one, in this Legislature, this pillar of democracy, I am fed up with this American bashing that goes on here day after day by people who would rather burn flags than wave them.

Mr. Chairman: The Member does not have a point of order. The Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, what we have then is a case of the House Leaders negotiating and we have made a commitment to deal with these Estimates probably much quicker than they have been dealt with in many of the years that we have dealt with Estimates. We have maintained our commitment to that and we intend to finish this evening, if the Liberals do not waffle on that and filibuster it. What we are doing here is dealing with the issues. The Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) alluded to the fact there was a quorum. Yes, there was one quorum called, not continuous efforts to call a quorum. We have had Members from all Parties taking a great deal of time. The Member for Ellice (Ms. Gray), for example, has taken a great deal of time in Health. We are trying to move through those Estimates. It has not just been our Party that has dealt with some of those issues, and I do not like to belittle certain departments. I think that they are all very important. Government Services certainly is.

There are a number of areas that not only I want to follow the progress of from my position as critic for the New Democratic Party, but I think it is of importance to also the Liberals who have not had the exposure on these issues. They realize now and it bothers this Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) that there were a lot of good initiatives being undertaken. It was not just a bumbling, fumbling bunch of idiots, as he happened to believe and walk around the city for last April. He is now getting an education. He does not like an education. The fact is that he did not have this type of education before and now he is getting it. It is something he has to show an interest in.

I want to follow up, Mr. Chairman, with the indication that we are going to, from our point of view, finish tonight, and I do not know that it makes much point. I do not see us finishing before 9:30 p.m., 10 p.m., but certainly not longer than that, and it does not make a lot of sense to keep the staff from Highways waiting at that point.

* (2020)

Mr. Chairman: Item 3.(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$2,400,900—pass; 3.(f)(3) Recoverable from Other Appropriations, \$1,911,100—pass; Item No. 3.(g)(1) Salaries, \$649,800—pass.

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Item No. 3.(g)(2) Other Expenditures, \$95,100—The Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Does this include courier services in Other Expenditures, or where does this come in then?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that courier services are not included in here because each department makes provision for courier service within their own expenditures. I am told that the only extent that courier expenses are involved here are what the postal services themselves use.

Mr. Plohman: Would it be appropriate to ask a question about that here or is there some other place that it is more appropriate?

Mr. Albert Driedger: About courier services?

Mr. Plohman: Yes. I know the department has been undertaking some analysis of the costs and studies to determine the impact of courier services in other departments, in all departments of Government. I wonder whether they have been successful in reducing the costs of courier services through those efforts, in communication with the client departments, I would assume.

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, the use of courier service has gone up. My department has made some notification of it, informed various departments that courier services are up. I think there has even been a submission to Treasury on that aspect of it. Hopefully, by drawing it to the attention, the increased costs, it is going to be addressed in that regard. I think we are trying to notify all the departments of the increased costs, and we are suggesting ways in which they could reduce that cost.

Mr. Plohman: In this section, dealing with Other Expenditures—I will go on to (4) and make it technically correct, Recoverable from Other Appropriations, with my question.

Mr. Chairman: 3.(g)(2)—pass.

(g)(3) Postage \$4,596,000—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Just one question. Is this rather significant increase just the postal increases from Canada Post or is it a large increase in volume that we could attribute this to?

Mr. Albert Driedger: The biggest increase is from the increase in postal services, in the postal rates.

* (2025)

Mr. Rose: In regard to postal costs there, if you could refresh my memory, it seems to me that each one of the Parties is allowed so much for postal services. Is there an upper limit on that? How is it controlled?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Is the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) asking about the political Parties, how much they are allowed?

Mr. Rose: Yes. Well, their caucus offices.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that in our Estimates we make provision for so and so much for the political Parties involved. If there is an increase beyond the figure that we budget for that, LAMC deals with the additional funding through their appropriation. I think, for the political Parties, the total allocation of budget is about \$241,000.00. That is for the whole of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Rose: Could you give me some sort of an idea how much that would be, a breakdown, in the current fiscal year between the three Parties?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that through our department we only have the budgetary figure. The breakdown of that would have to come through the Clerk of the House or through LAMC who could do the breakdown of that. That is not within Government Services. We just have a global figure that we operate with.

Mr. Rose: I will be interested at the end of the year to see the figures to see how responsible various Parties are in respect to postage fees in particular. Thank you.

Mr. Plohman: I just want to make a point and just perhaps get it confirmed that the charges for postal services are not capped at the present time for the Parties. It is something the Legislative Assembly Management Commission will have to deal with. It would not indicate any degree of responsibility or lack of it if one is more than the other. It just means that one is doing more mailing than another and may be much more effective at communicating and believes that the messages they have to get out are very important. So I would not equate that with being irresponsible.

Mr. Chairman: Item (g)(3)—pass.

Item (g)(4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$3,487,200—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: The amount recovered here now—first of all, I want to ask the Minister just to refresh my memory—is this the first full year that postal costs have been fully recoverable from other departments?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Yes.

Mr. Plohman: Has this resulted from the experience of this one year? I guess it is difficult, this being the first year, but I want to have an indication whether there has been some feedback as to whether this has been effective in any way in reducing the pressure for increasing postal usage because of the fact that the departments now are aware of the actual costs since they are being charged back of those postal services to them?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Indications are that there is a downward trend based on the fact that they are becoming more aware of the costs but that, I believe, is actually with only one year. It is premature to really

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indicate whether that is going to be a continuing trend, but we will certainly be watching that. Staff is on top of that.

Mr. Plohman: I just want to add, Mr. Chairman, that was one of the reasons why that move was undertaken as I recall, and hopefully it will result in greater efficiencies and responsibility on the part of all departments.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I suppose what makes it a little bit more confusing this year is because we have had an election in the meantime and a change of Government, so there could be very positive things happening in the near future.

* (2030)

Mr. Chairman: Item (g)(4)—pass.

Resolution No. 73: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$642,200 for Government Services, Supply and Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item 4. Project Services: Provides planning of the space requirements for departments and agencies. Provides project management, architectural and engineering services in the construction programs for government-owned or leased accommodations. Provides for the appraisal, acquisition and disposal of real property for all departments and agencies.

(a) Executive Administration: (1) Salaries \$90,800—pass; (a)(2) Other Expenditures \$4,000—pass.

(b) Design: (1) Salaries, \$1,472,100—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Can the Minister indicate what major projects if any are being undertaken in the design section of the department?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, could I just get a clarification? Is the Member asking how many projects are under design right now? Are you talking major projects or regular projects? Regular projects for the year 1988, there are 193 regular projects. Is he asking for the more major ones?

Mr. Plohman: I was just wanting to know whether there were any major projects or work that was being undertaken within the department. Normally, the major projects are contracted out to the private sector for architectural work, engineering work, but there are on occasion some major projects done in-house.

Mr. Albert Driedger: It would be places like Milner Ridge and Headingley, where we are making changes at Headingley; the Highways Department, 10 Midland Street.

Mr. Chairman, might I suggest, if the Member finds it acceptable, we will get a list for him of the projects that are being done that way rather than try and fuddle through. Then he can establish which ones would be of a major nature or not. We will make a list available to him. Would that be acceptable?

Mr. Plohman: Sure.

Mr. Albert Driedger: We will make it available to both critics, of the major projects. Is that acceptable?

Mr. Rose: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Item 4.(b)(1)—pass; 4. (b)(2) Other Expenditures \$99,100—pass.

(c) Project Management: (1) Salaries \$1,003,000—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: The staff in this section are responsible for undertaking and overseeing the project that the Minister talked about on the first day, I think, of our discussions of his Estimates and that is the plan to have one building turned over to private sector for operations. Would that be done under Project Management?

Mr. Albert Driedger: No, that would not come under this section. It would come under Property Management.

Mr. Plohman: Okay, I will leave that until the Minister's salary is discussed further.

Mr. Chairman: Item 4.(c) Project Management: (1) Salaries \$1,003,000—pass; (c)(2) Other Expenditures \$55,700—pass; (c)(3) Alterations/Renovations—Minor Projects \$248,000—pass; (4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$248,000—pass.

Item 4.(d) Land Acquisition: (1) Salaries \$1,303,200—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: I want to ask the Minister about the organization of the department that was called for in the report that was done, again I believe, a couple of years ago dealing with the appraisal function and disposal, I believe, function of the department.

Could the Minister indicate whether that has gone smoothly? I know that there were some staff in this area who were concerned about combining these functions. I wonder if it has gone relatively smoothly. I know in Dauphin, for example, there were some staff that were concerned about it.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that based on that review that was done that there were some problems that were addressed to a degree. However, we have just completed another study in terms of what should happen and we hopefully will be able to address the circumstances, if we have some problems and try and get things functioning smoothly. If the Member is concerned about the aspects of the branches outside of Winnipeg, basically Dauphin and Brandon, I believe we have, that in those areas I do not think we have major difficulties. If there is any difficulty, it is probably more located at the Winnipeg office. I believe that we found a position where we will be addressing those and get things functioning smoothly.

Mr. Plohman: I understand what was called for was a separation of those two functions so that the people

doing the appraisal might also be doing the disposal. Has that been fully implemented? Is it functioning at the present time?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That split system was implemented. From our present review, it indicates that there is some difficulty with that. I personally believe that there should be some discretion used by the director in many cases where it is of major nature. Where the concern was whether it was going to be a conflict to some degree, that aspect would remain maybe, but it would be my feeling that it should be left to the discretion of the director to decide as to whether it should be a split or not because in many of the normal acquisitions of right-of-way, for example, instead of having two individuals go out and deal with it, it could probably in most cases of the smaller nature become more comfortably dealt with by one individual. So we are looking at maybe the pendulum was swung a little too far to the one side and we are trying to bring it back so it can be more a judgment call. I think that would help alleviate some of the concerns that have developed lately.

Mr. Plohman: I shared some of those concerns in some discussion with some of the staff, people who had raised those concerns at trying that with being implemented and I felt that perhaps there should be some flexibility. There was obviously a very good reason for people who are doing appraisals and they are not actually doing the negotiations and the acquisition or disposal of property as well. So I think if the Minister is looking towards in some areas integrating those, that maybe, you know, it is something that we could support. On the other hand I think he has to be very careful as well that he does not go fully back to the system. It may be more efficient even in time to having one staff doing both of those but certainly I think undermines the credibility of Government from the point of view of those individuals who have to deal with that, with the staff under those circumstances. It is a very trying and difficult period for anyone, especially when they do not want to sell their land or property. Under those circumstances, the trust and the confidence that they have in the system has to be maintained.

* (2040)

Mr. Albert Driedger: I want to indicate that I agree with the Member, that I honestly believe that it should be more of a discretion call because I think in people's minds, when acquisition takes place, you have somebody that comes and makes a first initial contact and if it is a small piece of property then he leaves and along comes the next person who is going to do the acquisition which makes us look a little inefficient in the eyes of the public. That is why I would favour—and there has to be common sense used, but I would favour a discretionary call by the director who can sort of almost feel—they are in the business all the time. They can indicate whether there is a problem area developing or not and I think I would favour the discretionary move on that portion of it so that they can make a judgment call. I think they are very cognizant of the fact that certain areas just would not work. But

they have a better understanding of it than I do so I would favour that kind of a leeway in there.

Mr. Plohman: I just wanted to ask whether the Minister can indicate whether there is a backlog in this area again or has it been totally caught up? Also in that regard whether the disposal of all the rail lines has been completed that were being handled by the Department of Government Services, the abandoned railway rights-of-way had been handled by Government Services. But apparently the new agreement that we had negotiated will put that in the hands of Natural Resources for future disposals. Up to this point, they have been handled by this section of the department and I just want to know whether they are almost completing that and what kind of a backlog there is in this area.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that we have not totally caught up in the backlog and that is one of the issues that we will be addressing in terms of the processing end of it to see whether we can put more staff in there to move on the backlog end of it and also with the rail line property, we are not totally up to date in that. I have received calls just like I think maybe other rural Members have but we are in the process of it and we feel that we will be addressing the issue to try and speed it up because there are many people out there that basically, based on agreements that were made, are paying the taxes already but do not have the property yet. The people knew when they signed the agreement that they had to pay the taxes. That was the understanding. At the same time, not everybody totally understands, so we are trying to move this ahead as fast as possible. We are finally at that point where more of this rail line property, through previous agreements, is coming back, and we have made provisions to have it go back to the landowners through which property the rail line goes. I would like to escalate that as much as possible. I have indicated that to staff already, like they try and prioritize to get those things cleared up so people have the peace of mind about it.

Mr. Plohman: I see that there is actually a reduction of one staff for this year so that there cannot be additional resources. It has been allocated, although it is in administrative support as opposed to the technical.

The other thing is, is it not the case that the Privy Council orders from the federal Government are the real reason that a lot of this property is being held up, the transfer from the federal Government?

Mr. Albert Driedger: There are more of the federal transfers coming forward all the time. I have a list of them here. It is an ongoing thing and it is escalating, so it is starting to come. I think it is high time, too. It has been a long time in the mill and finally we are getting to that point where we can address this.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 4.(d)(1)—pass; 4.(d)(2)—pass; 4.(d)(3)—pass.

4.(e) Accommodation Planning: (1) Salaries, \$148,000—the Member for Dauphin.

Monday, November 14, 1988

Mr. Plohman: This is a new branch. Is this the first year for this branch or is it the second year?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I am told that this is the first full year. It was implemented prior and this is the first full year that this section is in there.

Mr. Plohman: Could the Minister indicate the kinds of work that this Accommodation Planning Branch is now engaged in, in its first full year, and can he give an indication whether he feels that, from the work that was undertaken the first year, there will have to be an expanded branch here, additional SYs? I know that at the time this was being considered at one point it was envisaged as a somewhat larger group than the three SYs here. I would just like to get an idea of whether it will be able to handle the work, and exactly what kind of planning it is actually undertaking, with which departments on a priority basis and so on.

Mr. Albert Driedger: This is the first phase in the long-term planning, strategic planning. First of all, in Winnipeg, we are looking at the Natural Resources building, Fort Osborne Complex. There is a series of things that they are looking at, basically addressing the concerns within the Greater Winnipeg District at the present time.

It also includes the identification of surplus properties, whether they are still required and maybe what to do with them. So actually for the three SYs involved, as the Member indicates, they have a challenge ahead of them. I think it is moving positively and, if more SYs are required, I am certainly not averse to trying to get them involved but, at the present time, I think it is a good initiative and I feel comfortable that we are moving in the right direction and making progress.

Mr. Plohman: Just on that, obviously, this is something that has been lacking for years, long-range planning for departments to determine what the most efficient use of accommodation would be in requirements for departments. One of them is the Natural Resources Department which has been spread out all over the place and makes it inefficient from the point of view of communications between the various staff and additional travel.

I wonder whether the analysis of the cost impact, the cost efficiency of going to one central location has been completed with regard to the Department of Natural Resources by this Accommodation Planning Branch, what that shows, and whether on the basis of the cost effectiveness, it will be recommended highly in the very near future.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that a study has been completed, but we have not crunched the final figures on it yet to get a good indication. I am prepared to forward that information to the critics once we have a bit of an idea as to the impact it would have.

Mr. Plohman: I would appreciate getting that information because it is one that I think will show very positive cost benefits. I would ask the Minister to provide us with that as soon as he could.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 4.(e)(1)—pass; item 4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$24,700—pass.

Resolution No. 74: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,329,800 for Government Services, Project Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item 5. Land Value Appraisal Commission: Determines and certifies amounts which represent due compensation with respect to the acquisition or expropriation of land by any authority.

(a) Salaries, \$62,700—the Member for Dauphin.

* (2050)

Mr. Plohman: Could the Minister indicate the names and number of members of the commission? -(Interjection)- Mr. Chairman, if there have been no changes from the previous commission, then that will be fine. If there have been changes, I would like to know who they are.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that there are changes. The chairman of the Land Value Appraisal Commission is Cameron Harvey, who was the chairman prior to that; the vice-chair is Helen Unruh, and the other members are Stephanie Barnett, Cole Campbell, Jim Husiak, and George Sawatsky.

Mr. Plohman: I did not get the total number. Is that the same size board as before or has it been added to?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Same size as before.

Mr. Plohman: Could the Minister indicate the current involvement with North Portage Redevelopment? That has obviously been a very difficult issue for the Land Value Appraisal Commission to handle. Has that work now pretty well wound up, and have all of these been settled at this time or are there still some to be settled?

Mr. Albert Driedger: The reason I took a little longer, I had to go back to a different section on that to give you the information. The status of expropriated property interest as at July 31, 1988: 55 settled in full, 26 real estate, 29 leasehold and other interests, 43 are still awaiting claim details, 10 no compensation warranted, 6 not yet relocated and 3 awaiting decision by Court of Queen's Bench for the Carlton Realty case involved in the new Air Canada Building site, and one Mercury Holdings scheduled for court.

Mr. Plohman: Just to confirm that the Minister said 59 were settled?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Fifty-five.

Mr. Plohman: Fifty-five settled, and how many were not yet to be settled and are in process?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, 43 are waiting claim details; 10 no compensation wanted; 6 not yet relocated; 3 awaiting decision by Court of Queen's Bench; and

1 is Mercury Holdings which is also scheduled to go to court.

Mr. Plohman: My question with regard to 43 claim details pending, what is causing the delay there? Is that to be provided by the legal people who are representing the clients there or is it the Land Value Appraisal Commission staff who have not put together the cases, or what is causing the delay?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that basically we are waiting more claim details on these cases. I do not think it is the Land Value Appraisal Commission that is holding things up. I think possibly in some cases the people who they have representing claims maybe have a bearing on some of these things, because I have had the opportunity to have involvement where people have made direct representation to me. We find out that in many cases the clients themselves have put their faith in the legal system and it is sort of mulling around there. In many cases, we have been able to sort of get things unwound a little bit and move things a little faster. I certainly would like to see it move along a lot faster with everything. You cannot expedite the situation.

Mr. Plohman: I would just like to add to that too to encourage the Minister. Certainly, this has been a nightmare for a lot of businesses and people and staff and everyone affected. It has been very difficult and it has been the province that has been the scapegoat in a way for all of these undertakings. This unpleasant task has fallen right on the shoulders of the province where it has actually been a tripartite undertaking with all three jurisdictions, the city and the federal Government involved as well, but yet the province is taking the flak. There is a tremendous increase in the workload and also work that normally is not undertaken by the Land Value Appraisal Commission so it has been very difficult. So I would encourage the Minister in any way that he can help with it. I hope that we do not get into situations like this again, and I guess it is one area that we definitely learned a great deal from over those years that we were involved in this project.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would just like to indicate that part of the problem that has to be dealt with as well is the Leather Ranch case that went before the courts. Actually since that time, there have not been too many cases that have come before the Land Value Appraisal Commission and we are trying to deal with that. The Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) is bringing forward legislation to see whether we can clarify that position. So that should be in one of his Bills that I think is before the House or coming before the House to deal with that, because that has created part of the problem that has slowed things down a little bit. So we are trying to get all these things expedited as fast as possible.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? The Member for Ste. Rose.

Mr. Rose: I am just wondering. I see Expected Results as 10 days for certificates and carrying to the two weeks, and agreements within eight weeks. I would be interested to understand a little better what this present

situation is and if this is the sort of situation that we have all seen in the Land Titles Office where there is a lot of catchup being in play, or is it a different type of situation?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That situation in the Land Titles has no bearing on this here. This is a situation that has been in the mill for a long time. I just know that from staff between Land Acquisition, have been working on these things, spend endless hours trying to get this whole thing done. It has been a very complex thing. Basically, people within my department are the ones that are, as indicated by the Member already, are the ones that are actually being tagged with the difficulty of it and getting some adverse reputation by it because it has been a very, very complex thing. It has been a tripartite thing, Land Acquisition, other people that basically end up trying to do these negotiations. It has been a very frustrating process.

Mr. Ed Mandrake (Assiniboia): I was wondering, under the Land Acquisition, in the book here, does that also fall under when you are expropriating land for highways? Is that the same?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake), that involves all acquisitions whether it is within the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Highways. Anything to do with Government acquiring of property, it all comes to this department.

Mr. Mandrake: The reason I am asking is because in my travels throughout the province I have been asked to make representation on the bypass that was constructed in Dauphin. Apparently, there is land there that was expropriated that has never been paid for yet until today. I was wondering why.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that I know the reason for it but I do not. What I would like to do is have the Member, maybe by way of writing, let me know and I can find out whether or not it is within the Department of Land Acquisition or whether it is in the Department of Highways. Usually when you have expropriation, some of these things take long, depending on the individual and how much they want to fight it. I understand that some claims go up to seven years. I hate to see this kind of thing. If the Member can let me know the specific circumstance, then I will get the information as to where the knot is in this issue.

Mr. Mandrake: I will definitely take that and I will advise you in writing as to this land that was expropriated by the previous Government and that has never been paid for. This person tells me he has never taken it to arbitration anyway. It just has not been paid for. I will certainly take your advice and write you a note on that.

* (2100)

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass? The Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: I want to just point out that in many of these expropriation cases, offers are made. It is the

same that is happening in the North Portage situation where nominal offers are made until a detailed appraisal can be done with information being provided and then negotiations take place. I understand, Mr. Minister, that if there is no agreement reached, that the person being expropriated can appeal it to the courts. If they have not undertaken that process, initiated that process, obviously that would delay proceedings. That option is open to them. If they are not satisfied, and I do not know in this case whether they are not satisfied with the price or what the reason is for it but I am sure that there are two sides to the dispute. Like most disputes, if one is not satisfied with the situation, it leads to a much longer process. I would be interested in finding that information out too. Certainly we had received no indication when I was Minister that that had continued on that long. These people had not raised it at that time that they were still waiting for their money.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would just like to indicate that if the Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Mandrake) will forward me the name, then I will check and get the details to both him and the Member for Dauphin (Mr. Plohman) on the issue once I have a clarification and find out where it is at.

Mr. Chairman: Item 5.(a)—pass; 5.(b) Other Expenditures \$68,700—pass; 5.(c) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$80,000—pass.

Resolution No. 75: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$51,400 for Government Services, Land Value Appraisal Commission, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item No. 6. Emergency Measures Organization. Coordinates the provincial role in civil emergencies occurring within Manitoba.

(a) Salaries, \$509,000—the Member for Ste. Rose.

Mr. Rose: I would just like to correct the record. That information I have now is that no blame can be put on our House Leader. He was not at all in the United States doing campaigning for anybody. But I have also come to mind that -(Interjection)- or the New Democratic Party. But I do know that I have substantial evidence that substantial campaign funds for the New Democratic Party come from a United States-based union. So that might be of interest to the public of Manitoba in regard to that.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the item pass?

Mr. Plohman: I thought he actually was going to intervene on the subject. I wanted to just ask what changes have been made in staff in the Emergency Measures Organization. I understand there is a new coordinator of EMO. What happened with the former coordinator?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding that Mr. Eckert retired, and Mr. Fred Zegil, who was the deputy coordinator for EMO, Manager of Municipal Services from August 1985 to January 1988 is now appointed as the coordinator.

Mr. Plohman: So Mr. Eckert has retired from his position. Is that correct?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That is right.

Mr. Plohman: Can the Minister indicate how many of these staff, I believe there are 13 staff, how many of these are working with municipal Governments and with local Governments on the development of emergency plans since the implementation of the new Emergency Measures Act? I understand that it was proclaimed and is in effect and calls for compulsory, over a period of time, reasonable time, emergency plans for all communities.

Has there been an acceleration of effort in this area since, over a number of years, there were well over 100? I do not know whether it was 200 or 150 or whatever it was, plans that were actually completed. But there was still a substantial number left to do. Since it is now required under the Act, and the Minister can correct me if that section has not been proclaimed, but I thought it was. Has he accelerated an effort in this area to have these all completed?

Mr. Albert Driedger: First of all, I would like to indicate to the Member that there are three SYs that are working on the program with the municipalities, plus one that does exercises. I would like to indicate that the program is moving along and being escalated, that we have 147 completed and 38 in progress and take great pleasure, almost on a weekly basis, having more municipalities that are coming through the system where I have the pleasure of signing my name to an agreement with them and presenting a plaque to them. So it is moving along well and I am very pleased with that aspect of it.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, I can indicate too that the communities that do have an emergency plan in place are very pleased that they have it. They feel that they have really accomplished something for the citizens of their community and probably many of them wonder why it took so long to do it, because they did not realize the importance until they actually got into the planning process and realized what they were really missing out on, insofar as having a plan, should an emergency occur. I want to ask the Minister whether he is receiving any funding from the federal Government for any of these staff at the present time, the 13 staff.

Mr. Albert Driedger: It is my understanding that the federal Government pays for one SY.

Mr. Plohman: Pardon me, one SY being funded by the federal Government on a term basis, is that correct?

Mr. Albert Driedger: That is right.

Mr. Plohman: Is there any indication that that person will be kept on beyond this year?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I am told that they have tentatively agreed five more years of funding. Now, whether we have an SY involved with that or not—we

only have one more year agreed to the SY, but the general funding is I think tentatively on a five-year basis. They have agreed to another five years.

Mr. Plohman: I want to compliment the Minister there, if he had a great deal to do with it, and the staff for that, because that is very encouraging. I just want to ask the Minister whether the staff have had any problems with the new Emergency Measures Act and its requirements in terms of implementation, and what has been the reaction of the municipalities, local Governments to date to it?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that there has been no difficulty with it to date and things are moving very positively. It is being well-accepted by municipalities and they are coming on track as fast as we could hope for.

Mr. Plohman: Just one other question, Mr. Chairman. Has there been a special program of awareness and communication with the municipalities to make them aware clearly of the components of that Act and requirements?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Each municipality was sent a copy of the Act and our coordinator has continued to keep in touch to keep them aware of it, and I think that is basically how the process works.

Mr. Plohman: One other question on this, could the Minister indicate whether there is any staff from Emergency Measures Organization working with and supporting the Disaster Assistance Board?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Yes, it is my understanding that there is one SY who is working with the Manitoba Disaster Assistance Board.

Mr. Plohman: Is that the secretary's position, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Yes, it is.

Mr. Plohman: I do have questions about the Disaster Assistance Board, but even though there is a staff person on it, technically it would probably be acceptable to get into some debate, but it is actually discussed under a separate appropriation, and so I will leave it for that.

* (2110)

Mr. Chairman: Item 6.(a)—pass; 6.(b) Other Expenditures \$189,100—pass.

Res. No. 76: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$698,100 for Government Services, Emergency Measures Organization, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

Item 7. Expenditures related to Capital (a) Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets—Government Related \$14,546,800—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Are you under 7.(a)?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, 7.(a).

Mr. Plohman: The sum there is \$14,546,800—up \$2.5 million. Can the Minister indicate, perhaps a listing—maybe he could just provide it just to highlight a couple of the major projects? Is there any other major Government building that is being constructed under this appropriation this year? Is the expenditure here for the new Remand Centre and any others? Other than that, I would not expect the Minister to go through all of them, but if he could provide us with a listing of those projects I would be satisfied from my point of view.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate that I will make a list available to both critics in terms of the—because there is a variety of them, just so that they have a total list. I am just going to try and highlight some of the—Mr. Chairman, if I might continue. I have a list here, but I do not know whether all of these will be continuing on, whether we will get them all on stream. I can make the list available of the projects that are there. We have no difficulty with that. That does not mean that they will all be proceeded with under the circumstances, but then they have something that they can compare with for next year, or whenever the case may be. I will make that list available to both critics. I am just trying to find out which would be the highlights.

Mr. Plohman: For example, I did ask about the Remand Centre. Are there dollars allocated for construction in this fiscal year for the Remand Centre?

Mr. Albert Driedger: The Remand Centre is not in here for capital at this stage of the game. There is for the design and certain preliminary work, but the major portion of it will be in the '89 budget for the construction of the building.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate what the projected cost of the Remand Centre is as it stands, and how much has been flowed of those dollars in the design of the building?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I can give the Member an approximation. I believe we are talking about \$23 million, probably a bit more than \$23 million. The plans call for a finalization of design work and planning during '88-89 with construction to start in '89-90. Occupancy is expected late in the 1991 fiscal year. Capital approvals are for \$23.3 million. Approved funding for design work and planning is \$997,500.00. Expenditures to date have been \$500,000 for the planning fees.

Mr. Plohman: One final question on the Remand Centre, Mr. Chairman. That has been a project that has been discussed for some time and I am pleased to see that it was finally approved by our Government and has been subsequently reapproved by this Government. I would just ask the Minister to indicate if he did not already, and I may have missed it, the planned opening as it stands now of the new Remand Centre, what is the target completion date?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Mr. Chairman, I indicated before but I will repeat. The occupancy is expected late in the 1991 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman: Item 7.(a)—pass.

Item 7.(b) Vehicle Replacement, \$3,513,000—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Just one question on this matter which we indicated during the discussion on the fleet. The replacement period cycle has now gone from four years to some six years and I wanted to know how many vehicles are in the fleet at the present time, and how many were last year at this time; and secondly, how many are being replaced; the number of vehicles at the present time and the number last year at this time and the number of replacements?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate to the Member that the fleet is approximately 2,500. There is virtually no change and replacement is based, you know—approximately 300 vehicles this last year.

Mr. Plohman: I would indicate that it is over an eight-year replacement on that basis, if there is not more money allocated to get it down to the six-year cycle. So the Minister may want to comment on that.

Secondly, is the policy in place that new vehicle requirements have to be taken from a lower priority list and therefore taken away from someone else who has been allocated as opposed to adding new vehicles when there is a requirement because of program changes for an additional Government vehicle?

Mr. Albert Driedger: First of all, I would like to indicate to the Member that I have some concern about the fact that there used to be more money in the replacement budget than we have now. I think over the years we were looking at \$5 million and we are down to \$3.5 million and I have some concern, because we had brief discussion on it before about the replacement cycle. We are now looking at a six- to eight-year replacement cycle versus a four- to six-year replacement cycle and invariably what happens, depending on mileage, of course, but the older the unit the more your repair costs, like you start running into higher repair costs and it just automatically in the interim, by having this figure cut down you save money for the immediate time, but I think in the long run it is something that catches up in terms of replacement cost because the fleet is getting older. So I have concerns in that direction.

My understanding is the Member questioned about in terms of who gets cars. I think the criteria is set and it is based on requirement. If they can justify the need for a vehicle, I believe that is the criteria that is used. There are certain guidelines that are established and those that meet that guideline then qualify for vehicle.

* (2120)

Mr. Plohman: Just to indicate that I share the concern that the Minister has for the replacement cycle, it is something that I argued on a number of occasions in a different capacity, both as Minister and also as a Treasury Board member, and it is an easy area to cut but because there are not people paying initially as it

is in some other departments when cuts in programs impact on people. In this case, you cannot see the results right away and—

Mr. Albert Driedger: Pay me now or pay me later.

Mr. Plohman: —it has been an area, yes, I argued that the costs would rise over the longer term and it hurts the Minister there to make strong representation to have that increase, the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

My question with regard to the number of vehicles was simply whether the policy was still in place that we put in place, that it really capped the number of Government vehicles so that the fleet would not keep on going and that if there were a method used to identify lower priority vehicles, these vehicles then had to be given up by the departments when higher priorities were identified for vehicles. So there was not an add-on, there was justification for a vehicle, yes, but it came from within the fleet.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would like to indicate to the Member that the assignment of a Government vehicle is predicated on meeting at least one of the following criteria approved by Treasury Board in '87 which basically is emergency use, special service use, multistop urban use, obtainment of 20,000 kilometers annual business distance, remote base location. These are all criteria that basically are involved in the allocation of a vehicle. The Member indicates a problem, I misunderstood this question. Maybe he wants to repeat it.

Mr. Plohman: The Minister did misunderstand my question. It was not what the criteria are, but once they have met the criteria and it has been deemed that they shall be given a Government car, is it added on to the total number in the fleet or is taken from within the fleet from a lower priority vehicle that is not meeting the criteria any longer?

Mr. Albert Driedger: It is my understanding that the fleet has basically stayed the same. What has happened is that in some cases the people did not qualify, vehicles were removed from certain individuals that did not necessarily meet the criteria. Others again did, so it sort of stayed and it has been staying the same.

Mr. Plohman: That is the point. It did not just stay the same by accident, it was because of the policies that required it. I am just asking the Minister whether he supports that policy and continues to implement it or indeed if there has been a change?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would indicate to the Member, at the present time, I support that position. I have no difficulty with it at the present time.

Mr. Mandrake: One question to the Minister: why are they using the criteria of six years before they auction a vehicle off? Why could they not use the repairs on the vehicle, it is your guideline as to the repair, and then say once the car has reached that dollar value in repair, then the car is automatically auctioned off? This

six years, you could get a lemon. In that six years, the car could cost you \$20,000 to keep it on the road.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am told that is just basically a guideline. You might have vehicles that perform better and longer. There are also vehicles that would be a lemon after two years or something like that. I could use an example where some of the individuals are vicious drivers and drop the rear end . . . the car twice already. It is not the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey). I see their driving habits. He is one of our better drivers. It is just a guideline.

Mr. Mandrake: One final question, please, Mr. Chairperson. The Red River Community College Body Shop repairs a lot of vehicles for the Government. In fact, they buy from Autopac, '89s. As soon as they are written off, they go to Red River Community College, they are fixed up for Government and they are put into use. In fact, if I may say so, they are even in better condition than they were brand new. So why can the Government not develop a far better system in using that repair process at Red River Community College instead of buying a brand new car?

Mr. Albert Driedger: It is my understanding that the Red River College picks up certain units that are written off by Autopac or that have certain damage, the kind of damage that they want to work on. For example, let us say, front end, back end, framework, whatever the case may be, when they are fixed, then Government looks at whether they can possibly use them in our fleet and if not, we then sell them.

Mr. Mandrake: Am I correct in hearing you say you sell them?

Mr. Albert Driedger: It is my understanding that last year the department bought \$42,500 worth of vehicles from the Red River Community College, and this year, to date, we have bought \$12,500 worth of these kind of units.

Mr. Mandrake: That is just the point I am trying to make. Instead of going out and paying \$23,000 for a brand new Taurus or Sable, why do we not go and save money by going down to Autopac and purchasing almost a brand new vehicle that has been written off, give it to Red River Community College to fix up for you and you will get it for a lot cheaper price. You are saving money and the Minister opposite me here can have a brand new vehicle tomorrow morning.

Mr. Albert Driedger: It is my understanding that that is what we are trying to do, that we are trying to buy those vehicles. My understanding from the Deputy Minister is where we can take and get them to give them to them, we do that. We will encourage that kind of thing.

Mr. Rose: Just as a clarification of the question from my colleague, taking into account that we would realize that probably the people who put the most miles on their cars in a year are cab drivers in Winnipeg and that the overwhelming majority of cabs in this city are

10 years or close or more, and certainly they would be keeping track of their costs versus new capital costs and amortization and what have you, would I understand from what you said previously that if indeed some cars or one car in the fleet did not experience any undue repairs, even though it was seven or eight or nine years old, we would keep that particular vehicle or do we have some sort of a hang-up at some particular level that we dispose of it?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Again, I would have to indicate that the six-year rollover is a guideline only. There are units that would probably have to be replaced sooner and there are also units that would probably serve very capably longer. It is sort of a general term, but we have, I think, a very sophisticated system there in terms of keeping a record of the costs. Anything that is done to a Government car, it is all on a computer. We can tell exactly how often a car is in for whatever and then if you have a car that is supposedly a lemon or something like that, you try and move it sooner, and if it is a car that has basically required very little maintenance, use it a little longer. It is basically a guideline but we know within the department, with the sophisticated equipment we have, exactly what we are spending on each unit.

Mr. Chairman: 7.(b)—pass.

7.(c) Office Equipment Replacement \$459,600—the Member for Dauphin.

Mr. Plohman: Just one question here. Again, this area has not necessarily kept up to replacement requirements and therefore it has resulted in inefficiencies where people might be using outdated equipment that badly needs repair in some offices. Can the Minister indicate, with another drop in this section by over \$50,000, nearly \$60,000, whether indeed he is indicating with this drop a lack of priority for equipment replacement, which can often be very much a false economy?

* (2130)

Mr. Albert Driedger: I would just like to indicate to the Member that we have a gentler Government. They do not kick their tables around and their desks around. As a result, we expect that there will be better usage of it.

Seriously, it is matter of concern to some degree, but with some of the electronic equipment that is being used and stuff like that, we do not have to do as much replacement.

Mr. Plohman: Just to ask more succinctly my question then, is this amount going to meet the requirements that the department has for equipment replacement or is in fact going to result in a further dropping behind in replacement?

Mr. Albert Driedger: My understanding is that basically it does.

Mr. Plohman: Basically. Thank you.

Monday, November 14, 1988

Mr. Rose: I notice also a drop of \$58,000 in the appropriation for Equipment. I observe, from time to time, that this type of equipment seems to be getting more and more reasonably priced. In other words, it is not inflating but deflating the cost of it. Is that true and would that account for a major part of the \$58,000.00?

Mr. Albert Driedger: I will try and answer that one. I have got the explanation here. Basically, I think \$100,000 was used for new equipment in the last year. We are looking at \$50,000 for this year. The level of the replacement program has stayed the same. We replaced the same amount of equipment.

Mr. Chairman: Item 7.(c)—pass; 7.(d) Departmental Capital \$249,900—pass.

Resolution No. 77: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$18,769,300 for Government Services, Expenditures Related to Capital, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1989—pass.

We would ask staff to withdraw while we deal with 1.(a) Minister's Salary \$10,300.00. Shall the item pass—the Member for Assiniboia.

Mr. Mandrake: I am assuming that we can now ask general questions within the department?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Mandrake: Good. I have been told the Minister had alluded to earlier that under his department they have a body shop and a garage. Am I right?

Mr. Albert Driedger: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have a garage with a body shop in it.

Mr. Mandrake: You have mentioned the fact that you are buying high tech equipment for this body shop and also for the garage. All I am trying to say is why do we not take that kind of equipment, send it out to Red River Community College, let them do the repairs on the vehicles as opposed to having a twofold type of system? It would save us money.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I have not thought of that but when you have a fleet of 2,500 vehicles I do not know whether the Red River Community College would be in the position to do the kind of continuous and ongoing repairs, technical repairs because the Red River Community College specializes in training. It is something that can be looked at and I can check it out.

Mr. Mandrake: I thought I would just suggest that to you, Mr. Minister. I feel that there are a lot of, particularly in the body shop one good frame machine is \$60,000, so we are duplicating it. We are going to have to buy one for your body shop so why not buy it for the Red River Community College and they can fix up those vehicles very, very easily.

Mr. Rose: Are you ready to vote on the item, Sir?

Mr. Plohman: Just some closing comments on the Estimates, Mr. Chairman. I, first of all, want to indicate to the Minister that as we reviewed the department, I am pleased to see that the Minister has carried on with a number of important initiatives right through from the staffing, which I indicated in my opening remarks were, as far as I was concerned, extremely innovative and certainly excellent to work with for me when I had the opportunity and a pleasure to serve as Minister of Government Services, and I am sure my colleagues as well are competent, and I think that the Minister has an excellent department.

As the Minister has noted as well, there were a number of initiatives undertaken during the time that we were in Government and he has continued with them, that will I think result, many of them, in greater efficiencies in managing our buildings, our vehicles and our general operation of our department, accommodations. I think that the department is being operated very well and I want to compliment the Minister on that.

I would raise an issue that I think is of deep concern. I raised a number of issues throughout the discussions and where I suggested to the Minister that perhaps he should be placing greater emphasis—fleet vehicles being one particular area where I have to say that I as Minister, and following myself, my colleague was not successful in maintaining that at the level that we felt it should be, that these debates go on in Cabinet as all of these things do. Eventually, decisions are made.

There is one area that I am concerned about. I want to just ask the Minister a couple of questions on it and sum up then from my perspective. That is the initiative he has undertaken to privatize the management of a Government building. I am very nervous about that because for one thing it has long-term implications for layoffs of staff and so on. If the Minister feels it is more efficient at some point it could very well result in short-term contracts from a private entrepreneur to indeed attract the business, and then, escalating later on, it is very difficult for the Government to get out of those contracts.

I would urge the Minister to ensure that in selecting a building that he ensures that it is not one of our most sensitive buildings in terms of the work that is undertaken there. I want to ask the Minister whether in fact it is correct that the building that is being selected for this is the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Building on Portage Avenue. Could the Minister indicate whether that decision has been made?

Mr. Albert Driedger: First of all, I would have to indicate—the Member is expressing some concern—that this a trial project only and the rationale for doing that, I think it would serve as a bit of a guideline and give us an indication within the department whether our operations are operating as economically as possible. We are looking at choosing a building where it would be reasonable to try and do that comparison. It is very important. I would also like to indicate that if we proceed on this basis, that the staff who is going to be involved where we do this experimental thing will be moved into 800 Portage which is a new building.

So there is nobody that is going to be affected in terms of a job.

I think I feel comfortable with doing this on a trial basis just to see whether, by and large, staff are performing well enough that the department is doing the job most economically. I think doing it on a trial basis, it will give us a good chance to have that kind of a look at it, to see whether there are ways that we can improve or whether we are operating as efficiently as we could. I do not feel uncomfortable with it, especially in view of the fact that nobody is going to be losing a job under these circumstances. I feel it is a reasonable approach.

* (2140)

Mr. Plohman: The Minister did not answer that the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Building at 1075 Portage is indeed the target building for this comparison. I say if it is, that he will certainly hear a lot from our side of the House because this is an extremely sensitive building, sensitive information, very confidential information.

I would feel much more comfortable having it operated and managed by the Government people that we have there now than making this accessible to a private firm that would take that over. It is, I think, an issue that the Minister will hear a great deal about if indeed that is what he is choosing for his pilot project.

Mr. Albert Driedger: I am not trying to indicate that there is a big secret. We are looking at various buildings and where to do this, and 1075 Portage could well be one of the buildings that is being targeted to proceed with it because it is a high profile building in terms of public use.

I would be very sensitive in terms of if the project or staff did not maintain the building properly. I know that everybody, my department as well as myself, would feel very sensitive about any criticism. So maybe that is a good place to try it. We would certainly be watching it very closely and making sure that the performance was up to the standards that we would want. A place like that I think is a more critical place to probably try a trial project because that is where the public will be viewing it, not just the Government employees. I think that would be a relatively reasonable comparison.

Mr. Plohman: Mr. Chairman, just in concluding, I mentioned as my primary concern the sensitive records and work that is undertaken there. That was something I think the Minister should consider very carefully.

Mr. Albert Driedger: We will have a look at it.

Mr. Rose: Just before we go, I wanted to make a very brief statement. I appreciate the operation and the system of the Minister and his staff and the many hours he has spent which I am sure was beneficial in speeding up and shortening the Estimates process. I think it is a good system and we look forward to working with them.

Mr. Albert Driedger: One final comment. I would just like to indicate the fact that we have gone through the

Estimates process does not take away from the fact that I am sure there are going to be questions from time to time of concerns. I appreciate the expedience with which we have gone through this portion of the Estimates. If there are any questions at any time, I want to indicate that staff or myself are prepared to accommodate and give the information as much as possible.

Mr. Chairman: Item 1.(a)—pass.

Resolution No. 71: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,152,900 for Government Services, Administration, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March 1989—pass.

That concludes these Estimates for the Department of Government Services. What is the will of the committee? Committee rise.

SUPPLY—HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko: I call the Committee of Supply to order, please. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Health. I understand that earlier today there was an understanding that we set aside certain items. The Minister advises that he has an answer to a question with respect to item 2.(d). The Honourable Minister of Health.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Chairman, the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) asked about establishing, if I understood his question, a statistical base for cardiovascular health. In 1986 Health and Welfare Canada and the Nova Scotia Government jointly funded a heart health survey in Nova Scotia and the survey consisted of over 2,000 cases and measured knowledge and attitudes about heart health and also included physical measurements of height, weight, blood pressure and blood cholesterol.

Subsequent to that, the federal Government began to negotiate with other provinces to expand this database and every province has been approached. The other Maritime provinces—NB have agreed to participate—and we and the balance of the provinces, Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta are still in the discussion stages as to whether we participate in the database. Other sources of data are also available including results from Canada's Health Promotion survey and various smoking, fitness and nutrition surveys.

Our participation in the cardiovascular health database will depend on the cost effectiveness of obtaining the additional data on cholesterol and blood pressure which earlier studies only participated partial information on it. We are in the process of trying to determine what our cost effectiveness will be of participating in that with federal Government.

Mr. Chairman: Item 2.(e) Hearing Conservation: (1) Salaries—the Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Chairperson, before I ask questions on the Hearing Conservation, the Member for Springfield (Mr. Roch) had two

questions—as he wants to go home—so if he could start with the questions.

* (2005)

Mr. Gilles Roch (Springfield): I have more than two questions and I am not necessarily going home. I just wanted to ask the Minister. It is in regard to the program known as the "Auditory Verbal Teaching Method." You no doubt are aware that the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities operates a preschool program, and although it has been somewhat successful, it is not really the answer for some of these children. This particular method, I should say, is being used with a lot of success in Ottawa and indeed some other provinces and States. I was wondering if there was any chance of it being available in Manitoba in the near future.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I am informed the program the Honourable Member refers to is available through the Ottawa General Hospital and the Manitoba Society does not offer that particular program. I guess it is the usual balancing act. One could, with unlimited resources, presumably offer the new program, but the society at present believes that with their given resources, they are offering as effective a program as possible which assists the greatest number of Manitobans, although I guess there are possibly up to three families in Manitoba that may well be better served by the particular program offered out of the Ottawa General Hospital.

Mr. Roch: I realize that. I do not know what the number of families are, but I know there are at least three, if not more, coming on stream. I was wondering if any thought had been given to bringing in—I am trying to recall the term, is it an oral rehabilitationist? That is the term. Is there any thought of possibly bringing one in? I understand that the problem in Ottawa right now is that they have come to a point where the program is saturated and they are not accepting any more people into their program there. There have been some cases where the people have had to go to—if my memory serves me correct—the Helen Beebe Centre in Pennsylvania, and the cost for one week is \$1,000.00. That is not counting, of course, the travelling, hotel expenses and meal expenses and so on and so forth. As time goes on, there will be more of a need for this type of program as diagnostic procedures identify these problems.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, the province does not employ any oral rehabilitationists who work with the hearing impaired in terms of assisting them in verbally communicating. We do have the speech therapists, speech pathologists, but of course that is a different discipline that my honourable friend is talking about in assistance to the hearing disabled and we simply do not have that expertise currently on staff.

Mr. Roch: What I am actually asking, I suppose, is there any possibility in the near future that such a staff person might be available if there is sufficient need in Manitoba, because at one time it was a little more

difficult to identify these children which are hearing impaired; but now, with modern technology and modern methods of diagnosis, it is becoming easier, I suppose, to identify these problems in which children do need it. As time goes on, it may be that the need does exist. I realize that we have spending constraints, but if the need exists there may be a desire on the part of the department to take the responsibility for such a program and institute it here in Manitoba.

* (2010)

Mr. Orchard: I appreciate my honourable friend's comments and suggestions. I am not unsympathetic at all, but let me be candid. I think that we have significant underresourcing of our speech therapy, speech pathology program in Manitoba right now, and in terms of not wanting to downplay the concerns of the specific group that my honourable friend is referring to, we do have a significant need which is not new, it has existed for some time, that we are simply not meeting in preschool children without hearing impairment, in order to attempt to provide them service, but I will take my honourable friend's suggestion and I appreciate him bringing it up this evening. We will do some investigation to see the kind of client identification and demand and the availability of the specialty that my honourable friend refers to.

Mr. Roch: The reason I bring it up is because obviously there are some people who can afford it and obviously there are some who cannot. The problem is with those people who cannot afford it, on a continual basis to go out of the province for these programs and, in other jurisdictions, I believe that the Department of Health, under the auspices of a separate departmental agency, has often integrated this service into a major hospital such as Ottawa has done.

I am happy to hear that the Minister is indeed looking at possibly offering this in the future, but I was wondering if there was anything more specific that could be—maybe it is not possible at this time—considered for possibly the '89-90 year. There is also the problem that a few years into the future these children will be entering the school system and some provision may have to be made for them at that point under special needs programs. I do not know if it is going to be a cost-shared program between Education and Health or strictly a Health or strictly an Education problem, but at this point in time it is essentially a problem which falls under the Department of Health.

* (2015)

Mr. Orchard: I cannot offer any hope or commitment for the next Estimates process. As I indicated earlier on, we have, and I have a significant personal desire to see some enhancement of our service capability in terms of speech language pathology, and that of course is a straight dedication of additional resources which I do not think I have to remind my honourable friend is difficult to come by at the best of times, let alone today.

In terms of some of the specific directions, my honourable friend has also identified not a jurisdictional

problem but a current service capability which exists to some degree in the Department of Health. For instance, at the Health Sciences Centre, part of our funding provides for speech and hearing services through the Health Sciences Centre and we have just reached an agreement recently with the Health Sciences Centre to enhance that capability. The reason we chose to make that enhancement at the Health Sciences Centre versus enhancing our regional services is very specific and I want to explain that to my honourable friend so he knows where I am attempting to take this area of funding in the department.

The Health Sciences Centre Clinic dealt significantly with preschool children. The school system, I forget the number off the top of my head but I think there are 70-plus speech language pathologists in the school system but they deal with kindergarten and older children. I am informed that they have a fairly significant workload and as a result, in the regions and within Winnipeg, they do not have the ability to assist very much. They do some, but assist very much in the preschool time frame.

So when we have the decision as to where to go as an interim step in trying to develop a longer-term program for speech language pathology, the first and logical expansion was at the Health Sciences Centre where we had the preschool children assessment and a provision of service.

I made an arrangement with the Health Sciences Centre, with their cooperation, to split the funding so that we actually ended up with an expansion of service beyond the resource we dedicated at Health Sciences Centre because it is one of their priorities as well. They have waiting lists to assessment 14 months long, a waiting list for assessment. I have met on two occasions now with the Association of Manitoba Speech Pathologists, speech therapists, and I have tried to glean from them advice as to where we ought to proceed.

It is kind of a unique situation. Most of those individuals work for the school boards but yet their governing act is under my responsibility. So there is that sort of split jurisdiction, if you will. They believe that as an association, if I can paraphrase where they are coming from, that if we had resource dedication which is limited, which of course we do, that one of the most productive target groups would be preschool children, the case being quite simple, that if you intervene early enough and young enough in the child's life, you might get by with six months of therapy to correct the speech impediment or the language problem, whereas at school you may work with that child for upwards of a year, roughly twice as long.

So when we are approaching this over the longer haul, that will be a direction we will focus in on, but to be very candid with my honourable friend, we do have that hump funding that the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) mentioned ahead of time. There is no question that if we can put the resource to preschoolers, eventually most of the demand in the school system ought to disappear. I mean, if you correct the problem before kindergarten and that resource may be needed in a lesser amount, then we can start focusing on seniors and other adult Manitobans who have language

impairment because of stroke and other side effects of disease.

But I tell my honourable friend that in the short run where my focus of enhanced service delivery—if we can dedicate the resource to it—and you will notice I said, if we can dedicate the resource, etc., will be to target the preschool age children because I think that clearly is probably our most effective place to put into focus additional resources.

* (2020)

Mr. Roch: I can well understand why—it is pretty basic—if the department can provide the resources, but if you cannot, what is the short-term solution until programs are developed for these people?

Mr. Orchard: Well, Mr. Chairman, I may be on slightly the wrong track, but maybe my honourable friend can help me. The Manitoba Society does offer some service program. Now it is not the program model that at least some of these parents believe would be most effective. That is only available in Ottawa General, as indicated earlier. We have an individual in Westman Region who can provide some services. Again, there is a distance problem. I guess the easiest way to describe it is the philosophical problem that it is not the program that the parents believe would be the most effective one. However, that has not prevented us trying to offer those services that are available to those children in an effort to try and facilitate solution of the problem.

Mr. Roch: The reason that I am asking these questions is because I happen to have parents in my constituency who unfortunately have children who are very severely hearing impaired. They belong to an association, the Association of Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children of Manitoba. I understand through those parents, not being familiar totally with that particular association, that they have certain recommendations which they would like to bring forth to the Government. Is it the intention of the Government, or I should I say more particularly this Minister, to meet with these people in the near future so that at least they can offer suggestions?

Mr. Orchard: I think a very effective thing for them to do is to meet with the director of Hearing Conservation and find out what services might be available to assist them and, indeed, to see exactly where they believe the province ought to be going. I think that would be a good first step. As I indicated to my honourable friend earlier though, that does not necessarily mean that in the immediate future we are going to be able to offer the kind of resolution to the problem that they would think most appropriate.

Mr. Cheema: Hearing screening and treatment for all ages is extremely important, more particularly so for the younger-aged population. That is where, as the Minister of Health indicated, the early detection and treatment will play a wider role in the development of children and they will be improving the total intellectual ability and increase their chances of full human potential.

We are definitely pleased that there was an allocation of a full speech pathologist at Health Sciences Centre, but there are certain areas where we still only have two-and-a-half full time at St. Boniface Hospital. We have about three at Brandon. So there was a total number of eight speech pathologists before these four new staff were allocated. Now even by increasing the four to twelve will not improve the total condition because there are 250 children who are still waiting, as the Minister has indicated, a 14-month waiting period.

Now what are the further steps and further plans to see that dissipating period decreased to a minimum, at least at six months and that age group, because that age group is specifically vulnerable for any intellectual impairment, as early detection will definitely save money over the longer period for the preschool children as well as the school-aged group. Does the Minister have a special plan to bring more speech pathologists? What are the other areas of his major concern outside the area of Winnipeg also?

* (2025)

Mr. Orchard: Let me tell my honourable friend that there is an old saying in rural Manitoba that half a loaf is better than no bread at all. I recognize that the four positions at Health Sciences Centre will not completely resolve the problem. However, let me tell my honourable friend that it is a significant first step. It is a step that demonstrates the direction that we wish to proceed in.

I want to offer my friend the caution that I do not believe we are going to be able, over even a four-year period of time, to build the resource to meet the demand and that troubles me. I have to tell you that troubles me, but then you know, as Minister of Health, I am not providing service to specific needs groups. I am providing service to the people of Manitoba, or attempting to. There are innumerable areas in which resources are needed. We are not going to address all of those areas of needs even over a four-year period of time.

I simply want to tell my honourable friend that we will be moving in cooperation with the professional association in conjunction with the schools, because after having done the problem identification, the next step to problem resolution is to see how you can best coordinate your resource allocation. As I indicated earlier, in the school system we have a significant allocation of resource, far greater than what we are able to offer in terms of the department.

I have to answer in my mind as Minister whether I ought to move in a parallel program to the school system placing resource of speech pathologists in the regions throughout Manitoba to service preschool children. I want to do that. I think Government's objective is to attempt to do that, but maybe we have to take a look at whether we can do it through the existing structure of the school system rather than create a parallel administrative vehicle. I have not answered that question yet because I have not really had the time to spend analyzing it and discussing it within this Department of Health and, indeed, in conjunction with my colleague, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach).

There is no question, it is an identified need that I take very, very seriously. It is almost a personal goal and one has to be very careful of not having very many of those as Minister of Health, as they apply to specific and definitive program areas because you can be accused of changing the funding or of directing funding to suit your personal whims rather than general need. I think in this case my personal feelings coincide with a need of the program need.

I am troubled when I see the United States system of delivery being maligned on a regular basis, but yet it is my understanding that in the United States most states have a law which requires the state to provide speech therapy services to children who have an impairment in their ability to communicate. The United States is much more progressive than we are in Canada in addressing that problem and I guess it stems, if I can go right back, to the Constitution and freedom of speech, because their belief in a democracy is presumably, and it is the same as ours, that you cannot participate in a democracy unless you have the ability to communicate.

Nothing is more important today—pardon me—I should not say “nothing” because there are some things that are more important, but few things are more important than an adequate ability to communicate. In today's day and age, communication is everything. We have the electronic information revolution where communication is probably one of our most important interpersonal skills. I have seen individual cases where an inability to communicate has caused untold problems within a family and within children.

I believe that as much as possible we ought to attempt to provide some basic assessment and treatment services to children in Manitoba with speech problems. Having hopefully provided resource for that, that same resource can be made available to assist adult Manitobans who have, through sickness or other cause, found themselves inflicted with a speech impairment. I simply want to indicate that we are moving in the right direction, I think, and hopefully we will be able to make further steps in that right direction as we dedicate resource in future budgets.

* (2030)

Mr. Cheema: It is definitely a positive step in the right direction but as I said earlier, the number still will improve but not to the extent they should be. What should be the exact figure, I do not think anybody can tell that we have to have so many exactly decrease to a zero level but still there should be more allocation of resources so that at least, because we are not looking at one child, we are looking at the whole family structure and development and also it causes a lot of distress to the families and later on more time for the school speech pathologist, and in turn more time for the teachers. It is ongoing for the family. I think it still will be a good idea to increase the numbers or maybe look at the numbers and in four to six months time review of four more speech pathologists has attributed to decrease the number for waiting list.

My second question will be that I have not seen any directions for the hearing program for the seniors,

because as I indicated during the Question Period, seniors, at least one-third or almost 50 percent of them, suffer from some kind of hearing disability. That is what most of the studies indicate.

At present in Manitoba, we have about 3,800 people in personal care homes and to the best of my knowledge, we do not have even one person allocated specifically for this purpose and it is taking more time just even for a direction of the hearing impairment. To serve those needs for 3,800 people, I think we need to have some programs so that their needs can be addressed to improve their quality of life and in turn I think we will save the funds also. More so, at the Deer Lodge Hospital and also Seven Oaks Hospital, the numbers are not sufficient even to meet the regular demands of the hospital patients and inpatients which are coming both from medicine as well as surgery, and those patients, as the Minister has indicated, having problems secondary to the cardiovascular, if we delay their recovery even by a few weeks, it does cost more money to keep them in the hospital. It does cost more money to rehabilitate them than at a later stage. I think some planning has to be put in place where nursing has to be done today or tomorrow but there should be some direction to improve the services.

Mr. Orchard: In answer to my honourable friend from Springfield (Mr. Roch), of the new positions that were just recently approved at the Health Sciences Centre, one is a pediatric audiologist for hearing impaired children. That position has not been as of yet, but that may also offer another avenue for support.

In addition, another of the speech pathologists will be hired for adult services at the Health Sciences Centre.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there are four centres in Winnipeg—Concordia, Victoria, Deer Lodge and Seven Oaks Hospital—and through these centres, the very critical adult cases receive services. Not that one wants to discriminate, but in reality the focus of our resource is to children who we hope we can resolve the problem of their speech impairment before they get to school age or certainly attempt to relieve that in part.

I want to chastize my honourable friend for the questions that he posed in Question Period about the 22nd of October—if I could just find it. I have made this caution of my honourable friend before that when he comes in and poses questions in the House, that he ought to assure that he has his information correct. On October 20, I want to tell my honourable friend, you did not have your information correct because you indicated that various studies indicate that 60 percent of the residents of personal care homes will have some form of communication disorder.

Now my honourable friend has some information that my department does not have, because I am informed that there is no substantiated information as to the percentage of residents in Manitoba personal care homes who have communication disorders. I do not know where my honourable friend got his information from, but the department does not have it and we fund the personal care homes.

I offer him a suggestion as to where he got it from. A 1988 Report of the American Speech and Hearing Association states it is estimated that 31 percent to 50 percent of residents in nursing homes have communication disorders. That is an American study. Maybe it has applicability, but it is not even the 60 percent that my honourable friend talked about. I suspect my honourable friend might be pulling some figures out of the air to make his case.

I want to indicate why I think that might be true, because later on in that question my honourable friend said some of them, referring to the 60 percent which is not the correct figure, 60 percent of people with some sort of communication disorders, and my honourable friend goes on to say that some of them are waiting for three years and some of them are waiting until 1995, if nothing has been done. That is seven years. My reply to him was—this is without checking with the department, because had someone been waiting that long for service, that would have been an issue that was brought up to me and I never recalled that issue being brought up.

I indicated to my honourable friend at the time that I did not think his information was correct and sure enough it is not, because it indicates in here that Manitoba Health Services Commission staff receive very few queries from personal care homes regarding the need for or unavailability of these services. They receive approximately five to ten annually and, to their knowledge, there is no waiting list stretching into 1995 for residents in personal care homes. Where does this waiting list exist that my honourable friend is talking about because again the department that provides services, the department that funds the personal care homes, does not know of it?

I recognize we have a problem in speech pathology and in providing services, but you do not make the problem any better or any easier to solve by putting that kind of information which is not correct on the record to leave a much worse impression of the system than what really is the case. I think it does a disservice to this Legislature that my honourable friend would do that.

Mr. Cheema: The information was given. That question does indicate clearly that the study—that does not mean things are existing the same because you have not done any study in Manitoba. The numbers are 3,800 people in personal care homes. If you have any evaluation program for those people, you will have those numbers here also. That was my question and the question was very clear that when the waiting period is for just assessment for 12 months and if those numbers are 60 people are suffering from hearing disability, you will have a waiting list of even more than that. That is exactly what I said and I stand with my comments still the same.

I think you should have a system where it should be an evaluation of the seniors will be done. Until you do have an evaluation system, how can you make a statement that is not correct? (Interjection) Absolutely. I think, because we do not have the people who are serving the seniors even for their hearing evaluation,

you are making a statement in the House that information is not correct. That absolutely is a misleading statement. Mr. Chairman—

* (2040)

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

Mr. Orchard: No, not on a point of order. My honourable friend indicated that I made a misleading statement to the House. The only person who has misled the House was the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) on Thursday, October 20, 1988, during Question Period and I will quote his exact question.

"Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): The Minister should be aware that virtually there are no speech language pathologist services available for personal care homes. Various studies," he says, "indicate that 60 percent of the residents will have some form of communication disorder. Some of them are waiting for three years and some of them will wait until 1995 if nothing has been done."

I simply indicate to my honourable friend, no such study exists to the awareness of the department. If he knows of a study, please give me the study in definitive terms which says 60 percent, because you have information that my staff does not have.

Secondly, they are not aware of any waiting list stretching into 1995. Again, would my honourable friend tell me from whence he got that information before he accuses me of misleading the House when he did so on October 20, 1988?

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I will again explain what I said. I said the various studies do indicate that the seniors in that population age group would have some form of hearing impairment or communication difficulties. If the Minister has to interpret it his own way, that is his way of dealing. My question is, can you tell me the exact number of the speech pathologists available for the personal care homes?

Mr. Orchard: Severe problems, as I have indicated to my honourable friend, are addressed to any one of four of our hearing centres in the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us again the exact number of speech pathologists for the seniors for the personal care homes, and who is coordinating those services? What kind of services are available at the primary level before they are being referred to these centres?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, there is no dedicated staff going to personal care homes. There are hearing centres. There is now going to be hired one speech language pathologist for adult services, but there is not a speech pathologist dedicated to the personal care home service.

Let me read to my honourable friend, before he wants us to dedicate resources to this. I am informed by staff at the Manitoba Health Services Commission that they

receive very few calls, some five to ten per year. Now, is my honourable friend saying, with a waiting list that is 14 months long in preschool audiology at the Health Sciences Centre alone, that he says we should respond to five to ten calls per year from the personal care homes and ignore those children? I think my honourable friend has not got an issue in which he has his facts right, No. 1, or his priorities right, No. 2.

Mr. Cheema: I think we are getting into an argument which is absolutely not going to solve the problem here. My question is still the same, as the Minister has admitted now that there is not a single speech pathologist available for personal care homes. That was my question on the 21st of October. That question he has answered today. On the record, he is saying that there is no speech pathologist available, and now he is saying that there are only five to ten requests per year.

When you do not have an evaluation system in the personal care home, who is going to come for a speech pathologist? That is what I am saying. Do you have any planning for the personal care homes where the evaluation is being done on a regular basis? Are the seniors of Manitoba different from the seniors of the USA? If the USA has 60 percent who have some disability, do we expect something medically different? There may be a 3 percent to 5 percent difference in numbers, but still the problem is going to be there.

I am saying that the children's problem is extremely important but for the seniors, when the population is growing, you do not want a system in five years time when you will have the same problem as we are facing with the children.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, that was not the nature of my honourable friend's question on October 20. My honourable friend put two pieces of misinformation on the record, first of all, that various studies indicated 60 percent of the residents in personal care homes have communication disorders of some form or another; and, secondly, he said that some of them are waiting three years and up to 1995 for service. Having checked both of those statements of presumed fact by my honourable friend through the department, I find both of them to be in error, that they were not factual.

Now, my honourable friend makes the case that there are no speech pathologists working within the personal care home system. My honourable friend is correct. Let me point out again to my honourable friend that of the four positions that we arranged and agreed in conjunction with the Health Sciences Centre to put on staff, one of them is a speech language pathologist for adult services. That may well be, in severe cases, adults in personal care homes. It depends on the demand of people who suffer from stroke and have speech impairment because of that, and other debilitating diseases.

My honourable friend has identified a need. I have told my honourable friend that the need amongst children is vastly unserviced. I am telling my honourable friend that we are providing some services to the adults, but I have to tell my honourable friend that three out

of four positions at the Health Sciences Centre are focused and dedicated towards release of problem amongst children. In the immediate future, that will be the majority focus of program improvement. If my honourable friend believes we ought to dedicate our resource to the personal care home side of it and not to the preschool side of it, please tell me because I would like my honourable friend to indicate that on the record as the position of the Liberal Party of Manitoba.

Mr. Cheema: Our position clearly indicates from the question we have asked in this House, we are the ones who have pressed for the speech pathologists for the children.

My question today is very different. My question is for the prevention and for the treatment of the communication disorder for the elderly population in personal care homes. What I am requesting or asking the Minister is what kind of plans does he have? He has admitted that there is not even a single speech pathologist available to deal with those services. He says that the problem does not exist. That may be his way of thinking, but a problem does exist and it will come to surface more once this evaluation of the seniors is done. Could he, at some time, make some plans to address the needs of the personal care home population so that they do not end up suffering from hearing impairment and make use of their life?

Mr. Orchard: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us what is the comparison of speech pathologists versus the population of Manitoba? What is the average as compared to the other provinces of Canada?

Mr. Orchard: I will have to provide that information to my honourable friend tomorrow.

* (2050)

Mr. Cheema: What type of training programs are available for parents and infants under that parent and infant training Activity Identification? Can the Minister tell us in which areas those programs are available in rural Manitoba as well as the northern population? What are the results from that program? Is there an ongoing evaluation study? What are the objectives for this year?

Mr. Orchard: I wonder if I can get my honourable friend to be a little more specific in terms of the training program. Is that for hearing impairment or speech pathology?

Mr. Cheema: That is for both hearing impairment and hearing conservation and speech pathology. If you do not have one, how can you have the other one? Both programs are part and parcel of the same identification program.

Mr. Orchard: We have one teacher for the hearing impaired on staff in the Westman Region providing services to that area of the province. That is our only individual in the department who provides that kind of

services and assists in providing parents with ability to help the children in the home environment as well.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us the number of clients that have been served last year and this year so far? What is the cost effectiveness of this program? How many staff are there to provide this? Is there only one or is there support services staff also available?

Mr. Orchard: Was my honourable friend there referring specifically to the position in the Westman Region? I do not think I can separate that out, can I? That individual is providing service to seven children, a very intensive program, I am informed, involving a high degree of parent participation as well. The children are spread out presumably in the region so there is a fair amount of travelling involved as well.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, can the Minister tell us, is this a part of the school program or just outside the school? What is the age group of those children?

Mr. Orchard: Well, these particular children are all preschool.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, under the Expected Results of this area of promotion of Hearing/Deaf Awareness Month, can the Minister tell us what kind of media plan he has for this month? How much money is going to be allocated, and what is expected out of that?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, not unlike many advocacy week declarations, the department's participation is one that I take pride in, in terms of signing the proclamation declaring the particular week as the Hearing Impairment Week, etc., etc. We do not provide direct funding for advocacy during that week, but we cooperate with the association who are sponsoring the week and provide them with informational resource as requested and as available.

(The Acting Chairman, Mr. Parker Burrell, in the Chair.)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, it is one of the major areas of identification under this program. If that is all that has to be done, just the announcement, then why is it one of the big identification activities? I mean, how are you going to convey the message to the public just by announcing one announcement? Are there any special brochures or other media campaign or through the schools or to the community centres, or is it going to be done through the personal care homes or through the hospitals or through the various physicians involved?

Mr. Orchard: A fair criticism.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, we will move to the next item. We have to look to the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), if he has further questions.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Burrell): Item No. 2.(e)(1)—pass; 2.(e)(2)—pass; 2.(e)(3)—pass.

We are now on item 2.(f) Gerontology: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for Kildonan.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, as the population of seniors is growing with the percentage now standing at approximately 10.8 percent, the needs of this community have to be addressed regularly in order to meet demands as best as possible. By the year 2001, we will have a population of approximately 12.8 percent of Manitoba and the average of the population in Canada will be in the same range for the seniors, 65 and above. Can the Minister indicate to us what are his major goals for this area and what specific problem has he identified under the Directorate of Gerontology?

* (2100)

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Acting Chairman, I have had meetings with the Manitoba Society of Seniors and other seniors groups, the Manitoba Council on Aging. I might just point out to my honourable friend that the Manitoba Council on Aging was an initiative undertaken by my immediate predecessor as a Progressive Conservative Health Minister, the Honourable Bud Sherman, back in I believe 1978 or 1979. He did that because he recognized then, and I suppose it was not unique because I presume every Government has had access to the statistics which demonstrate clearly that our population is a greying population, if you will, and I ought not to say that necessarily. However, I say that without pointing fingers.

The recognition of the growth in the numbers of seniors in our society presents Governments with a multitude of challenges because in the Department of Health there is no question that the impact of senior citizens, particularly in the latter years of their lives, can be significant in terms of the impact on the budget of this department. I only refer my honourable friend to the Personal Care Home line as one area. The next line that we will be dealing with later on this evening, the Continuing Care line, is program focused, not exclusively, but primarily at senior citizens. We do dedicate a significant amount of resource to the seniors population in this province.

Mr. Acting Chairman, if there is a goal in simplistic terms that I would have and that this Government would have in terms of policy for senior citizens, that would be to develop and advance and enhance, because some policies exist that have this as the criteria, but to develop and enhance and enrich programs which foster independence amongst our seniors, to make them the self-reliant individuals and citizens that they always have been and indeed are. In many ways programming out of gerontology, in particular, is designed to provide with modest financial contributions—I will put it that way—the growth and development of support services for seniors within their respective home communities.

Those support services are modestly funded, as I indicated, and provide the framework for extensive volunteer participation by seniors themselves, and by others in the community but primarily by seniors, to self-administer various support programs to help seniors enjoy their retirement years in a lifestyle involving recreation, visitation and any number of other programs that keep the seniors in the community actively participating, healthy, and indeed providing oftentimes a valuable portion, a large portion, of the

social fabric in many of our communities, particularly in many of our communities in rural Manitoba.

I want to tell my honourable friend that the busiest place on Main Street, Miami, most days is not the hotel, because it burned down a year and a half ago, but it is rather the senior citizens centre and it would often rival even when the hotel was up and running. There are more cars, there is more activity, there are more people there than in probably any other single continuous operation in the community. Miami is a small community and not unique in that regard. Our senior population is a tremendous resource of this province and it is the goal of this Government to, as much as possible within our financial resources, provide services to seniors that will enhance and further their independence and their maintenance of an independent lifestyle.

It is with that goal in mind that we do provide some significant support funding through this department in order to assure that seniors have the opportunity to create their own administrative structures for support programs in the community. I think the program has been successfully carried on through two different administrations and it certainly will continue on successfully through any input I can have in terms of policy direction in that regard.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Acting Chairperson, due to shortage of time, I will be asking a few more questions very short and specific and I will probably expect a very short answer so that we can get to other areas.

Can the Minister tell us what are the initiatives started this year to address the needs of seniors? What is the major area of identification? What is the major theme for this year?

Mr. Orchard: We have upward of 17 new projects under Support Services for Seniors that, if and when approved, will be the major increment in terms of service provision throughout the province.

Mr. Cheema: Does the Minister feel the need for more day hospitals for seniors and is there a plan for expansion of the program to the rural communities?

Mr. Orchard: That is another topic outside of gerontology. As I indicated to my honourable friend, that is in the area that we allocate resource for that program. The focus here in terms of gerontology is program development to maintain independence without backup to the institutional resource base.

Mr. Cheema: Even though this is not a program, is not a part of this section but still it plays an important role and there should be some policy, that is what I asked the Minister. Maybe he could clarify if there are any such plans for extension of day hospitals.

Mr. Orchard: In the interest of expediting this item along, that is a discussion we can have fully at Manitoba Health Services Commission when we get to the Hospital line.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us then, is it a problem for the seniors in terms of their mental health

problems? Is this a part of this program or not? My more specific question: is the psychogeriatric program a part of this gerontology, or is there any specific plan to develop the new recommendation as was recommended by the review committee?

Mr. Orchard: I would be very glad to get into that area now but I know my honourable friend would be somewhat disappointed because we would end up chewing up a major portion of the remaining time this evening and we may even have to go overtime.

My honourable friend has identified two separate program areas in which we are going to have to discuss separately the item. Some mental health services to seniors are provided through a mental health appropriation in the Department of Health. Regional Services is also an area in which some provision of mental health services to seniors, as well as to other Manitobans, is provided.

In terms of the psychogeriatric program, specifically at Seven Oaks Hospital, I had the opportunity of touring Seven Oaks the other day. My honourable friend may have got the rave reviews from that tour. That again is a program that we can discuss under the hospital appropriation when we get to the Manitoba Health Services Commission. In saying that, my honourable friend surely now recognizes why we have gone through a reorganization of Mental Health Services within the department, a reorganization that we are very near, we are probably 90 percent complete and ready to make the announcement. I dearly love to share it with my honourable friends but I want to have sort of the "t's" crossed and the "i's" dotted before I do that because I know my honourable friend will have substantive questions and my other honourable friend will have substantive questions.

But, Mr. Acting Chairman, when my honourable friend asked really two rather straightforward questions, we are going to deal with them, the answers to them, in three different departments of this Department of Health—two of them within the Department of Health and one of them within the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Then if we want to get into the manpower aspect of it, we deal in another line in the Manitoba Health Services Commission. It is with that in mind that our reorganization is to bring those focus and program lines under more clearly defined and unified direction. In terms of implementation of some of the recommendations in the psychogeriatric report, again I would be pleased to discuss that with my honourable friend when we get to the Manitoba Health Services Commission.

* (2110)

Mr. Cheema: Due to shortage of time, we may not be able to discuss that in detail. Can the Minister just indicate to us, does he agree with the findings of that committee and what are his major plans for the reorganization of the psychogeriatric programs, just in short so that we do not have to go through this again?

Mr. Orchard: I cannot give my honourable friend a short answer. I would prefer he raised that question in

the interest of brevity tonight when we hit the appropriate line.

Mr. Cheema: I guess I have no choice, but I will repeat my questions again maybe tomorrow.

Can the Minister tell us when the study of elder abuse will be started? We have raised questions in the House and it was told unfortunately that the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) did indicate that he does not know when the study will start and he does not know who is going to be participating, and he does not know the mandate of that committee. When we do not have a committee, we do not really expect him to know the mandate. Can the Minister of Health tell us what kind of plans do they have and when we can at least hope that committee will be established? Who will be participating in that committee and what will be the major components of that committee?

Mr. Orchard: I do not want to usurp any of the positive attention that my honourable friend, the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld), wishes to engender when he makes those very announcements to my honourable friend and to Manitobans. So I would hope that my honourable friend would be patient with me and not put me on the spot of usurping my honourable friend, my colleague, the Member responsible for Seniors.

Mr. Cheema: The Honourable Minister of Health is not going to like what I am going to say. At three different occasions, there are three different Ministers that are answering in different ways. Now, as a Minister of Health, you immediately expect results out of your activity identification. The Honourable Minister of Health is saying we should wait for the Minister responsible for Seniors. He is saying that we should wait, I do not know how long. Can the Minister tell us why there is such a blackout for this area? Why cannot we not have some kind of response today?

Mr. Orchard: I take deep offence at my honourable friend's comments. I thought we were achieving a lot of progress here tonight. To make that kind of a scurrilous attack on me personally is going far too far down the road. I regret that my honourable friend would do that. I simply want to tell my honourable friend that in 1982 the Shell Report was tabled and I will give him a copy of that.

Mr. Cheema: I withdraw if I said anything offensive. I did not mean to, I am just asking a simple question. If the Honourable Minister is upset, I withdraw my comments but still my question is not going to change. The thrust of my question is still the same, when can we expect some announcement? If the Minister does not want to answer, that is his way of dealing.

Can the Minister tell us now what kind of plans are available to deal with the transportation problems facing seniors, both in rural and urban Manitoba?

Mr. Orchard: I will not presume to talk for my colleague, the Minister for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), because I am simply not totally familiar with the transportation

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programs available to seniors in the City of Winnipeg, but I know that the Handi-Van Program is accessible. I want to tell my honourable friend that I was proud in 1981, as Minister of Transportation in the province, to announce a new program which has been carried on for the last seven years in rural Manitoba, whereby we have the Handi-Van Program that is available to communities throughout rural Manitoba on the basis that the province will participate in the capital funding and some operating funding.

The balance of operating funding comes from the municipality and/or a community service group and the users of the system. In other words, the seniors in rural Manitoba contribute towards financing the system by, if you will, a fare for the use of the handi-van. These handi-vans are wheelchair equipped so that they can handle seniors in wheelchairs. They serve a multitude of purposes in rural Manitoba to take seniors shopping, to medical appointments, to recreational opportunities, to take them to parades in the community in various community events at which they wish to attend and participate.

I want to tell my honourable friend that program, as I said, I introduced it as Highways Minister in 1981 and I have to say that it is a good program that has been carried on in, I think, the identical criterion and policy framework that I introduced in 1981 and it has provided service to, I would suspect now, upward of 25 to 30 communities in rural Manitoba. It is highly successful, not without problems naturally, because some of the rural handi-van services have the usual financial difficulties that you sometimes can run into from time to time, but I want to tell my honourable friend that it has been a tremendously beneficial program. It has provided a significant transportation opportunity in those communities in which the community and the municipality and the service groups have taken up the challenge to fund the system and to make sure it operates. It has been a tremendous enhancement of transportation services to seniors in rural Manitoba.

Mr. Cheema: Can the Minister tell us what community-based agencies are providing the support services for the seniors?

Mr. Orchard: I have got a number of them here.

Ashdale Holdings Incorporated at Ashern are providing support services for seniors
Betel Home Foundation Inc. of Gimli
Bethel Mennonite Care Services Inc. in Winnipeg
Brandon Housing Authority Inc.
Chalet Malouin Inc. (St. Malo)
Community Help Centre Incorporated (Roblin)
Dauphin and District Community Resource Council
Ethelbert Support Services to Seniors Inc.
Fisher Branch Medical Facilities Inc.
Foxwarren Leisure Centre Inc.
Foyer Vincent Inc. (Winnipeg)
Franklin Manor Inc. (Dominion City)
Gateway Manor Inc. (Teulon)
Gladstone Area Seniors Support Program Inc.
Gordon Howard Senior Centre Inc. (Selkirk)
Gretna Housing Authority Inc.

Hamiota Seniors Council Inc.
Hebrew Sick Benefit Association Seniors Group of Winnipeg
Herman Prior Senior Citizen Centre Inc. (Portage)
Home Assistance in Neepawa and District Inc.
Home Help Project Inc. of Winnipeg
Inwood Manor Inc.
Kiwani Centre of the Deaf Inc. (Winnipeg)
Klinik Inc. (Winnipeg)
Living Independence for Elders Inc. (Ashern/Moosehorn)
LGD of Piney Community Resource Council Inc.
MacGregor-Austin Seniors Support Program Council
McCreary Support Services to Seniors Inc.
Moosehorn Handicraft Centre
Morden Services for Seniors, in my own constituency, a fine program
Northwest Winnipeg Cooperative Community Council for Seniors
Oakbank-Springfield Kinsmen Seniors Complex Inc.
Oakpark Lodge Inc. (Woodlands) in my honourable friend, the Member for Lakeside's (Mr. Enns), constituency
Parkissimo Lodge in Minot
Plumas Senior Citizens Inc.
Plum Coulee Housing Authority Inc.
Poplarfield Housing Authority Inc.
Portage Housing Authority Inc., and that is the second one in Portage
Rhineland Community Assistance for Elderly Inc.
Riverton and District Friendship Centre Inc.
Rorketon Support Services to Seniors
Ste. Rose Support Services Inc.
Seniors Access to Independent Living Inc. (Virden), the Honourable Minister of Agriculture's (Mr. Findlay) constituency
Seniors for Seniors Inc. (Brandon)
Seniors Helping Hand of Alstine Inc. (Reston)—that is my honourable friend, the Minister of Northern Affairs' (Mr. Downey) constituency
Seniors Organized Services of Souris Valley Inc.
Seniors Outreach Services of Bren-Win Inc.
Seniors Services of Antler River Inc. at Melita
Seniors Services of Prairie-Parkland Inc. (Shoal Lake)
Serving Seniors Inc. at Steinbach
Somerset and Area Elderly and Infirm Persons Housing Inc.
Steinbach Housing Inc. at Fernwood
Stonewall Housing Authority Inc.
Swan River Senior Citizen Centre Inc.
Tri-Council Inc. of Winnipeg
Valley Services to Souris-Birtle Hospital District
Villa Cabrini Inc. in Winnipeg
Winkler Senior Centre Inc.
Winnipeg Regional Housing Authority Inc.- TRC
Winnipeg Regional Housing Authority Inc.- Meals Stoney Plains in Beausejour.

Mr. Acting Chairman, that is the extent of the groups.

* (2120)

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, probably it would be beneficial if we could have a copy rather than going through the whole list. I think it was a long list.

Can the Minister tell us how often this organization has been audited and what is the increment there, say of this year, just on a global basis?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, they are audited annually. Of the number of groups that were mentioned, the total funding adjusted for 1987-88 was \$1,126,000.00.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, just for my clarification purposes, what is the percentage of the increase in funding for these agencies?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I cannot give you on an individual basis, but the increase is 15.4 percent year over year—part of that 15.4 percent.

Mr. Cheema: There are about 14 language books being published to make awareness for the problem for seniors and their services. Can the Minister tell us how often these books are being revised, who is coordinating those services, how do the seniors have access, and what are the community-based programs available to have access to these books?

Mr. Orchard: It has just nicely been revised. It has been printed in three languages and the fourth language will be available very shortly.

Mr. Cheema: Could we know the languages, and where the books are being published?

Mr. Orchard: The English, Ukrainian and German version is out. We still have the former version in French. It is being revised and will be out.

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I think it would be a good idea to expand those languages to adjust the needs of the other Canadians also because as I indicated in most of the Estimates, the questions, that there is a definite need for the expansion of the language program because we have addressed the need of other ethnic cultural communities where probably the first language is not English, maybe second. So could the Minister take that suggestion and have some kind of plans made at least for next year?

Mr. Orchard: Here is what is anticipated, that the third revision which is in process now and subsequent translation be in languages of Italian, Portuguese, Cree, Punjabi, Tagalog, Spanish, -(Interjection)- that is repeated again—I have got some doubling in here—Icelandic, Polish, Cantonese and Vietnamese.

Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice): Mr. Chairperson, just a few questions in this section. As one reads the objectives and activities, it would appear that this section of the Department of Health certainly deals with identifying particular needs of the agent giving advice to other senior governmental staff; it talks about ensuring public participation. Also it talks about the concern expressed with regard to elder abuse, and increasing public awareness in that area.

I am wondering if the Minister could indicate for me what is the difference between what the Gerontology section does and what, as vague as what information we have received, the Seniors Directorate is purporting to do as indicated in statements to the House?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, I think the Gerontology Directorate of the department, as my honourable friend can see, and from the explanation tonight, provides a plethora of services throughout all of Manitoba to senior citizens groups, and provides substantive support in the community throughout Manitoba as well as informational resource; for instance, in the provision of the handbook, the senior citizens handbook.

Mr. Chairman, this is a direct program delivery if you will, through the Directorate of Gerontology. In other words, responsibility for assessing applications for the establishment of new programs under Support Services for Seniors, the establishment of funding criteria for those programs both start-up and ongoing, and the addition of new services as new ideas demonstrate their worth. This is very much an act of delivery section of Government and will remain that way.

Now, in terms of the Seniors Secretariat, as my honourable friend, the Minister responsible has indicated to innumerable questions in the House, that they do not intend the Seniors Directorate to be a direct service delivery department. I think if my honourable friend takes a look at the budgetary resource, she will soon discover that there is not the resource to deliver programming.

What might be an easier description—and I certainly would not want to take words away from my honourable friend, the Minister responsible—but in generic terms, I think we envision the Seniors Directorate as being a service availability coordinator so that one can have a fuller and complete understanding through one area of Government, the plethora of services that are available to seniors, not only the Department of Health but other departments.

In addition to that, the Seniors Directorate has assumed the responsibility of developing the paper on elder abuse.

Ms. Gray: Perhaps the Minister can clarify for me. As I read the objectives, I would say that the major emphasis of this particular section is program planning and policy formulation as opposed to service delivery. The Minister has indicated that the support services to seniors programs, that it is a service delivery because they look at applications, although I think the Minister probably knows that the actual staffpeople who assist agencies and groups in providing that service are not part of the Gerontological Branch.

Could the Minister indicate what proportion of time he has spent on direct service delivery in gerontology as opposed to other areas such as program planning and policy formulation?

* (2130)

Mr. Orchard: A significant amount in terms of making sure the \$1,300,000 in grants are appropriately used.

Ms. Gray: We will probably agree to disagree because as far as approval of grants, I do not see that as direct service delivery, and the Minister can get around talking about what he sees as the role of the Seniors Directorate and what he sees that as being different from Gerontology, because I still feel that it is not very clear and there is not a distinction which I am quite sure the Minister of Health is aware. Perhaps the Minister of Health could tell us, given that there seems to be some overlap in what Gerontology may do and what the Seniors Directorate may do, as what little indication we have, could the Minister indicate how does he as Minister of Health plan to prevent any duplication or fragmentation that could occur because of having the Seniors Directorate responsible to one Minister, the Gerontology Section responsible to a separate Minister?

Mr. Orchard: I am sure that the cooperative effort that has existed within our Cabinet between Ministers and particularly between myself and the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) will continue and there shall not be any overlap of service.

Ms. Gray: I will ask a more specific question and I would hope that the Minister of Health does not feel too concerned about taking away any clout that the Minister for the Seniors Directorate may have, but could the Minister indicate to us, because of the involvement of the staff in this area in elder abuse, in terms of being involved in that for a number of years, will the Minister of Health ensure that at least one of the staff from this section, from Gerontology, will be a part of the committee or individuals who are developing the paper—and I will leave out the colour—on elder abuse?

Mr. Orchard: As I stand here, we stand ready to assist and cooperate in any way appropriate to the furtherance and the pursuance of the elder abuse paper.

Ms. Gray: Does the Minister feel strongly enough that one of his staffpeople should sit on that committee of individuals, whoever they may be, who will be working on this paper on elder abuse? Does he feel strong enough about it that he will ensure or at least encourage or promote as the Minister of Health, with his colleague the Minister responsible for the Seniors Directorate (Mr. Neufeld), that a qualified staffperson where expertise is already available in this area, can be used in the work for developing the paper on elder abuse. I would say it would be a very good use of resources.

Mr. Orchard: I want to make sure my honourable friend is able to sleep tonight and not worry herself to the wee hours of the morning about this elder abuse paper because within, and I am pleased with the recognition my honourable friend has given in terms of the expertise within Gerontology, and particular that lies with the director of Gerontology; I am very pleased.

Mr. Chairman, there is some expertise and personnel with knowledge in two other departments of Government that I can name off the top of my head, that being Community Services, the other one being the Attorney-General's Department and I can simply tell my honourable friend that the lead ministry for developing the paper on elder abuse is the Seniors

Direktorate under my honourable friend, the Minister responsible for Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld).

Mr. Chairman, I can offer my honourable friend no other assurance that the resource and the knowledge of Government within this department, within the Attorney-General, within Community Services will be utilized to the best advantage of developing the paper on elder abuse. I want her to know that so she can leave this evening calm and reassured. I do not want her to lose any more sleep over this because she gets grouchy when she loses her sleep.

Ms. Gray: I take exception to that last comment. I did not know—Oh, I will not—I will leave it well enough alone. (Interjection)

I would ask the Minister this question but he probably does not have the answer. I would dearly love to know which staff in Community Services have the expertise in elder abuse, but I will ask the Minister of Community Services (Mrs. Oleson) that privately. I would be quite curious to know which staff in what area in that department would have the expertise. For the record, I think it is important to know, and I hope the Minister is aware that there is expertise in this area, in the area of aged and elder abuse, and I would hope that Gerontology would certainly be used to its full advantage in any type of activities that the Seniors Directorate may decide to undertake when the Seniors Directorate does decide to undertake anything.

Mr. Orchard: Just to save you the question time tomorrow in Question Period, it is in the Family Violence Section of Community Services that there is some residual pool of knowledge.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill): We have a number of questions related to seniors' issues but a lot of them will be asked under the Estimates for the Seniors Directorate when we have an opportunity to ask the Minister responsible directly.

However, I did want to ask a question of the Minister. There has been some talk about the White Paper on Elder Abuse and it is my understanding that the Seniors Directorate itself will be undertaking that initiative. Can the Minister indicate what role his departmental staff and/or himself will be playing in the development of that paper?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, in the interests of brevity I just answered that question for my honourable friend from Ellice (Ms. Gray). The department will assist in any way possible. The lead initiative, the lead department is the Seniors Directorate and it is their responsibility to assure that the paper is developed, and we will be of assistance as called upon.

Mr. Cowan: With all due respect, my question is a bit more specific and perhaps I had not articulated it well enough. The specific question is: what role will the departmental staff be playing? It is easy for the Minister to say we will be playing whatever role is asked of us, but there is a tremendous amount of experience and expertise on related issues in the Department of Health

that should be made voluntarily available to the Seniors Directorate.

As a matter of fact, if the Seniors Directorate did not want to take advantage of that, I would suggest that the Minister would be well advised to force that expertise on to the Seniors Directorate, because there are many, many years of experience and many, many years of expertise that are a part of his department and that experience has been gained over the longer term and should be put to good use, so I am asking him what role he is going to ask his staff to play. Now he is not as experienced in this area but he still does have some experience, given his tenure in this House and given his briefer but probably more concentrated tenure as Minister of Health, that also might be helpful to the Seniors Minister (Mr. Neufeld) who has not been in the House as long a period of time, so I would ask the Minister what role he sees for himself with respect to the development of that paper?

Mr. Orchard: If I were to follow my honourable friend's suggestion of forcing, that would go against the very tenets of a paper on elder abuse. I mean, that would be abusive of staff in the department. I have said to my honourable friend, and maybe that was the modus operandi of the New Democratic Party, that to get along and do anything between departments they had to force one another. Ministers had to stand up and yell and scream at staff and dictate to them, you must go, you must do this.

Maybe that is the way it operated under the previous Government, and the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) was one of the lead Ministers. Maybe they had to be abusive to their staff to get any cooperation between departments, but we do not operate in that fashion. We intend to cooperate, to provide support, to provide counsel and advice and, as a result of that, with that kind of cooperative effort reinstated between departments, we expect some rather positive results.

* (2140)

Mr. Cowan: If anyone has treated their staff with disdain, it is this Minister who has slapped a gag order on all of his staff. It is this Minister who has told them they cannot talk to MLAs, whether it be Opposition or Government backbench MLAs. It is this Minister who has told his staff they cannot talk to the media. It is this Minister who has said to his staff, I have so little respect for your integrity and so little respect for your judgment that I am going to, as Minister of Health under a Conservative Government, force a blanket gag order over the entire department.

So do not let him stand in his place and pretend that he is any sort of saviour to the working people within his department. It is just not the case. I think if he was honest with himself and if he asks his staff, they will find that in fact conditions working under him are not what he would have us believe they are. Believe me, a lot of us have talked to staff before the gag order was imposed, and we know the problems that they are having with that particular Minister, but that is not the issue at hand here.

The issue at hand here is with respect to the role of the staff who have a tremendous amount of experience, a tremendous amount of expertise, and a very valuable contribution to make to the development of the paper on elder abuse with respect to the development of that paper by the Seniors Directorate. If the Minister does not want to answer, he is not going to answer. That is his prerogative. He does not have to answer any questions in this Estimates process and he has shown us that he is quite often wont not to answer those questions. We cannot force him to and he knows there are time constraints which work against trying to get some full and factual answers from the Minister.

But at least let him be more honest with his approach with regard to this issue. I would ask the Minister directly with respect to the working relationship not on this specific paper but generally between the Seniors Directorate and the Department of Health, what staff mechanism has been put in place between the directorate and the department to ensure that there are open lines of communication, to ensure that they are able to cooperatively prioritize their activities, and to ensure that there are not redundant activities being undertaken by the directorate and the department?

Mr. Orchard: You know, when my honourable friend from Churchill has made a verbal error and gets slightly reminded of that, he has to bring up extraneous things like non-existent gag orders, etc., etc., and the information that he puts forward about withholding information and staff not wanting to—or having concerns about the Minister. I really have to chuckle with my honourable friend who was part of a Government that was rejected by 78 percent of Manitobans.

I want to just remind my honourable friend, the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema), because he is good at numbers. If 78 percent of Manitobans rejected the New Democratic Party and their style of Government, which my honourable friend tries to make out was so good for the civil servants, would one then assume that the 22 percent who voted for the New Democratic Party were made up entirely of the Civil Service because they were treated so well? No. Even my honourable friend from Churchill would have to say that the voting pattern in the Civil Service would be the same as the voting pattern throughout the province where 78 percent of the Civil Service rejected that incompetent gang in Government and voted against them. That may well happen to us as well, and time will tell. Well, it did happen to us once but not by 78 percent. It was only a slight 47 percent that voted against us that time.

I want to remind my honourable friend when he talks about treating staff with dignity, there was a former Deputy Minister of Highways who was dismissed by the NDP. Was he called in by the then Premier Howard Pawley and said, you know, I am afraid we are going to do a reshuffling of services within Government and we want you to move out of the Deputy Minister's office in Highways? No, that was not the method followed by those honourable gentlemen in the NDP Government of Howard Pawley. The man found out after 30-plus years of service to the Province of Manitoba that he

was being fired as Deputy Minister by a radio broadcast while he driving back from Saskatchewan on business. That is the kind of treatment that senior people got from the NDP. That is why 78 percent of the Civil Service rejected that Government gang earlier on this year, in April of this year.

So let this individual not try to mislead the people of Manitoba by saying that there is something wrong with the way we are approaching Government and the treatment of Civil Service. I want to tell my honourable friend that senior people in the Department of Health have had more access and spent more time discussing program and direction with this Minister of Health than with any other previous Minister of Health in the last seven years. That has resulted in, I believe, a good deal of cooperation from the dedicated professional Civil Service that is part and parcel of this department and the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and let my honourable friend not try to mislead the public differently.

In answer to my honourable friend's question, there will be cooperation with the Seniors Directorate from individuals in my department in gerontology and in other disciplines of this department.

Mr. Cowan: Perhaps if the Minister would spend as much time trying to answer the question as he does trying to deflect attention away from the question, the Estimates would move along a bit quicker.

Can the Minister be more specific with respect as to how that mechanism will be set up? What structure is in place to ensure that the coordination between the experienced and capable and dedicated staff in his department is shared to the fullest extent possible with the Seniors Directorate, which is going to need all the help it can get given the performance of the directorate to date?

Mr. Orchard: There are liaison officers in each department, presumably with the role to cooperate and coordinate and facilitate activities of the Seniors Directorate. That will lead to the kind of answer that my honourable friend wishes. It is the liaison officers in each department who provide the interface of the Seniors Directorate with the departments.

Mr. Cowan: Perhaps the Minister could be more explicit with respect to who these liaison officers are, what their mandate is, where they are located, how long they have been in existence, and how they will coordinate their functions on an ongoing daily basis or as required?

Mr. Orchard: It is a staff member who has been designated liaison officer. My honourable friend may wish to ask the various Ministers during the process of Estimates to identify the individual and their particular departmental undertaking who is the liaison officer. The liaison officer from the Department of Health is the director of Gerontology and chairs that committee.

Mr. Cowan: There is one liaison officer in the Department of Health. There is one staffperson who would be responsible for that task. Is that the case?

Mr. Orchard: There is a liaison officer in each department. The Department of Health is of sufficient size that we have a liaison officer in the department and a liaison officer in the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Those individuals are designated to provide information, liaison and coordination with the Department of Seniors so that the Department of Seniors has access to and information from the various departments.

* (2150)

Mr. Chairman: Is it the will of the committee to pass item 2.(f)?

Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Chairman, I just have one question in this area. The Alzheimer's disease is being recognized more and more in society. As our society ages, I think it will be more of a problem. There is a group in The Pas who is seeking to have separate accommodations for that seniors' group in The Pas area. I am wondering if the Minister has given any consideration to having a separate facility found for these people.

Mr. Orchard: If I understand my honourable friend's question correctly, a separate facility in The Pas for those seniors suffering from Alzheimer's disease? No, there has not been consideration given to that.

Mr. Chairman: Item No. 2.(f)—pass; item 2.(f)(1) Salaries—pass; item 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

Item 2.(g) Continuing Care: (1) Salaries—the Member for Ellice.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I will ask the Minister, as we begin this section, to clarify the record. Could the Minister indicate to us, there seemed to be some commotion earlier on in this Session in regard to a change in policy direction in the Continuing Care Program specifically in relation to the provision of home maintenance services for potential individuals on the Continuing Care or Home Care Program. Could the Minister indicate to us, since his Government took power, has there been any change in policy or any further directives that have gone out to staff in regard to the existing policy about home maintenance?

Mr. Orchard: No, there has been no change in policy, as was alleged by certain individuals in this Chamber.

Ms. Gray: There seems to be a move with the Home Care Program, where there are non-profit cleaning services available in communities, that individuals who may just require a cleaning service will be referred to those services and will not receive those similar services through Home Care. I believe the Minister had indicated one day in Question Period there were 21, if I recall the number, such services available. Could the Minister indicate to us, with those 21 services, how widespread are those non-profit cleaning services in the province and, where there are communities where no such cleaning services are available, is it still the program policy that Home Care will provide services to these individuals?

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, there are 20 plus of those services, and I do not believe we can pull them out because that falls under Support Services to Seniors. I cannot provide my honourable friend with a breakdown. However, the majority of those 20-plus programs of support services for seniors are in rural Manitoba versus Winnipeg.

Mr. Harapiak: Mr. Chairman, there are members of the Manitoba League for the Physically Handicapped who received the interpretation from the Minister that they would be charged for home care, the individuals who could afford it. Is that a policy that will be implemented by this department?

Mr. Orchard: I want to correct my honourable friend's statement that he made in terms of the question. That was not an impression that the Society of Manitobans with Disabilities received from the Minister. The Manitoba League for the Physically Handicapped received that impression from a newspaper article resulting from test coverage of the conference at which I tabled the Price Waterhouse Report. I have to indicate to my honourable friend, as I did to the citizens of Manitoba, in terms of a Letter to the Editor that I wrote which appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press some few days later, that both the headline and the sub-headline were incorrect.

Mr. Harapiak: As it stands now, there will be no change in policy? The people will not be charged for home care in the areas where the people can afford it?

Mr. Orchard: No, there is no change in policy. That is what I have indicated all along.

Ms. Gray: Since we have been talking about the Seniors Directorate earlier, I am wondering if maybe the Minister could indicate to us how will the Seniors Directorate staff relate to the committee that he has established to deal with the Price Waterhouse recommendations. How will this committee liaise with the Seniors Directorate, who of course will be coordinating the fragmented reporting functions of Continuing Care?

Mr. Orchard: Good question, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Gray: Thank you, I would like a good answer, Mr. Chairperson.

Mr. Orchard: I think that my honourable friend ought to pose that question to the Minister responsible for Seniors (Mr. Neufeld) because I certainly do not want to usurp his delight in providing the answers to my honourable friend who has this fixation on the single issue of earth-shattering importance.

The Price Waterhouse Report is under review within the Department of Health primarily through the director of Continuing Care. There is an implementation committee which is chaired by my Deputy Minister, which is involved in terms of the negotiation within the regional service delivery program, external agencies, user groups and those who were part and parcel of the development of the Price Waterhouse Report. That

is the main vehicle for implementation in terms of the coordinating effort. It is within the Department of Health, but the individual charged with the responsibility of implementing any decisions that emanate from the Price Waterhouse Report will be the responsibility of the director of Continuing Care, Ora Zabloski, who is here tonight for Estimates.

Ms. Gray: I disagree with the Minister in that he seems to be indicating that the issue in relation to the Seniors Directorate that I have a fixation on it. He seems to indicate that the issue is not important, but in fact I think to all seniors in Manitoba it is very, very important. But I will, because the hour is late and we do want to move on in Estimates, assist the Minister and his Government in saving face and I will not ask further questions in regard to the Seniors Directorate and how it will liaise with particular programs in this department, since I would be quite assured that in fact the supplements that were tabled by the Seniors Minister and the activities that were identified in fact will never, never be followed through at all because what was written and what was contemplated was totally, totally ludicrous. So I will not bother continuing on with many more questions in this area since the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) is doing his very best to avoid answering those questions because in fact there are no answers to those questions, because the total supplements that were tabled in this House are simply ludicrous and those activities will not be followed through in the Seniors Directorate.

The Minister has indicated the committee that is looking at the Price Waterhouse recommendations headed by the Deputy Minister. Is there a time frame with which this committee hopes to have the recommendations, at least the main urgent recommendations reviewed and a decision made as to whether they will in fact be implemented or what portions will be implemented?

* (2200)

Mr. Orchard: My honourable friend might recall in perusing the Price Waterhouse Report that a number of recommendations had different implementation time frames. Quite frankly, we are already behind in terms of implementation of that because some of them ought to have been implemented already and, I have to be quite frank with my honourable friend, are not.

But we have a time frame of implementation of a number of the recommendations for implementation during this fiscal year but we are not going to be implementing all of the recommendations within that time frame. We are not going to be implementing some recommendations at all. As I indicated at the press conference and subsequent questioning to the tabling of the report, one of the suggestions of user contribution has already been declined as a suggestion and will not be proceeded with. I could give my honourable friend a couple of others but, off the top of my head I just do not have them right now. The question of legislation, that is a moot point and will take longer than this fiscal year to make a decision in that regard. But it is hoped that implementation of a number of the

recommendations might be in full process by the end of this fiscal year.

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

Mr. Cheema: Mr. Chairperson, I move that committee rise.

Mr. Orchard: What happened to the spirit of cooperation?

Mr. Cheema: We had at least two hours of questions.

Mr. Orchard: I do not know whether there is consensus to have committee rise, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Kildonan has moved that committee rise. Is it the will of committee to rise? All those in favour of the motion by the Honourable Member for Kildonan? All those opposed? In my opinion, the nays have it.

Mr. Cowan: Yeas and nays, Mr. Chairman.

An Honourable Member: You cannot call yeas and nays after ten o'clock, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Orchard: We will hold the vote tomorrow. Let us go, Mr. Chairman. The motion was defeated. Carry on.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Mr. Chairperson, on a point of order.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. The Honourable Member for Inkster, on a point of order.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Chairperson, according to Rule 64.(3) on page 39 of Rules and Orders, I believe that what they are requesting is not possible.

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order.

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

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, on the exact same point of order, my honourable friend is quite correct. What his side is asking for is impossible. You cannot have a standing recorded vote after ten o'clock. The voice vote must be decided by the chairman and I believe, in the fairness of the chairman's prerogative, he will decide that the nays had the vote and we will continue on in Estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I would ask that all Members pause for a second to allow the chairman to consider this matter.

The Member for Churchill, on the point of order.

Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader): Under the rule providing for a "Sitting after 10:00

o'clock p.m.," let me read the rule into the record and provide some advice if I can. It says, "Where the Committee of Supply, or a section of the Committee of Supply, is sitting after 10:00 o'clock p.m. on any day (a) the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman of the Committee shall proceed to put motions as the course of the business of the Committee dictates but shall not accept"—the Chair shall proceed to put motions but shall not accept and it is very explicit as to what will not be accepted—" (i) any vote that defeats a motion approving an item in the estimates of the government, or (ii) any vote that passes a motion varying an item in the estimates of the government."

We are not defeating a motion or passing a motion. We are asking for the committee to rise. That is a motion of adjournment and I would suggest that it is in order at any time, and as a matter of fact, as the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) will know, on many occasions in the past in this House, there have been motions for the committee to adjourn that were put to a vote, and put to a standing vote, after ten o'clock in the evening. It is a standard practice of this House. If he has selective amnesia at this point in time, I would suggest that he allow the Rule Book at least to guide his input into this situation. Let him not try to be the bully of the Legislature and try to ram through Estimates.

Let me tell you, Mr. Chairperson, for the record, today, everyone in this House gave unanimous leave so that we would not proceed with Private Members' Hour so that we could have extra time to discuss the Estimates. If this is the type of response which a Government is going to provide to that sort of cooperative measure, then I can tell him that they are doing a disservice to what happened earlier in the day and the momentum that we created earlier in the day towards bringing this House to a successful end.

* (2210)

Mr. Chairman: Order, please. I would like to thank all Honourable Members for their advice on the point of order raised. I would like to draw attention to all Honourable Members with respect to the rules. I would ask the Honorable Member, does he have support for his request for a formal vote?

Mr. Cowan: It is very clear. Under Rule 64.(11) "Motions after 10:00 o'clock p.m.: Where the Committee of Supply sits after 10:00 o'clock p.m., and after the Committee rises, any motion except a motion to adjourn the House or a concurrence motion provided for by Rule 65.2 is out of order.", that one, taken with the "Sitting after 10:00 p.m." rules of Section (9), very clearly—and the practice of this House has been very clearly in the past—allow for a vote, a standing vote, a formal count-out in the Committee of Supply and a motion to adjourn. You asked if we had support. We had the required support. I would ask that you ring the bells.

Mr. Chairman: 63.(11) does not allay—with respect to the rule cited by the Honourable Member, with respect, I would suggest that the rule applies after committee rises -(Interjection)- But the committee has not risen.

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Mr. Cowan: A motion to adjourn is in order at any time.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, this is an incredible dilemma. This is liable to have significant repercussions on my honourable friends opposite if we were to run this committee past ten o'clock, which I thought was part of the discussions that we had earlier on today.

Mr. Cowan: No, it is not.

Mr. Orchard: I simply want to tell my honourable friend from Churchill that I never had any discussion with him because he is not the official Opposition. I had my discussions with the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema). Within those discussions, it was my understanding that we would go past ten o'clock tonight in an effort to expedite discussions on the Continuing Care Department.

Now my honourable friend from Kildonan has indicated—oh, now the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) is even speaking for the Member for Kildonan (Mr. Cheema) as well as telling him to stand up.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please; order, please. With respect to this matter, I would advise Members of the Committee of Supply that we shall take a 15-minute recess and shall return at 10:27 p.m. for determination with respect to this particular point of order.

The Honourable Minister of Education, on a point of order.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education): With all due respect to the Chair, I think that I heard that you had ruled in favour of the nays when the voice vote was held. Does that not indicate that the nays had indeed won the vote?

Mr. Chairman: I thank the Minister of Education but there was a matter raised subsequent to that decision.

I would just like to have a short recess on that particular point.

Mr. Orchard: I recognize my honourable friends in the Opposition do not want to work on the Estimates of the Department of Health tonight. Mr. Chairman, to expedite your decision, why do you not take the matter under advisement, report to committee tomorrow, and if similar circumstances happen next Monday night and the Monday night following, you will know how to handle the circumstance. In the meantime, my honourable friends want to go home, they do not want to work tonight, so I would move committee rise.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan): Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. The Honourable Minister had indicated that I agreed to his suggestion that we should continue after ten o'clock. That was discussed on the phone this morning, but at no time did I indicate that we are going to prolong until—now we have an extra hour from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and that was the consideration. The Minister should not twist words. I do not think I can trust those things ever again.

Mr. Chairman: The Member for Kildonan does not have a point of order.

Mr. Orchard: Mr. Chairman, to expedite things, since my honourable friends do not want to consider Estimates tonight, why do we not have the committee rise? If my honourable friends do not want to work, that is fine.

Mr. Chairman: Committee rise.

IN SESSION

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mark Minenko: Order, please. The hour being after 10 p.m., this House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon (Tuesday).

* (2220)