



First Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

39 Elizabeth II

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



VOL. XXXIX No. 30A - 1:30 p.m., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1990



MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	Liberal
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	NDP
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	NDP
CARR, James	Crescentwood	Liberal
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	Liberal
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	NDP
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	Liberal
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	NDP
CONNERY, Edward, Hon.	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	NDP
DOER, Gary	Concordia	NDP
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.	Steinbach	PC
DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
EDWARDS, Paul	St. James	Liberal
ENNS, Harry, Hon.	Lakeside	PC
ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Cliff	Interlake	NDP
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	NDP
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
FINDLAY, Glen, Hon.	Springfield	PC
FRIESEN, Jean	Wolseley	NDP
GAUDRY, Neil	St. Boniface	Liberal
GILLESHAMMER, Harold, Hon.	Minnedosa	PC
HARPER, Elijah	Rupertsland	NDP
HELWER, Edward R.	Gimli	PC
HICKES, George	Point Douglas	NDP
LAMOUREUX, Kevin	Inkster	Liberal
LATHLIN, Oscar	The Pas	NDP
LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	NDP
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
MARTINDALE, Doug	Burrows	NDP
McALPINE, Gerry	Sturgeon Creek	PC
McCRAE, James, Hon.	Brandon West	PC
McINTOSH, Linda	Assiniboia	PC
MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.	River East	PC
NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.	Rossmere	PC
ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
PENNER, Jack, Hon.	Emerson	PC
PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	NDP
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	NDP
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	NDP
STEFANSON, Eric	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	NDP
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	NDP
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	NDP

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, November 22, 1990

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I have for Honourable Members Supplementary Information for Legislative Review, Manitoba Health Services Commission and the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

BILL 22—THE STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1990-91

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I move, on behalf of the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), seconded by the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), that leave be given to introduce Bill 22, The Statute Law Amendment Act, 1990-91; Loi de 1990-1991 modifiant diverses dispositions législatives, and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Recycling Program Funding

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): We have all alerted our families, Mr. Speaker, and we will not rest very easily tonight knowing the whole ship of the state is in the charge of the infamous Deputy Premier. However, my question is to the Deputy Premier and it is a very serious question.

We have been very concerned for some time about the choices the Government is making dealing with our environment, and Government is about choices. Often politicians, and all of us to some degree, are behind the public of Manitoba.

My question is to the Deputy Premier. We have a situation where the blue bag recycling program is going down in the City of Winnipeg, something that is very successful and offers great promise to our

landfill sites and our environment. At the same time, this Government is putting \$1 million of public money, provincial money, into the Ducks Unlimited office building at the Oak Hammock Marsh.

Will the Deputy Premier agree to stop the money going into the Ducks Unlimited project at the Oak Hammock Marsh and reallocate that money for recycling across the province, something that is environmentally sound, rather than the project the Government is funding that is environmentally unsound?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. I do not accept the premise of it as to the information that he has put on the record, and I will allow my colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) to deal on specific terms as it relates to the Oak Hammock Marsh.

Let me make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, my Premier and this Government's commitment to the environment, as demonstrated in the work that is being done in the cleaning up of the former Manfor site, which was operated under the previous administration, by the environmental work that is being done as it relates to any future activities, as it relates to Repap, as it related to the Oak Hammock Marsh and the total environmental hearings and process that it has gone through, this Government's record is absolutely clear and understandable by the people of Manitoba and will far outweigh and stand up to the scrutiny compared to the previous administration of this province.

* (1335)

Mr. Doer: The answer to the question is no. We will keep the money, the \$1 million going in the Oak Hammock Marsh, and we will allow the blue bag recycling program to go down.

My second question to the Minister or the Deputy Premier is -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Point of Order

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Yes, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order,

I know that the Leader of the Opposition would not willingly want to deliberately put on the record a distortion, a falsehood, something that is not true. There is not a cent of public money going to the office complex of Ducks Unlimited at Oak Hammock Marsh.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister does not have a point of order. It is a dispute over the facts.

* * *

Mr. Doer: The Minister is on record time and time again outlining how much money from the tourism agreement and from the other departments is going into the proposed Oak Hammock Marsh.

Point of Order

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): I want to echo the comments of my honourable friend, the Minister of Natural Resources. There is not a tourism agreement going into the Oak.

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

* * *

Mr. Doer: We will table the money for the Ducks Unlimited complex, Mr. Speaker. It is on the public record in considerable numbers of places. It is not even a point of debate.

Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project Government Action

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I have a further question to the Deputy Premier. Today we have a court case proceeding on the Rafferty-Alameda dam dealing with the two brothers from Saskatchewan in Manitoba. We have not yet been able to discern the contingency plan that the Government has on the Rafferty-Alameda dam and its downstream effect and impact on Manitoba. In fact, Mr. Speaker, last week in Regina the court included affidavits from provinces like Quebec with no affidavits even from Manitoba.

My question to the Deputy Premier is: What is the next move with the provincial Government to protect the Manitoba water quality and quantity in terms of the proposed Rafferty-Alameda dam?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Environment (Mr.

Cummings) has been dealing with this matter very capably. Let me further add that I think the Member should well know that when matters are before the court, it would be inappropriate for me to speak to that issue at this particular time.

Conawapa Dam Project Environmental Review Process

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): I do not blame the Government for being embarrassed when the Province of Quebec puts an affidavit in on the Rafferty-Alameda dam and this Government ducks the whole issue, Mr. Speaker.

My final supplementary is to the Acting Premier. We have been unable to determine the precise course of action dealing with environmental impacts on the Conawapa project. Is the Government now negotiating with the federal Government to have a joint environmental process subject to the Public Utilities Board decision next week, or is the Government going to have a separate environmental process dealing with the Manitoba environmental licences and a separate process dealing with the federal environmental process?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, let me make it very clear, it has been the Government's position that all the necessary environmental hearings and processes will be carried out dealing with the Conawapa and Bipole 3 line. As it relates to discussions with the federal Government, I will leave that to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Cummings), who is responsible for that jurisdiction.

Involuntary Sterilization Government Policy

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae).

We welcome the Law Reform Commission Report, which will examine the question of involuntary sterilization. In light of some concerns that have been expressed that the practice may have occurred perhaps on a regular basis in the province, will this Minister undertake a review in his department of the practice in Manitoba to ensure that no involuntary sterilizations took place in Manitoba?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I will

take that question as notice on behalf of the Minister of Justice.

* (1340)

Involuntary Sterilization Government Policy

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that these alleged involuntary sterilizations may have been disguised in some cases as required medical treatment, will he also pledge to undertake a review that would consider the medical factors involved in these cases?

Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health): Mr. Speaker, I should have caught the eye of my colleague the House Leader (Mr. Manness), but did not. When that article and the contained allegations appeared in the paper this morning, I took the matter very seriously and asked my Mental Health Division to report immediately as to whether there was any semblance of truth to the suspicions expressed in that article. I can indicate to my honourable friend and to the House that has not been, is not, nor do they believe ever been a policy that has been followed by any Government present or previous in the Province of Manitoba.

Involuntary Sterilization Legislation

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that response and I recognize that it may have not been a policy, but my initial question to the Minister was whether or not he could examine whether the practice has taken place.

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, to the Acting Minister of Justice is whether or not this Government has considered any legislation in this regard.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Acting Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a broad definitive answer to that question. I will refer that question also to the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae).

Bankruptcy Rates Government Initiatives

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Premier.

The statistics released yesterday show that businesses and individuals in the Province of

Manitoba are continuing to experience bankruptcy rates at unprecedented levels. Last year more than 1,800 companies went bankrupt, and if the present trend continues we will have 2,250 by the end of this year, which is an unprecedented level in the Province of Manitoba.

Can the Deputy Premier tell the House, in that the jump was nearly 50 percent—47 percent to be exact—for last month alone, what specific plans this Government has to reverse Manitoba's spiralling economy as documented by these statistics?

Hon. James Downey (Deputy Premier): Mr. Speaker, let me thank the Leader of the Second Opposition Party in the House for that question and first of all say that any time you deal with bankruptcies you are dealing with unfortunate situations, whether it is personal or business, and it is not a very comforting situation. I certainly want to acknowledge that.

However when one looks at the activities as it relates to bankruptcies in Manitoba, compared nationally we are in a better standing than the majority of the rest of the provinces.

I say that we have an economic strategy—which was spelled out in the budget, which was spelled out in the throne speech—with some of the initiatives that have been announced particularly in northern Manitoba, some of the discussions that have taken place with the Departments of Agriculture both provincially and federally. There are plans to work towards the improvement of the Manitoba economy.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, the only reason our stats are even better than some of the provinces is because they were so much worse last year. So it is a cumulative problem in the Province of Manitoba.

Can the Deputy Premier tell this House what specific initiatives his Government has to get Manitobans off of the street, off of the welfare rolls—which in this city alone have climbed by 10 percent—and help provide them with the jobs so they can help themselves and their families live in a decent way in the Province of Manitoba?

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, I could maybe help the Member out with some of the numbers that Manitoba has.

There are eight provinces that have shown greater bankruptcies than the Province of Manitoba, October over October of this year. Manitoba's percentage increase was something like 20 percent to bankruptcies, which as I say is a difficult situation.

However, compared nationally, which is up 42 percent to 45 percent, I think we are not doing that badly. Let me say as well that when you compare it to Ontario, which is over 100 percent increase in bankruptcies, again I think we have to say that we are doing some things right.

Our Government, over the past two and a half years, has shown an economic initiative and direction that is going to lead, over the 1990s, our way out of this difficult situation.

I can refer to the activities that are taking place in the northwest region of the province with the proposed investment of Repap, with the investment of Inco of some \$287 million in Thompson and the Hydro investment that will take place at Conawapa.

Unemployed Help Centres Funding

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the bankruptcy rates went up 47 percent in this province month to month.

Will the Minister of Family Services accept a positive suggestion? Will the Minister now begin to re-fund the unemployed help centres, because their numbers are growing daily, because there are more and more unemployed and because the federal legislation has already indicated that the ones who will be most affected in this province are low-income earners.

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, again I do not accept the statistics that the Member puts forward. My department is monitoring the situation with Income Security very carefully. We will be announcing in the near future increases in rates for the next fiscal year.

* (1345)

Metis Child and Family Services Funding

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from the Manitoba Metis Federation, which I will now be glad to table.

This letter stresses the need for culturally sensitive programming for Metis children, children who now become involved with Child and Family Services agencies. These children are often placed up to 60 percent in non-Metis homes. This letter also discusses the problem of inadequate funding and the fact that there has been no increase for two

years to the Metis Child and Family Services agency.

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Family Services tell this House why his department has neglected the needs of Metis children across Manitoba and why there have been no increases to the Metis Child and Family Services agency to allow them to develop programming that will ensure proper care for Metis children?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): I thank the Honourable Member for the question and would point out to her that this is not an issue that just appeared in recent years, that the Party which she is a Member of had 16 years to deal with it. I can tell you that I met recently with leadership from the Manitoba Metis Federation to discuss Child and Family Services agency issues. I will be meeting again with them tomorrow in Dauphin. While we are not prepared to accept a stand-alone agency, we are actively working with that association to address some of the issues that they have put before us.

Registry

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, after his meeting tomorrow afternoon, will the Minister implement a registry system, which has also been a major concern of the Manitoba Metis Federation, that will allow them to identify the number of Metis children who are currently in care as well as enable them to more closely monitor the number of children who require care?

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, in our discussions two weeks ago with Mr. Dumont and other members of the Metis association, we have put forward some ideas which we think will enhance the care of Metis children who come into care with social service agencies. We will be meeting with them again tomorrow to further discuss these issues, and I think that the situation is in hand at this time. We would look forward to any new initiatives that the Manitoba Metis Federation puts before us.

Mandate

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): There is a new initiative that the department has had for a year and a half. When will this Minister—he said he is not able to accept a stand-alone agency at this time. When will the Minister of Family Services give the Manitoba Metis Federation a mandate to provide

services for Metis children and guarantee them a level of funding that will allow them to provide these services in a culturally appropriate, community based system?

Hon. Harold Gillieshammer (Minister of Family Services): Mr. Speaker, we discussed this issue, as I indicated, and the answer was no. While this was not the answer that the Metis association was looking for, they appreciated that they finally did get a definite answer. The fact that I think people have led them to believe over the years that there was going to be a movement in this direction has led to a certain degree of frustration. We are actively pursuing some suggestions that have come forward by hiring additional Metis people for Child and Family Services agencies and carrying on ongoing discussions with that federation. As I have indicated already this afternoon, we will be pursuing some of those ideas tomorrow.

Burns Meats Ltd. - Brandon Preferential Employment Policy

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry.

Brandon's economy received another blow a short while ago when Burns Meats closed down its meat packing plant in Brandon, laying off 82 workers; of course the rendering plant closed as well thereafter. Now the president of Burns, Mr. Larry Harding, has indicated that the company may reopen its plant as a processing operation but that no preferential treatment would be given to the laid-off workers.

Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as the Premier has stated in this House that the Government wanted to enter into an agreement with the company for the continuation of employment in the Brandon area, will the Minister now take a stand on behalf of the laid-off workers and urge the company to give those workers first priority to be hired?

* (1350)

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, we have been having ongoing discussions with Burns Meats with regard to the Brandon facility. Our concern is that we get additional work for the community of Brandon, that in fact they take on something that has some long-term potential for operations in the Brandon area.

The fact that the packing house itself has been up and down and up and down over the past number of years did not give a lot of job security or a lot of comfort to the workers in Brandon because of the vagaries of the market and forces that have taken place elsewhere.

We are looking with Burns Meats at some long-term food processing areas. Mr. Harding has indicated to me that the people who were formerly employed in the plant would have every opportunity to apply for any new jobs that are created in that facility.

Feasibility Study

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the Minister has told us and we are certainly looking for some positive results. We would like to get an assurance of priority for those laid-off workers, because I have been advised today that they are unemployed and looking for work. There are just no jobs.

Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the Brandon economy is suffering—we have had nearly 200 job losses in the last year and a half; four manufacturing plants have been closed—will this Minister assure this House that this project has been given top priority by his department? Can he also advise us now of the progress of the feasibility study that I believe his department is involved in with the company?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part of his question, yes, we are giving it top priority within our department. We know full well the problems associated with those job losses, significant job losses in Brandon.

Mr. Speaker I cannot at this point give a progress report on what is happening. We are in discussions with the company. We anticipate that hopefully by early in the new year, if not sooner, we will have an opportunity to see some new jobs created in Brandon by Burns Meats.

Industry Incentive Grants

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is: Will the Minister advise us whether it will be necessary for the province to provide meaningful and effective industrial incentive grants for this facility to help ensure that the plant reopens?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I heard 100 percent of the question. I gather it was to the effect of, are we providing financial assistance to the plant? Whenever we deal with a company looking to create employment and jobs and economic activity in the province, we start from the premise that we should not have to provide any grants, that the taxpayers should not necessarily be obliged to support private industry in terms of what they want to do.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we do from time to time provide assistance in a variety of ways. If it is reasonable and if it is appropriate, we will provide the assistance.

Mathematics Examinations MAST Position

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education.

In the Education Estimates, the Minister talked about a partnership. Well, Mr. Speaker, the partnership has broken down, because the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents and all the parents and students that I have been able to contact are all opposed to the implementation of the mathematics examination on January 11, 1991.

Will the Minister now withdraw that examination scheduled for the 11th of January, 1991?

* (1355)

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to thank the Member of the Liberal Party for that question, because it does give me an opportunity to put the facts on the record.

Let me indicate that last June when the news release went out with regard to the Strategies for Success, it was very clear that there would be a Mathematics exam in 301, and 300 Mathematics for the 1990-91 school year. After the election, the Government sent out—from my department, we sent out specific information on the exam indicating that this was a pilot year and that we would be as flexible as we could to make sure that no students would necessarily suffer because of the fact they did not have the information for the exam.

Mr. Speaker, I have to indicate that this morning there were a couple of questions asked on the floor of the UMM convention with regard to the quality of education in this province and the standards that we have in this province for education and the standards at which the students are graduating. I did address the issue of the examination and its importance, and it seems to me that there is an overwhelming amount of support for the exam not only from parents, but also from community members and from the UMM.

MAST Cabinet Meeting Request

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees has issued a press release today calling for an emergency meeting of the provincial Cabinet to reverse the decision made by the Minister of Education.

Will the Deputy Premier tell this House today if the Cabinet will meet with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees in order to make the Minister of Education understand that he is putting forward a program which does not meet the needs of the players in education?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, once again the Member of the Liberal Party is incorrect. Let me assure the Member that when we sent the information out we indicated that we would be as flexible as we possibly could to ensure fairness in the implementation of this first year of the math exam. For that reason, we allowed every school division to make up its own mind whether the exam would be worth zero or whether it would be worth 30 percent of the final mark of that student. Those divisions have the opportunity to decide whether or not that exam will count or not. They will however have to ensure that the exam is written.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we have to take steps which will ensure that we can measure some standards within this province in the education system, which has been criticized not only by certain segments of this society, but indeed by parents, by business people and indeed by—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, it is important that those steps be taken in partnership with those other

organizations and groups and parents and children interested in education.

Will the Deputy Premier (Mr. Downey) tell the House why the Cabinet will not meet with the Manitoba Association of School Trustees so they can express to this Cabinet in its totality why they think the Minister of Education is so misguided?

Mr. Derkach: Let me assure the Member of the Liberal Party that this was a Government decision. It was not a decision made by one individual of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I must also indicate to the Member that we have been in touch with the Trustees Association, the Superintendents Association, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, and just because one group or those groups are opposed to the philosophy of a provincial exam does not mean that we should not listen to other segments of this society who, in an overwhelming way, have indicated that it is important that we start to measure the quality of education in our education system sooner than later.

Fuel Pricing Federal Taxation

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Corporate Affairs.

His friends in Ottawa are once again trying to fool consumers by pretending that the current federal sales tax on gasoline is five cents per litre and the consumers will see a drop in gas prices of one cent a litre when the GST comes in.

Has this Minister formally protested this false and misleading propaganda put out by his colleagues? Will he request that the federal Government recall this material?

Hon. Edward Connery (Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, our department is reviewing that.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, since the true tax is currently only 3.74 cents per litre and the GST will add over four cents per litre and likely more, in other words an actual increase in federal taxes, why has this Minister not been monitoring the situation?

Mr. Connery: Mr. Speaker, one day I am criticized for monitoring, the next day they ask me to monitor.

We will get back to that Member with the information.

Mr. Maloway: Mr. Speaker, while the Minister is

monitoring gas prices, who over there is monitoring the Minister?

* (1400)

Correspondence Request

Mr. Jim Maloway (Elmwood): Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary to the same Minister is: Will the Minister table in this House today all correspondence between his office and his friends at Shell and Exxon?

Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I announced in the House that I had corresponded with the gas companies. I would be pleased to table that correspondence with the House.

Urban Native Strategy Status Report

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): My question is for the Minister of Urban Affairs.

The aboriginal population of Winnipeg is young and growing. Given that many of these aboriginal families are condemned to live a life of poverty in the urban core of Winnipeg, what and where is the urban Native strategy of this Government?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, our department has been working with the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey). For instance, approximately one year ago there was a two-day conference that was held dealing with issues. I have also had meetings with the Native groups in regard to the CPR station, in regard to that proposal before the core. The first seniors housing was announced on Robinson Street just the other day. We will be doing a couple of other seniors projects, but we are looking to receiving the information as a result of that conference that was held one year ago, and we will go over it with the two departments.

Provincial Revitalization Government Steps

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, given that the federal Government has reduced funds to aboriginal organizations in Manitoba, given that the federal Government's Indian policy is in complete disarray, what steps is the Minister taking to ensure that the federal Government will be part of the next stage of the social and economic revitalization of Winnipeg?

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to this and, first of all, say that this Government has shown some of the first actions in a long time to make sure that some of the Native people who live in some of the outlying areas of this province, like the Grand Rapids forebay area, the Moose Lake community, Easterville, have some resources in their home community so they do not necessarily have to migrate to the city for a different lifestyle.

We will continue to work on behalf of the Native communities, working with the Native leaderships we have funded, particularly the indigenous women of this province, to take their ideas and thoughts to the table with the federal Government to request support as well.

Winnipeg Education Centre Government Support

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Urban Affairs, will the Minister tell the House the current position of this Government on two projects of significance to aboriginal people, the new Winnipeg Education Centre and the Abinochi kindergarten preschool.

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first of all, if the Member is wondering about the housing components, the units are still there for the housing components.

On the other, I would suggest that she redirect her question to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) on the programing.

Winnipeg Rivers Cleanup

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Urban Affairs also.

Three months ago yesterday a library of Parliament study entitled "Environmental Degradation of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers" was released by Winnipeg South Centre M.P. Lloyd Axworthy. That report proved what most of us already knew, which was that in order to salvage - (interjection) - Mr. Speaker, my friends choose to make light of this issue. It is not a partisan issue from our point of view.

That report proved that Winnipeg's river system needed immediate action in order to salvage it.

These reports called again for a committed effort from all three levels of Government to get together

and put aside their jurisdictional wrangles and do the right thing to clean up and save these rivers, the greatest natural resource in this city for all of its citizens and indeed all Manitobans.

Can this Minister give a progress report on negotiations with the federal Government in order to get them to play their part in cleaning up Winnipeg's rivers and indeed Manitoba's rivers, just as they have contributed to cleaning up the Halifax harbour, the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed the Member across the way did not hear the announcement of this provincial Government approximately one year ago last July. That was to support a riverbank development program to have all three levels of Government, the City of Winnipeg, the federal Government—this Government committed a half million dollars toward the first year of that program asking the two other levels of Government to submit to that program. I am waiting for the reply from the City of Winnipeg and from the federal Government.

We will continue to work with the other two levels of Government to make sure that this very, very important aspect of Urban Affairs, that was introduced by this particular Government, is followed through.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, that indeed was a year ago. Three months ago we learned that Winnipeg's rivers are still being degraded every day, and the primary infringer on that is the City of Winnipeg.

Can the Minister report on what action has been taken to deal with the City of Winnipeg who have repeatedly ignored the recommendations of the Clean Environment Commission of 1981 resulting in bacterial counts 10 and 20 times provincial guidelines and levels of nitrates, phosphates, mercury and pesticides that have robbed these rivers from the people who live in this city?

Mr. Ducharme: Mr. Speaker, I must mention to the Member across the way that I am meeting with the city myself in regard to the riverbank development program.

It is unfortunate the City of Winnipeg did not reply to my request of a year ago. I felt that we showed—as a matter of fact, let us mention the gang across the way. It was not the gang that held up that particular riverbank development program.

Mr. Speaker, I will follow up with—our funds are still available. I hope that the City of Winnipeg comes on stream and does co-operate with us on that very, very important program.

I will also provide the Member with our complete summation of the riverbank program. I provided it to the critics the other day. If he would ask his Member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr), I did provide it to him just the other day and maybe he can pass it on to his Member across the way.

Tri-Level All-Party Task Force

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, the Minister either intentionally or otherwise misses the point. Riverbanks are one thing, but this Government and this province since 1929 have had primary environmental responsibility for the quality of the water.

Has this Minister explored the establishment of a tri-level, all-Party task force with his federal and civic counterparts to finally and at long last take this issue beyond the easy rhetoric of concern, which we all express, and into the realm of action for the people of this city?

Hon. Gerald Ducharme (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is too bad it did not get across to the Member, but it was this Government that did introduce those types of important issues in regard to the rivers.

We have to also talk about the rivers outside of Winnipeg, and I am talking about up to Selkirk level, unless Selkirk is involved in the same program. To the Member across the way, I guess we will work towards that.

I do not know whether the Member wants to drink it or swim in it, but we are working at it and we will work along those lines.

Manitoba Intercultural Council Report Availability

Ms. Marianne Cerlill (Radisson): We all know that this Government is having problems with this multicultural policy and because of this has created situations where ethnocultural communities have been insulted.

To help reassure Manitobans that there is some commitment to multiculturalism, we have recommended that they immediately implement recommendations from the Intercultural Council's report on racism. However, although the report was

made public a number of weeks ago, we understand that the public is having difficulty acquiring this report.

How can the Minister for multiculturalism explain that when members of the public are asking for a copy of the report they are being told that they cannot have the report?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): I have not had a request for a copy of the report—the interim report I might add—that was presented to me as the Minister responsible for multicultural affairs.

As indicated earlier, and as indicated by the Manitoba Intercultural Council, the final report will be forwarded to me when the total Manitoba Intercultural Council adopts the report in January.

When that final report is given to me it will be for public consumption. If they want a copy of the interim report from the Manitoba Intercultural Council I am sure that the council would provide that report if they were asked.

Report Distribution

Ms. Marianne Cerlill (Radisson): Can the Minister clarify the distribution of this report, which was made public at a press conference?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): Mr. Speaker, I cannot clarify the distribution. I know that I received from the Manitoba Intercultural Council an interim copy of a report.

The Manitoba Intercultural Council, I would presume, presented that report publicly at their press conference and distributed it to the community. So it was under their initiative and it should be under their initiative.

* (1410)

Report Implementation

Ms. Marianne Cerlill (Radisson): Can the Minister tell us what will be the Manitoba Intercultural Council's role in relation to the implementation of the report that they developed?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation): Mr. Speaker, the Manitoba Intercultural Council has presented me with an interim report. The Government of Manitoba will take a look at that report, look at the

recommendations and determine a plan of action to implement them.

Mathematics Examination Implementation

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): My question is directed to the Minister of Education.

Will the Minister not admit to this House that it is not the principle of high school examinations that all of these groups, that the Manitoba Teachers' Society opposes, that MAST opposes, that the school principals oppose, that the superintendents oppose; it is not the principle, but it is the way and the process by which this process has been introduced into the system and the fact that most schools are not ready or not capable of introducing these exams in January 1991? Will he admit to the House that that is the reason that all of these groups are up in arms?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): No, Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that the Teachers' Society, the Superintendents Association and the Trustees Association have all been opposed in principle to the exam. They have stated thus. So it is not a matter of implementation.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked to the rank and file teachers who are going to be responsible for administering these exams in the classroom. Those that I have spoken to, the rank and file teachers who are going to be implementing this exam and who are teaching the Math 300 and 301 programs, have no difficulty with the exam.

I have also spoken to Grade 12 students who are going to be writing the exam, and those I have spoken to seem to have no difficulty with the concept of writing the exam.

Strategies For Success Government Consultations

Mr. Dave Chomiak (Kildonan): Mr. Speaker, the Minister admitted in this House in the Estimates process on November 13 that the schedule for Strategies for Success which this program came out of is in shambles. They are behind schedule; they have not even hired a co-ordinator.

Will this Minister promise this House and the province that he will consult with all of these organizations prior to going on any more politically motivated strategies?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, my only wish is the Member for Kildonan would place truthful facts on the table in this House. -(interjection)-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Honourable Minister of Education, to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Derkach: Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase it in stating—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please; order, please. The Honourable Minister to withdraw.

Mr. Derkach: Let me withdraw that statement.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Education and Training.

Time for Oral Questions has expired.

TABLING OF REPORTS

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern and Native Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I may have leave to table the Supplementary Information as it relates to the Northern Affairs Estimates, which will be dealt with, I understand, Monday?

Mr. Speaker: Does the Honourable Minister have leave to revert to Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports? Agreed.

Mr. Downey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the information.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House Business

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Government House Leader, what are your intentions, sir?

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, thank you very much. After consultation with the Opposition House Leaders, Mr. Speaker, and you will ask the House, I am sure, for whether or not there is unanimous consent, it is my understanding that there is a desire to waive private Members' hour.

Second, when we move into Committees of Supply, we will consider the Estimates of the following departments. Within the Chamber we will finish off Sport, followed by the Department of Highways and Transportation. Furthermore, if there is a will for Estimates to go into this evening's sitting from eight till 12, the department that would follow Highways and Transportation would be Justice. Outside in the committee, Room 255, the

Department of Family Services, those Estimates will continue their review.

Mr. Speaker, I also understand there is an agreement that we would sit tonight in Supply from eight till midnight.

An Honourable Member: Try seven to 11.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of the House to waive private Members' hour? Agreed? That is agreed.

Is it the will of the House to sit between eight and midnight?

An Honourable Member: On a matter of House business, seven to 11.

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, if the House Leader would like to consult us, perhaps he can come back on House business. Perhaps the option of seven to 11, subject to the approval of all House Leaders may make it more sensible—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, rather than go from eight to 12, there seems to be a willingness by all Members to sit from seven to 11 tonight. I ask if you would—

Mr. Speaker: Is it the will of House to sit between the hours of seven and 11? That is agreed? Agreed. Is it the will of the House to have Sports finish in the Chamber, followed by Highways and Transportation, and then finish off with Justice. That is agreed? Agreed. Family Services in Room 255.

Madam Chairman, take the chair, please.

* (1420)

Mr. Manness: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the House, but I forgot to move the Supply Motion.

I move now, seconded by the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae), that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park (Mr. Stefanson) in the Chair for the Department of Family Services; and the Honourable Member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) in the Chair for the Department of Fitness and Sport, and the Department of Highways and Transportation.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY—FAMILY SERVICES

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Eric Stefanson): Order, please. Will the Committee on Supply please come to order. This afternoon this section of the Committee of Supply meeting in Room 255 will resume consideration of the Estimates of the Department of Family Services.

When the committee last sat it had been considering Item 1.(g) Management Services (4) Information Systems (a) Salaries \$786,800 on page 59 of the Estimates book.

Hon. Harold Gilleshammer (Minister of Family Services): Yes, I was just going to reply to a couple of issues that were raised the last day.

The Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock) requested that I provide him with the name of the individual who undertook the principal role in conducting the Phase II study of the Department of Community Services: Funding Practices and Controls for External Agencies conducted by the consulting firm of the Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

I can advise the Member for Osborne that according to the Department of Finance there were three principals who undertook the study for the consulting firm. These individuals were Mr. Don Vernon, Mr. Ron Johnstone, Mr. Brian Kelly. Mr. Vernon performed his duties as a partner of the firm, and Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Kelly as senior consultants with the firm. Both Mr. Vernon and Mr. Johnstone have had extensive experience in the Manitoba Civil Service, each having served in a variety of senior positions at the Deputy Minister level. Mr. Kelly has a background in agriculture and has considerable experience in organizational consultation.

The second issue raised on November 19, the Member for Osborne requested information on social assistance rates in other provinces. As I indicated to the Member, although each province's rates are publicly available information, there is an agreement among all the provinces and with the federal Government not to release financial information received from other jurisdictions. I am advised that this agreement exists to ensure that the information obtained by the public is totally accurate and is accompanied by appropriate explanatory notes and definitions.

As the Member is probably aware, social assistance policies and rate structures can vary significantly between jurisdictions, so it can be a very difficult task to develop interprovincial comparisons that are both accurate and fair. I would be pleased to provide the Member for Osborne with a copy of Manitoba's social allowance brochure outlining the 1990 provincial rates. We do not have on hand similar brochures or regulations from other provinces.

The data we receive on a confidential basis is structured to illustrate rates for specific types of cases under specific assumptions. However, we could assist the Member for Osborne in contacting other provinces if he so wishes to request information for his own analysis. Thank you.

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Just in response to the items that the Minister raised. I would appreciate that assistance, and perhaps once Estimates are over we could find time to do that. Would I contact the Minister's office or the Deputy Minister's office? How would I go about doing that?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, you could contact my office.

Mr. Alcock: I would just like to say, I mean, I think that it is disgraceful that the provinces do not do this. I would hope that Manitoba is not one of those that refuses to have its information shared. If it is, I would ask the Minister to convey the message to Ottawa that it should not be, that people across the country should have access to this information. Surely the information shared among Governments is totally accurate and does not need to be laundered in order to be presented to the public who pay for it.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, perhaps the Honourable Member was not listening. We do have a brochure available outlining the provincial rates for this province. The other provinces would share their information with the Honourable Member, and we have agreed to assist him with that. The confidential information that is put forward to us by other provinces, I know the Member would not want us to pass on to him information that has been presented to us in confidence, and we would be happy to assist in getting their public brochure for his assistance.

Mr. Alcock: We all accept and agree that personally identifying information should be confidential, and in fact is protected under The Privacy Act. What other information then having to deal with the rates is considered confidential?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I think the issue is that if information is passed to our Government and our department on a confidential basis, we are not in a position where we are going to break that confidence by sharing that information with others. I think that we find that information valuable, and it is important that we have access to information of that sort. If other jurisdictions became aware that information that was passed along to us in confidence was being generally shared we would no longer be able to avail ourselves of that information, and we simply have to respect that confidence.

Mr. Alcock: I understand that, Mr. Acting Chairperson, and I am not asking the Minister to break any confidence without the approval of the parties that supplied that information.

My question though is: Presumably Manitoba is a party to this agreement, does Manitoba supply information to the federal Government and to other provinces on a confidential basis? Does Manitoba insist that it be confidential, their information?

* (1430)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we share information with other jurisdictions on a confidential basis, and we expect that other provinces would treat that information the same way that we do.

Mr. Alcock: Now differentiating between two types of information then, personally identifying information and programmatic information, we all agree that anything that identifies individuals should not be shared, what kinds and categories of information then are presented to other provinces that are considered to be confidential?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I can tell the Member that the information that we have is public information that we would be pleased to share with him. I can tell you that information from other provinces is forwarded to us on a confidential basis and it may vary from one province to another. We are not at liberty to share that. We are in a position to give you Manitoba information, and we would be pleased to do so.

Mr. Alcock: Then I would like to avail myself of that opportunity. Would the Minister provide me with all the information that is shared with other provinces?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We have a brochure, a booklet, of information that we would be pleased to pass on to you.

Mr. Alcock: Is that the only information that is shared with other provinces?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There may be information on a case specific basis, information that is used by the department, information that goes to Treasury Board that we will not share with you. We will with you the public information that the public has access to.

Mr. Alcock: The Minister said that the information that is shared with other provinces, other than personal case information presumably, he may pass some information about somebody who moves to a different province, but the programmatic information that is shared with other provinces the Minister said earlier was public information in this province. I am simply asking him to provide me with a copy of all the information which he is willing to share with other provinces.

Mr. Gilleshammer: We will provide you with the information we have on hand, and if it raises further questions with the Member we can deal with it at that time.

Mr. Alcock: Well, then I would just ask the Minister if he could undertake to provide that information before the end of this week so that I have it available for when we come into the Income Security section of the Estimates.

On that, Mr. Acting Chairperson, I believe the Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) was asking questions on the section we are upon.

Mr. Gilleshammer: We have a brochure here that we will provide for critics at this time.

Mr. Alcock: I have a brochure, is that the only piece of information you share?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we have some other information that we will make available for you.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Stefanson): Back to item (g)(4)(a).

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): I have just a couple of general questions on Information Systems. How do the four area systems, the Income Security System, the Human Resources Information System, the Commitment Accounting System, Child Day Care System, et cetera, and then Child and Family Services Information System—where do they get that information?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It is information that comes forward from the department on specific clients or generated within the department for departmental use.

Ms. Barrett: Can the Minister explain how confidentiality in records is maintained?

Mr. Gilleshammer: You are asking about the reliability or the confidentiality of the system?

Ms. Barrett: Yes, I would imagine there is a great deal of personal information that is generated throughout this system, and I am just wondering what guarantees there are that only appropriate people have access to this information.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am not a computer expert as some purport to be, but I can tell you that there can be a lot of safeguards built into a system so that only the appropriate people can access certain information. I believe we are quite comfortable that security exists in the system that we use.

Ms. Barrett: Are there any cases where information generated from these systems is shared with agencies or groups or individuals from outside the system?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The appropriate release has to be agreed to by the client before client information is released to other bodies.

Ms. Barrett: Is that done on a sort of a regular basis as a person applies for one of these programs? Do they sign a release form or is it done upon a specific request, and then the individual is contacted for a release?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The information is released on a case-specific basis.

Ms. Barrett: Just one—I think just one last question. How would you identify the client in the case of individuals who are under the Rehabilitation and Community Living stuff for example. I mean, there are some cases where individuals are possibly not deemed competent to be able to sign that release. Is that release then power of attorney or someone on their behalf?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, there would be someone to act in their place, often the Public Trustee.

Ms. Barrett: Thank you. I have no further questions in this division.

Mr. Alcock: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I note that the Hansards are a little slow in coming out on these. I know that in the meeting we had on Tuesday there was a description given of the various systems that the department currently operates under this branch. So a couple of the questions I have may seem a bit repetitive.

I would like the names of the systems, what systems they are. More generally, before we get into that I would like to ask, is this the only division within the department that has responsibility for operating and maintaining electronically based data?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, for the most part that is correct.

Mr. Alcock: Can the Minister expand on "for the most part"?

Mr. Gilleshammer: In the employment services area of the department there is a mini-computer which they use for the needs that they have.

Mr. Alcock: So, with the exception of that system, is it fair to assume that the funding that is indicated in this division is the total support provided by this division for computer services, with the exception of that one thing that may be funded separately under the other one?

* (1440)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Most of the information systems are in this area, but there are processing costs within the various branches and divisions.

Mr. Alcock: I wonder if the Minister could have staff—not necessarily at this moment or even for this meeting—pull together the total cost for processing in the department. If he may be able to provide that number now, fine; if not, do not feel obligated to do that for today.

The question is—well, let me step back one first. Is the data processing and storage for these systems done at Manitoba Data Services?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Again the answer is that for the large systems like the social allowance system, the SAMIN system, it is stored at MDS—or what was MDS.

Mr. Alcock: If my memory serves me correctly, we now mentioned a personnel system which is maintained on a mini—presumably at personnel. We have the social allowance system which is maintained at MDS and I presume runs on the mainframe there. There was a Commitment Accounting system mentioned, so I would like to know where that is up and running. I believe there was mention of a VRDP system, although I may have the designation wrong, and I would like now to know what other systems are currently in place in the department.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can give you a list of the existing production systems. The Child Day Care

Subsidy Program, the Vital Statistics system, the Residential Care Licensing system, the Commitment Accounting, the Social Allowances Management Information Network, the Revenue Accounting System, the Child Related Income Support Program system, the Staff Year control system and the 55 Plus system.

Mr. Alcock: I wonder, before they pass that list over, if you could indicate which ones are running at MDS, which ones utilize MDS?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can indicate the large systems which are at MDS. They would include the Social Allowance Management Information Network, the Revenue Accounting system, the Child Related Income Support Program system and the 55 Plus system.

Mr. Alcock: Presumably, the rest of these are running on minis or micros in the divisions that utilize them?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Mr. Alcock: Has the department, or have the department Information Systems people been party to the agreements that were signed with STM relative to the conversion from MDS to STM?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes.

Mr. Alcock: Part of that agreement was a provision of, I believe, some \$32 million in processing time over the next five years. Is the department accessing any of that time, the \$32 million that was part of the STM agreement?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes.

Mr. Alcock: So the question then is: How is that reflected in the Estimates of this department? Is that carried? The processing costs that are counted in the department are the cash transfers to STM, or is there some of that rebated to the Government as part of the \$32 million, or what proportion of that over and above the costs, if they are not paid directly, what proportion of that \$32 million is this department using?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I know the Member wants an accurate number, and we need to do some background work on that and we will bring that information back for you.

Mr. Alcock: That is fine. I would appreciate receiving that information, but it is not germane to today's discussion.

The Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) spoke last week about the kinds of data that were kept by

the various systems. I wonder if it would be possible for the Minister to provide copies of the input forms for the various systems?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we can provide a prototype of the form that is used.

Mr. Alcock: I am not so concerned about the personnel programs, but I believe there was mention of the Child Day Care system, certainly the social allowance system, the CRISP and 55 Plus and the vital stats.

Mr. Gilleshammer: We will make every effort to get some information available on the forms that are used and provide that for you as soon as we can.

Mr. Alcock: Really what I am interested in are the field lists for the various systems, but perhaps then—a concern was raised at the time of the sale of Manitoba Data Services about the maintenance of confidential information outside of the control of the Government, and I am wondering if the department is satisfied with the way those agreements are being adhered to at the current time?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I could indicate that we do not have any concerns about the manner in which the data is being handled.

* (1450)

Mr. Alcock: Is any of this information from any of those systems shared with Ottawa?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the global information, of course, is used with Ottawa specifically as it refers to Canada Assistance Plan data, and the statistics would be generated from this information to access Canada Assistance Plan. They are in a position, if they so choose, to do an audit on that information from time to time.

Mr. Alcock: Would Ottawa have on-line access to that system?

Mr. Gilleshammer: No.

Mr. Alcock: So that, when they are doing an audit or when they are receiving information, what they are receiving is printed reports that are based on data contained within the system?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, that is correct. I think the Member would well appreciate that provinces who are putting in information relative to their systems to claim large sums of money under the Canada Assistance Plan, of course, agree to checks and balances or audits on the information that is forwarded to the federal Government.

Mr. Alcock: Absolutely. I believe, if my memory serves me, that Ottawa contributed a significant part of the cost of developing this system. I am wondering, if in doing so, did they not outline some of the criteria upon which the system was built? They were a party to the design and as such, are similar systems in place in other provinces?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The federal Government did have input into the creation of the program for social allowances. They assisted with the design of the program and while certain similarities would be common to other jurisdictions, they do not have direct access to the program.

Mr. Alcock: Now when we look at a system like the social allowance system, the information that is kept presumably identifies the client and records some sort of calculation of the amount of assistance available. Is that information used then to generate the cheques that people are paid?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the client information in the social allowance system is used to generate cheques.

Mr. Alcock: You mentioned a Child Day Care System. Is that one that is used to track subsidy payments?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes.

Mr. Alcock: So presumably it is a similar sort of system. There is some personal identifying information, some of the information that is used in the calculation of the level of subsidy, and then a report or the generation of a cheque based on whatever that produces?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Mr. Acting Chairman, the social allowance system is a much more complex system. There is certain information stored there as far as the Child Day Care Subsidy Program goes, but it would be of a different magnitude.

Mr. Alcock: Then perhaps I misunderstood. Is the Child Day Care Subsidy Program that you are talking about a sub set of the social allowance system, or is it a separate system? If a separate system, then, while I realize it may not be the size or the power of the social allowance system, does it contain the information I referenced, calculation of subsidy and indicating the generation of a cheque based on that calculation?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, it is a separate system and would contain information that allows them to

generate a cheque, but again I would stress, it is not as complex as the social allowance system.

Mr. Alcock: Was I correct in stating, or did I hear correctly, that there is system that has to do with Voc Rehab?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That was not one of the ones that I had mentioned. It is a system that is currently being worked upon, and it is currently being set up.

Mr. Alcock: Is the intention of that system similar to the two we have already spoken about, identifying information plus some calculation of support, and ultimately generation of a check that supports that calculation?

Mr. Gilleshammer: This would be a different system; it would simply be storing information on clients.

Mr. Alcock: Identifying information on the client and some information relative to the kind and level of support.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes.

Mr. Alcock: Now coming up to the Social Allowances system. There has been a considerable amount of work done just south of the border in Minnesota, Ramsey County in particular, on a system of integrating their information and support system with automatic tellers to transfer support directly to clients. Has the department—are they aware of this? Have they done an assessment of it? Has there been any involvement with them on this issue?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, there have been some discussions, but they, I am told, are just at the very exploratory stage.

Mr. Alcock: Has the department done an examination of the impacts of such a system here in this province, or are we still just at a discussion stage?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It has not been done as yet. It is just at the exploratory stage, but it is something that we will be taking into consideration.

Mr. Alcock: I would certainly be interested in being kept abreast of those developments and certainly will be wanting to discuss this in the spring when we get into Estimates again.

In the design and development of systems, the Minister indicated that there was a Child and Family Services information system that was under development by the department.

Mr. Gilleshammer: It would be categorized as being in its initial stages.

* (1500)

Mr. Alcock: That is a Child and Family Service—are there other systems currently in the initial stages in the department that are not part of the list that was read from or provided?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There are some additional projects that the department is looking at. I can read these into the record for you: income tax receipts production for all social allowances, CRISP and 55 Plus recipients; development of a disaster recovery system for SAMIN; continued development of a Child and Family Service information system that you had just asked about; complete the remaining phases of the child day care system; develop a client-based financial reporting system for the mental retardation programs in the Rehabilitation and Community Living division and implemented in the regional offices; implement a human resources management information system to record and report payroll, recruitment training, and classification information; initiate development of a vital statistics information system to facilitate decentralization of the Vital Statistics branch.

Mr. Alcock: In past times there was a—well, let us not ask in past times. Today, when you are undertaking the development of these systems, does the division deal with the ISSB of the Treasury Board in order to get approval for the various systems prior to implementation?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we work with ISSB prior to Treasury Board.

Mr. Alcock: In the past there was a policy that tended to, if not absolutely insist, certainly encourage departments to use systems that require that their development be done at Manitoba Data Services and supported by Manitoba Data Services. Is that still the policy that the department works under in the design of new systems? This is the make it, or break it one. The answer to this question determines where the Government falls.

Mr. Gilleshammer: If we use mainframe, we use MDS.

Mr. Alcock: Does the department have the ability to go outside of MDS to another supplier?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We are not aware of any exceptions within the department where we have done otherwise.

Mr. Alcock: I understand in the past that may be the case, but you have a fair list of systems in development and the question is: Is it still the case that you can only seek a bid from MDS?

Mr. Gilleshammer: For mainframe development, yes, that is the case.

Mr. Alcock: Of the systems that are in development, how many of them are systems that will be built on a mainframe?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Of the major new projects that are planned for '90 and '91, the income tax receipts production for all social allowances, CRISP and 55 Plus recipients, will be on the mainframe, and the development of a disaster recovery system for SAMIN will also be done on the mainframe.

Mr. Alcock: The Minister specifically referenced '90-'91, is that because those are the only systems that will be in the development stage in 1991, or am I to presume that all the other systems that were read into the record are systems that are being built on micros or minis?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the two that I referenced just a moment ago are certainly in this year, '90-'91. The others are on mini computers and some we are not completely sure at this time.

Mr. Alcock: The hardware decision has not been made yet. They are still in quite an early stage. Certainly the two that you referenced there, the income tax and the disaster recovery, are both related, if I understood correctly, to the social allowance system so that it would seem logical that they be built on the same system.

Coming back to the Child and Family Services system, which you also indicated as a system that was in the early stages, can you expand upon that a little bit? Can you tell me what you mean by, in the early stages?

Mr. Gilleshammer: They are in the early stages in that they are a long way from completion.

Mr. Alcock: The Minister chooses his words well. A system for implementation in the Child and Family Services system was first described and the first negotiations with the federal Government were undertaken as early, if memory serves me right, as 1984.

In 1990, we describe ourselves as, in the early stages. I wonder if the department could prepare for me, and this is not for production within today's

meeting, a list of the amounts of money spent to date to get this system into the early stages?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I think the Member is aware that the system in the Child and Family Services has expanded quite rapidly since 1984-'85, and circumstances are quite different today than they were at that time. We have seen a tremendous growth in expansion so that the system required for today is different, but we will try and provide you with some information on costs.

I would also like to indicate that I think it is vital that we move ahead more quickly and have a system put in place that would assist us and assist Child and Family Service agencies as we get into the 1990s.

Mr. Alcock: I agree with the Minister completely. I think it is important that we move as quickly as is feasible given the size of the task, to implement a system that will allow for proper management—of case management in particular in Child and Family—and allow us to build the kind of underlying data base that would now seem to be in place for the social allowance program.

Can the Minister give us any sense of when we might see that brought to fruition? Is it within the '91-'92 fiscal year—the coming fiscal year—or is it the fiscal year after that? I mean, I realize this is a big system, and it takes a long time to get up and running.

* (1510)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I think any time frame, at this point, would be speculation. I can tell you that in the few weeks that I have been Minister, I see that this is something very important and that I have asked the department to keep me informed on this. I personally would like to see us move ahead quickly, because I think it is of major importance to enable us to understand what is happening in the system for tracking of clients and for other uses.

I would hope when we meet again in the spring, if we are still looking at the same departments and budgets and so forth, that we could give you a better answer at that time, but I would say that in my mind this is a priority that we can reform a portion of the system. We will be actively pursuing this project in the coming months.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Deputy Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Alcock: Well, I appreciate the Minister's interest in this. I agree with him completely. It is something that should have been proceeded with. In fact, if the Minister was an historian and was to dig back in the files, I suspect he would find a recommendation that regionalization should not have been proceeded with without having such a data system in place. The fact that we are sitting here six years later without such a data system, I think is a serious problem. That is not one that the Minister is responsible for, but if he can clean it up, it would be a significant improvement in this province.

I do understand, and I am aware of considerable sums of money that have been spent over the last six years, including the purchase of fairly expensive systems for some of the agencies and a great deal of staff and research time. I would like a detail of that. I appreciate that the Minister will produce that when he can.

Just a final question on the day care system. We talked about the subsidies. Now grants are day care specific as opposed to person specific, but subsidies are paid to centres that get grants. Is there any information or does the system capture any information that relates the payment of grant to the payment of a subsidy?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we are just working on that for this year. Just further to his other comments, I am a bit of an historian. I do take interest in learning about how the system was set up some five or six years ago by the previous Government and welcome his remarks on the shortcomings of the system, because I understand that the Member was quite involved at that time. There are reforms, I think, that need to be made. Certainly a computer system is one that I see, in my limited time here, as something that would be really valuable.

Mr. Alcock: Well, with an interest in history, I suspect that we could have a most interesting conversation.

I just want to make a comment on the systems now. You have huge data bases in place that must provide you with, or the potential to provide you with, an enormous amount of descriptive information on who is accessing services for what reasons, what level of support, et cetera.

There have been significant concerns raised about two things. One is the ongoing relationship with STM relative to the preservation of information that is personal in nature. Also, when we come back

to our earlier discussion in the planning division of this department, there were several requests made for information that would allow the Government to provide some kind of analysis of potential impact on different client groups and the cost of programs and that sort of thing.

It seems to me that you have got a data base in place, at least on the social allowance side, that does provide you with some beginning ability to do exactly that. I would hope that those two departments at least communicate enough to see that information is shared, because certainly in our earlier discussion there seemed to be little of that taking place.

I have one final question, and it is only incidentally related to this particular division, but it is. When are we going to see the '89-90 annual report for this department?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We would hope to have that available in the near future.

Mr. Alcock: Is there a particular reason why it is this late this year?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There simply has been a delay in the printing, but we hope to have it available in the near future.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item 1.(g)(4) Information Systems (a) Salaries \$786,800—pass; (b) Other Expenditures \$38,400—pass.

Item (h) Social Services Advisory Committee: (1) Salaries \$94,400.00.

Ms. Barrett: It would appear that under the objectives for the Social Services Advisory Committee there are three general areas from which appeals to this board are generated, financial assistance programs, licensing of day care centres, and licensing of residential care facilities. I am looking on the supplementaries on page 44.

I think I understand the appeal to the financial assistance program, that that is an individual who is appealing a particular allocation of funding, or a particular subsidy, or a particular amount of money that they think that they should be entitled to additional sums. If the Minister would correct me if I am wrong in that regard.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, it is an avenue whereby a client can appeal decisions made by Government, and you are correct.

Ms. Barrett: At what level would a client have access to the Social Services Advisory Committee?

What avenues would they have had to exhaust before they could make application to this board?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that as soon as a decision has been rendered by the department, and in consultation with the worker, if the client is not satisfied or agreeable they can immediately appeal the decision.

Ms. Barrett: So that if I were a social assistance recipient, and I were not happy with the assistance that I was receiving from my worker, would I not have to go through the director or anything like that, I could go straight from the worker to the Social Services Advisory Committee?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes. I am told that they could, after they have in essence exhausted their discussions with the worker, the no change and the client and the worker have not reached an agreement on that sum, if you like, that they can appeal to the Social Services Advisory Committee.

Ms. Barrett: Could you tell me if individuals within the social assistance system are automatically made aware of this appeal process or is it something that is information that is given to them if they ask for it?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the worker does inform the client of that, and it is also in written form for them that there is an avenue of appeal, and they are certainly aware of it.

* (1520)

Ms. Barrett: Could you explain how someone would go to the Social Services Advisory Committee for a day care licensing problem? What would be involved in that? Would it be the day care centre that was denied a licence? Would that be the program?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, if the day care operator is unhappy with the decision that has been rendered, they can apply to the Social Services Advisory Committee for an opportunity to appeal.

Ms. Barrett: That would be the same thing with residential care facilities if a person who wanted to be licensed were turned down, they would have the same recourse directly to the Social Services Advisory Committee?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: What form does the appeal take? Is it in written form? Is that the process that the individual would, from whatever avenue, they apply in writing to the board?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The appeal can be initiated either by making a phone call, or in written form and when they come before the Social Services Advisory Committee, I am informed that some of the appeals are of a written nature and others are made verbally.

Ms. Barrett: Can you provide us with an average time of what a prompt appeal would be? How quickly do these appeals get heard? Is there legislation, or is it just as fast as possible?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There are some exceptions, but basically all hearings must be held within 15 days of receipt of the notice of appeal. The rendering of a decision is usually provided within five working days of the hearing.

Ms. Barrett: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chair. Is there a further avenue of appeal after the Social Services Advisory Committee ruling?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes. I understand they can appeal to the Court of Appeal in the provincial court system.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Deputy Chairman, so in effect without incurring the financial costs associated with going through the judicial system, within the Government this is the final arbiter for those kinds of cases?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Mr. Deputy Chairman, this is the first step that a client would take to appeal a decision. There are cases where one would take it to the court system.

Ms. Barrett: I understand that in the appeal process the Advisory Committee deals in panels. Are they panels of three? Is that my understanding?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: Is it adversarial in the sense that there is the client, the person who is making the appeal, but also is there representation at the same time from the department or the division that is being appealed against?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes. The Social Services Advisory Committee would hear information from the client and also from department staff.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Deputy Chairman, are they present at the same time, or is it one comes in and then the other comes in?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am informed that they are present at the same time.

Ms. Barrett: Finally, is it the individual against the individual worker that is present? Is it the worker, or would it be a representative from the agency?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Usually it is the worker that is present.

Ms. Barrett: So there is a panel of three that hears these appeals within 15 days of the appeal being launched. Can you tell me how many members are currently on the Social Services Advisory Committee?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I believe there is in the neighbourhood of 15 members who currently are on that committee.

Ms. Barrett: Could you either give me now or provide me with a list of who they are and when they were appointed?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we can provide you with that information.

Ms. Barrett: Could the Minister explain if there is remuneration attached to this position and if so, in what form it takes?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Individuals who serve on these panels, which are held by and large during the working day, are reimbursed for their time. The chairperson for the first meeting receives a sum of \$55 and if there is a second or subsequent meeting in the same day, they receive an additional \$45.00. Members receive \$40 for the first meeting and \$35 for the second or subsequent meetings. Just one minute. Just some further information, the chairperson is also reimbursed \$500 a month for his additional time.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Deputy Chairman, could you explain what additional duties the chair of this Advisory Committee has?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I can tell you that this is a structure that has been in place dating back quite a number of years, I believe into the mid-1960s. That is just a bit of history, of course. The people who serve on the committee, I think there are some 15 or 16 in number, have to be available during the day to hear these appeals.

The chairperson is responsible for the organizing of the panels so that if the panel is going to be sitting in Thompson, to find members who are available at that time, or if they are sitting in the City of Winnipeg, again organizing the location and assembling the panels, and doing the necessary administrative

works so that these panels can take place within that 15 days as prescribed for the hearing.

Ms. Barrett: The per diems that are given, there is this first meeting and then a second meeting. Could you define the length of time of the first meeting of a day, and the second meeting of a day? Is that like half a day?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I think the first meeting often reflects the first half of the day, yet I think the Member would appreciate, given the different circumstances and issues that may have to be explained and examined and looked at, that it may take two or three or four hours. Often in the interests of time and efficiency then a second or third client, a hearing can be held that day.

Ms. Barrett: I assume that many of these panels or a proportion of these panels are held outside the City of Winnipeg. Are there transportation costs attached, reimbursement for members travel, and is there any information given as to what those costs are? Are they specific or are they just reimbursed as to whatever the cost incurred?

* (1530)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the panels or the hearings as the Member indicates, may be held at many locations across the province that reflect the population. I would think that probably half of the panels or perhaps a little bit more are held in the city, and the others are located at various points in the province. The department, I am told, uses a van to transport, in some cases members of the panel. Certainly expenses for panel members are reimbursed.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Deputy Chair, the Minister stated that these panels are held at various points throughout the province. Are they held at regional centres, or are they held in the locale, the town or community that a person who is making the appeal, resides in?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I think both. I can tell you that as I have travelled through my constituency from time to time I have met at the town hall, people who are involved from that local area in an appeal with the Social Services Advisory Committee, so I think the committee makes every attempt to accommodate the people who are involved in the appeal.

Ms. Barrett: Is there any provision in the budget for reimbursing those who are making the appeal for any travel expenses that they might incur?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We do not believe there is. Again I would indicate that the appeals that I am aware of are held in the locale where the clients live.

Ms. Barrett: My understanding is that, to an earlier question, you responded that they were held both in regional areas and in outlying communities. Does that mean that they are definitely held in the locale where the person who is making the appeal resides so there will not be any additional travel costs for that individual?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I believe every attempt is made to make it within that municipal Government's region. If it is a town, that level of Government, it would be held within that town. You can appreciate, within a rural municipality, that in all likelihood it would be held in the location where the municipal Government exists.

Ms. Barrett: Yes, I can appreciate the need many times to hold a committee hearing like this in a municipality. Particularly if there is more than one appeal being heard, it makes sense to provide it in a central location.

On the other hand, many of the people, or all of the people, I would suggest, who are making appeal under the financial assistance aspect of this program would not have a large amount of discretionary income with which to, at the very least, provide travel for themselves. I am not from the rural area, but I do think that the local Government districts are, in some cases, fairly large in size, and that public transportation is often not available.

I guess my concern is that there is not a recognition of the costs for these individuals. Could there be some recognition? There is recognition of legitimate costs incurred by the members of the Advisory Committee, and I suggest that it is just as legitimate to provide, at the very minimum, travel expenses where necessary for people to make presentation to this Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I hear what the Member is saying and would welcome her at any time to take a trip into rural Manitoba to have a better understanding of the wide expanse of this beautiful province, and to understand better the various jurisdictions that exist outside the City of Winnipeg. Both in the winter and summer, this is a very beautiful province, and I am sure that you would appreciate meeting some of the fine folks that live in rural Manitoba.

Having said that, I am told that every effort is made to have the hearing convenient to the person making the appeal. In fact, I am told that sometimes the appeal is made in the individual's home, so that there is an attempt to accommodate people.

I would also say that there have been occasions where the person making the appeal may want to have legal counsel, and do so through Legal Aid, and assistance is provided there.

You are right, there are remote areas of the province, but the panel does do a fair amount of traveling, and will try and make the hearings as accommodating as possible in terms of location. We are not aware of any degree of complaints that have come forward on this issue.

Ms. Barrett: I just would like to have it on the record that I have spent a great deal of time outside the City of Winnipeg, including a good deal of time in the Minister's own constituency, which is a very lovely part of the province both in summer and winter.

I am concerned, and I will not belabour the point, and I appreciate the fact that every effort is made and every attempt is made to see that individuals who are making appeal are not financially put into more stress than they already are by making the appeal. I would, however, like to suggest that it be put into the regulations in some manner, that wherever it is seen necessary, that financial recompense for costs incurred on the part of the person making the appeal be reimbursed.

It may only be a very small amount of money. Probably it would be only a very small amount of money in the overall budget of this committee, but for those individuals I think it will certainly have a much greater impact, and also there may be cases—and I am not suggesting there are—where people, particularly outside the city, find it difficult or choose not to go to the committee process because of some kind of difficulty. So I am just recommending that be looked at and perhaps put into the regulations or codified more than every effort and attempt would indicate.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I would say that we would be prepared to look at this issue and see if it appears to be a problem. People in the rural areas, of course, are used to helping their neighbours and providing assistance in terms of transportation. I think a lot of that happens that people do have access to transportation to their nearest community. We have a longstanding practice in the rural area to help our

neighbours. Perhaps that is why there does not appear to be a problem that has been identified.

Ms. Barrett: Mr. Deputy Chair, it may be—and this is my last comment on this—the problem has not been identified because the people are self-selecting out of the process who might have trouble accessing the appeal committee. But I have made my recommendation, and I would like to ask a couple of more questions in this area.

Do you have statistics on the number of appeals in the last year or two if possible, and under I guess which of these three general areas, and what the results of those appeals have been?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, there is information we can provide you on the number of appeals. In 1989-90, there have been 655 appeals, and that encompasses quite a number of areas that this body hears. I can break that down for you. Under municipal assistance there was 244 appeals, under social allowances there were 358 appeals, day care subsidies there were 26 appeals, the licensing of day care centres there were two appeals. The licensing of residential care facilities, there were seven, the VRDP there was one, and another group simply called other, there were four. That should bring you up to 655 appeals that were held by this particular group.

* (1540)

Ms. Barrett: Could you give me a comparison for the '88-89? Is that available?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can. In 1988-89 there were 601 appeals: 259 of them were municipal allowance; social allowance was 286; 55 Plus, there were 22; day care subsidies, there were 28; and licensing of residential care facilities, there were six.

Ms. Barrett: In 1988 and 1989, licensing of day care, VRDP and other had no appeals. There were 22 in 55 Plus in '88-89, and no appeals of 55 Plus in '89-90?

Mr. Gilleshammer: No, I had indicated to her—or perhaps I made a mistake, but anyway the figure I have here is there were thirteen 55 Plus in '89-90 and 22 in '88-89.

Ms. Barrett: Has there been any effort on the part of the department or the Advisory Committee to look into the increase, particularly in the social—well, I guess, the main increase in the year over year is in the social allowance appeals, that is a fairly substantial number—if the department or the Social

Services Advisory Committee has looked at reasons for those?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There is an increase in the caseloads that, in all probability, would reflect an increase in the number of appeals.

Ms. Barrett: That is a probability. You are suggesting that it is a percentage increase, because there are more cases; therefore, it would probably be the same percentage of cases that were being appealed, even though the actual number is higher based on the caseload change.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The arithmetic may not be exact, but it would seem that when you have an increase in the number of caseloads, probably you would be susceptible to an increase in the number of appeals.

Ms. Barrett: Can you give us a general breakdown as to the outcome of these appeals? How many were in favour of the appellant and how many were in favour of the department?

(Mrs. Linda McIntosh, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Gilleshammer: For the year '89-90, I had indicated there were 655; 56 of them were allowed; 264 were dismissed; 265 were withdrawn; 41 did not appear.

Ms. Barrett: Approximately half of the appeals that were lodged, that at least began the process, did not carry through. They either were withdrawn or they did not appear at the time that they were scheduled, is that correct?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Madam Acting Chairperson, 264 were dismissed, 265 were withdrawn and 41 did not appear.

Ms. Barrett: So it breaks down about half and half. Half never came before the Social Services Advisory Committee and the half that did, the vast majority were dismissed.

Mr. Gilleshammer: It appears that there were more dismissed than were allowed.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Acting Chair, is there a breakdown—I am getting back to the geography again here. Is there a sense that some of the ones that withdrew or did not appear, there was a higher proportion that were outside the city rather than inside the city, or is that statistic not available?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We do not have that information with us today, but we will make every effort to get it for you.

Ms. Barrett: The reason I am asking is I am trying to get some sense of the accessibility of the Advisory Committee. My experience with the committee over the years is that it has been quite accessible. I am just checking to see if that continues to be the case or if there are some changes, as I suggested there might be, that might make it even more accessible.

Mr. Gilleshammer: We will, as I indicated, try and get you that information. We have not had any concerns brought forward that accessibility to the committee is a factor in the adjudication, or the presentation of the individual before the committee or to being absent from the committee, but we will try and get information for you.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Acting Chair, if I could ask a question about the brochure, the written information on the social allowances system that is available. What procedures are in place in various social allowance offices or where this literature is available to deal with the problems of illiteracy, of people who may not be able to read at all or understand the brochure?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that the workers who work for this branch are prepared to work with clients who come forward to access the program, and help them with the application and, if translation is required, we would make every effort to provide that.

* (1550)

Ms. Barrett: I have one other question on the whole area of literacy. I am not at all an expert in this area, but my understanding is that part of the problem with literacy and illiteracy is that many people, particularly adults, are ashamed and embarrassed and do not want to let people know that they are unable to read.

There are most likely, I would imagine, signals that people can gather to show that the individual is having a difficult time understanding or comprehending. Is there any training or any work being done with intake workers and people, who see particularly social assistance recipients in that regard, to identify those kinds of clues?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I am told that the workers who work with social allowance applicants do in-service training and staff training to make them aware of some of the difficulties that people may have in terms of reading and understanding the application or filling it out, and that every effort is

made to make them sensitive to the needs of the applicant.

Ms. Barrett: I would like to go back to ask one more question on the Social Services Advisory Committee. For each panel there are the three members. There is the appellant and the person from the department who is being appealed against. Is there any professional or other assistance during the panels? My understanding is that these panel members are not necessarily professionals in the field. Is there some assistance provided to the panel to answer questions?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, the panel is made up of citizens from a cross section of the province, and there are times that the applicant may be accompanied by a legal counsel. The panel hears—it is a quasi judicial setup—the information and makes the decision. I am not aware that they require any legal interpretation, but perhaps I can get further clarification on that. The panel, if they require assistance, can receive that assistance from the Attorney General's office.

Ms. Barrett: So the panel does have access to technical, if you will, or professional information before they make their final decision, which I understand is within five days of the hearing.

Mr. Gilleshammer: They have access to that assistance if it is needed.

Ms. Barrett: One more question back on the social allowances brochures. I am sorry to go back and forth. These brochures, I know, come out every year. How are they distributed? To whom are they regularly given?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, they are available at the offices that work on social assistance, and also they are made available to other offices where potential social assistance clients may come in contact. So there is a fairly broad distribution of it.

Ms. Barrett: Thank you, I have no further questions in this area.

Mr. Alcock: Thank you, Madam Acting Chairperson. We are now, just to go back to an earlier point, going to run into an ongoing problem as we go through the department and move into operating departments that have caseloads, because the lack of the '89-90 Annual Report means that we are going to have to do exactly as the Member for Wellington has done, and ask for pieces of information. Now I think I got most of what the Minister had given to the Member for Wellington,

except for the number of cases withdrawn in '89-90. Can you just give me that statistic?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The number of cases in '89-90 was 655, and the number withdrawn was 265.

Mr. Alcock: So that between '87-88, '88-89, we had a 32 percent increase in the total number of appeals. We had a further almost 9 percent increase between '88-89 and '89-90, and yet the number allowed went down 26 percent between '87-88 and '89-90, and went down a further nearly 10 percent the following year.

The number of cases is going up; the number that the committee is supporting is going down. Can the Minister explain why there would be that obvious sort of counter-intuitive movement?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I can tell you that there was an increase in the number of cases. The number allowed in '89-90, as I have indicated, was 56. The number allowed in '88-89 was 62.

Mr. Alcock: Just looking at those two years, the number of cases has gone up by 10 percent, the number allowed has gone down by 10 percent. If you look back a further year, the number allowed has gone down 26 percent.

It seems to be either people are making an increasing number of unsubstantiated complaints, or that the committee is somehow ruling more firmly or more strictly on the appeals that are being brought forward.

Mr. Gilleshammer: There is not a large number of difference in the number allowed, but each case is looked upon on its individual merits by the Social Services Advisory Committee, and if you are asking me to speculate on why there is a difference, I cannot tell you.

Mr. Alcock: Has there been any policy change in the operations of the committee? Is there any operational change that would explain why, despite the fact the number of appeals that are being registered is going up significantly, at the same time the number that are being allowed is going down significantly?

Mr. Gilleshammer: To my knowledge, there has been no operational changes. The number of cases did increase, and over the last two years the numbers that were allowed do not vary a great deal between 56 and 62 cases.

Mr. Alcock: Let us just step back an additional year. You look at the year this Government took office,

there were 455 appeals of which 84, or 18 percent, were allowed.

In this final year, the numbers the Minister has just given us, there were 655 appeals, of which 56 were allowed, only 8 percent. There is a significant difference, I am just asking why?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I do not have the number allowed for '87-88. I can tell you that there was an increase in the actuals from '87-88, I have that figure. The manner in which the Social Services Advisory Committee operates has not changed.

Mr. Alcock: The Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) asked for a list of who was currently serving on the committee, and when they were appointed.

I would also ask if the Minister, in preparing that list, could include a brief indication of their background and experience?

* (1600)

Mr. Gilleshammer: We can provide you with a list of the people who are on the committee at the present time.

Mr. Alcock: Just to help with the confusion over the numbers, I will lend the Minister a copy of his annual report, the most recent one tabled, so he can pick up that number they are searching for.

I understand we are going to get a list of the people who are on the committee and I understand we are going to get the indications of when they were appointed, but can we get some indication of what their background is? What I am specifically interested in is what sort of experience they have relative to the field that they are overseeing.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I have indicated that we will give you a list of names and when they were appointed. They are appointed as citizens at large and we may not have a great deal of additional information for you, but we can provide you what information that we have.

Mr. Alcock: Among the 15, are there any categorical appointments, in the sense that are there any clients appointed? Any people who would be recipients of the program? Although that may be a direct conflict of interest. Perhaps I should rephrase that and say, anybody who has been a recipient of the programs and/or people who are appointed not at the discretion of the Minister or the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, but are appointed as representatives of Manitoba anti-poverty, et cetera, et cetera?

Mr. Gilleshammer: They are appointed by Order-in-Council to the Social Services Advisory Committee and we do not have background here as to their activities. One of the stipulations is not that they have been someone who has been a client in the system before.

Mr. Alcock: Of the 15 members, are any of them new appointments since '87-88?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes.

Mr. Alcock: How many?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We will have to get that information for you when we provide the list of the members, when they were appointed, and if they had served on the committee before. We will get whatever pertinent information is available.

Mr. Alcock: Can the Minister tell us, or from the staff tell us has the majority of the committee changed in the last two years?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We do not have that information available, but the sense is that most of them have been appointed in the last two years.

Mr. Alcock: It is my understanding, from the annual report, that these people are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The question then is, is the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointing them based on the recommendation of this Minister? Or are they appointed on the general recommendation of the Cabinet and whatever process they have for vetting appointments?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I can simply tell you that they were Order-in-Council appointments.

Mr. Alcock: Is the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) consulted on those persons who are appointed to that committee?

Mr. Gilleshammer: None of these members have been appointed in the last few weeks since I took office. They were appointed prior to my coming to this department.

Mr. Alcock: Let us speak about the process. Is there a formal process used to appoint people to this committee that involves them being appointed upon the recommendation of the Minister of Family Services?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The names were submitted and have been appointed to this particular committee by Order-in-Council. We have indicated that we will try and find further information on this as to the date they were appointed for the Member, and provide that for the Member.

Mr. Alcock: I would appreciate the Minister doing that, but I understand him to be saying though, is that the persons on this committee are appointed by some process that is outside the department, that the department does not play a role in the appointment of these individuals.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am advised that the Minister is consulted prior to the appointments being made.

Mr. Alcock: Upon this committee, there is no one who is drawn from that community that represents the people who are recipients of the services that this body is destined to pass judgment on.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I cannot give you a definite answer on that. They may be. They are a broad range of people from across the Province of Manitoba who are serving in this capacity as an appeal board on the Social Services Advisory Committee, and I can tell you that they do a very valuable job. As indicated, there were some 600 applications the last two years, and my understanding is this group has worked very well in hearing these appeals.

Mr. Alcock: I do not doubt the sincerity of this particular group, but we are faced with a situation where over two years the panel has been changed by the incumbent Government, and in that same period of time the number of appeals have gone up by over 200, and yet the proportion that are allowed has dropped by 50 percent.

Mr. Gilleshammer: As I indicated to the previous Member, the number of people accessing the social allowance system has increased. By the same token, the number of appeals has increased.

Mr. Alcock: The number of appeals has increased in that period of time by 43, almost 44 percent. Have the number of people accessing this system increased by that percentage?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We do not have the number of recipients in front of us at the moment. I can tell you it has increased. The guidelines by which the Social Services Advisory Committee operates have not changed. They are asked to consider the cases on a case by case basis, and to make those decisions. They operate in a quasi judicial form to make decisions that are brought forward by these clients, and in some cases with the assistance of legal counsel.

Mr. Alcock: Okay, let us just review it for a second though. The Minister says that the guidelines for this committee have not changed. He also makes the

point that the number of cases in the system have gone up. We note from the numbers provided that in the last two years since this Government took office, the number of appeals that are brought forward have gone up by almost 44 percent despite the fact that, in the Minister's own words, the numbers are up, and from the numbers the number of appeals are up substantially, and the fact that the guidelines have not changed, the number of appeals that are allowed have gone down substantially—dramatically. Now the only thing that has changed is the composition of the panel.

Mr. Gilleshammer: One of the factors the Member has not mentioned in his statistics is, yes, the number of clients that has come forward with appeals has increased. Also, almost a fairly similar number has withdrawn. The number of cases that are heard by this panel, the percentage that has been dismissed, has not changed very much.

In 1987-88, 60 percent of the appellants were dismissed. In '88-89, 63 percent and in '89-90, 67 percent. I am not sure where the Member is going with his questions, but we do recognize there has been an increase in the number of cases that have made application to appear. There has also been a larger number of withdrawals, people who did not appear. The number of cases dismissed is really fairly similar, ranging from 60 percent to 67 percent.

Mr. Alcock: I shall not retread the path taken by the Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett), who I think made the case about providing some of the reasons why people may withdraw. It may not be because they feel that their cases are improper, they may just not have the resources to continue, may be also part of the reason that people fail to show up.

* (1610)

Stepping aside from that though, the fact remains that the percentage of cases allowed has gone down dramatically. The only thing that has changed, in the Minister's own words, is the composition of the committee. I shall not belabour this any longer. We can pass this item, but I think it is a significant indicator and one that the Minister should look into. I think it is astounding that you could have the one appeal mechanism for people in this system, the one part of the process that gives them some respite without any categorical appointments at all.

(Mr. Marcel Laurendeau, Deputy Chairman, in the Chair)

Surely to goodness you can get somebody on that committee who has some understanding of what the programs are and is not simply the captive of the staff. Surely you would not want to load the committee with advocates for this system, but it might be nice to see some of them involved in this process. I think there is something worth investigating there and I would ask, on behalf of the people who have to access this service, that the Minister undertake to do it. I think too often these systems that get set up with citizen reps do a disservice rather than a service to the community.

Mr. Gilleshammer: As I indicated earlier, when we were talking about history, this group has been doing this function since 1966. They have been citizen reps, and I think have provided a valuable service for the Province of Manitoba. I really do not think the Member should condemn these citizens who come forward to participate by serving on the Social Services Advisory Committee. I would indicate again that the rate of dismissals has not increased that dramatically in the last three years.

An Honourable Member: Twenty-five percent.

Mr. Gilleshammer: They changed from 60 percent to 67 percent, that the board has made a decision on to have them dismissed. We do have more people accessing the system. We have indicated that staff work with clients to assist them in filling out the application. I think that applications are generally available for people who want to access the system.

Ms. Barrett: I would like to ask that, when we are given the list of the people who are currently on the Social Services Advisory Committee, if we could have where they are from, their home town, or their home area. I do not recall if this is a term at pleasure or if the Order-in-Council states for a specific period of time.

Mr. Gilleshammer: We will provide you with a list of the members and information that we have that is available to us. We can indicate that information where, what part of this province they come from, and any information on the terms of their appointment.

Ms. Barrett: Which part of this beautiful province they come from.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item 1.(h)(1) Salaries \$94,400—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$127,000—pass.

Item 2. Registration and Licensing Services (a) Vital Statistics (1) Salaries \$880,800.00.

Ms. Barrett: I do not think I have very many questions in this area, but sometimes the answers lead to other questions.

Is this one of the divisions that is planning to be decentralized under the Government's Decentralization Program?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, that is correct.

Ms. Barrett: Can the Minister tell us if this entire division will be relocated, or a section of it, and if so, to where?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The decision on decentralization was announced last year, and I believe the plans for this division was to have it located in the Town of Dauphin. That, of course, has not taken place as yet, but is the subject of ongoing plans. They will retain a small presence here in Winnipeg after their relocation in Dauphin.

Ms. Barrett: I understand that most of the relocations have not yet taken place. Is there a sense as to when this Vital Statistics department will be relocated?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, you are correct that there was a small percentage of the units involved in decentralization that were going to be affected in 1990, and more of them in subsequent years.

We are looking at probably 1992 for the relocation of Vital Statistics.

Ms. Barrett: The department is currently putting together figures on costs, if anything, relating to relocation, and that those would be shown in the next year's budget Estimates, or at least a portion of those would be shown in next year's budget Estimates?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The information on Vital Statistics will certainly appear in next year's budget, and we will have a chance to look at them at that time. The decentralization also involves the Department of Government Services and people who are working specifically on decentralization.

So just whether you can make comparisons when the next budget is tabled that reflect any significant changes in decentralization for Vital Statistics, I am not sure at this time.

Ms. Barrett: No, I can understand that it is only an approximation that it will be relocated in 1992. Am I correct in saying that the plan for the budget estimates for '91-92 will reflect any costs that are

expected to be incurred from the move from Winnipeg to Dauphin of this department, at least prorated for the three months of '92, if it is anticipated that that will take place in the first three months of '92?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There may be some reflection of those numbers in the budget next year, and again I would mention that Government Services is also involved, but there could well be some changes in the budget regarding Vital Statistics that in some way relate to decentralization.

* (1620)

Ms. Barrett: I would certainly expect there to be costs incurred just in the mere fact of moving people and providing changes in that regard. I do not want to discuss next year's budget, but I expect that when we do come up to next year's Estimates there will be some reflection. My understanding is this is the only division of Family Services that is going to be decentralized, or are there others?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There are some others. Before I mention them, I think when the Premier announced the decentralization initiative almost a year ago, I believe at the UMM convention in Brandon, one of the figures that was mentioned was that decentralization may cost up to \$10 million. I believe in the budget document this year there is a line under decentralization of \$1 million. I am not sure whether that has been before committee as yet, but I believe it is in the budget document. There are two other sections within this department that are moving. One is 55 Plus and it is going to Carberry, and CRISP which is going to Killarney.

Ms. Barrett: Is the time frame more or less the same for those moves as the anticipated move for Vital Statistics?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The time frame is a little bit different. We are looking at September of '91 for CRISP and 55 Plus. I think when the initiative was announced where positions were going to be moved, in some cases people were in those positions and they were going to move with them. Every effort was going to be made to accommodate them vis-a-vis the school year. CRISP and 55 Plus, we hope, will be in place in those communities in rural Manitoba in September of '91.

Ms. Barrett: So that the next budget year will certainly reflect any additional costs or staffing changes for those particular programs, estimated?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Well, I am sure the budget will be different, and will reflect some changes. Some of them will be reflected under decentralization. We will have an opportunity to see what changes there are within this department in terms of budget lines at that time and see if there is any reflection on decentralization.

Ms. Barrett: Can the Minister tell us at this point how many of the 32 staff years have indicated that they are planning to move, in the Vital Statistics division, and how many have indicated that they do not wish to move?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It is indicated that there will be 23 staff affected by relocation, and one person has indicated that they would relocate to Dauphin.

Ms. Barrett: Twenty-three staff will be affected by relocation. Can you explain the difference of that figure and the 32 that is listed in the budget under this line?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I had indicated in an earlier answer that the department would maintain a presence in Winnipeg and operate as a suboffice.

Ms. Barrett: Assuming no staff complement changes, there would be approximately nine people remaining in Winnipeg.

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: Can you tell me what duties those nine people in Winnipeg will be doing as opposed to the 23 in Dauphin?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I said we would be maintaining a presence in Winnipeg as a suboffice. They would provide customer service for clients who want to access Vital Statistics from this portion of the province. They would accept applications and issue some bulk certificates on site so that in essence they are maintaining a presence here. I do not know whether you want a further breakdown of activities or how the nine would be constituted. The idea is to have a suboffice here in Winnipeg to provide service at this site.

Ms. Barrett: The only division of responsibilities that I would like to ask a question on is, of the nine here, would one be a manager and then one be a manager in Dauphin, or how will they work the fact that there will be two offices?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The director of this branch will be located in Dauphin and there will be an assistant director in the office in Winnipeg.

Ms. Barrett: I would anticipate that this budget line next year will have an increase to reflect the fact that there will be two management positions instead of one, one being the director and one an assistant director.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, there may be some modifications in the budget line to reflect that or other changes, some perhaps would be an increase and others would be a decrease. There could well be a change in the budget line.

Ms. Barrett: How are the services to the public going to be provided by the department of Vital Statistics—or how do they currently provide these services? Is there a breakdown as to the percentage of services that are provided under the Objectives here: services to the public, professionals and agencies—as to how much of that is response to mail, how much of it is response to telephone, how much of it is response to walk-in traffic as it were?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am informed that 80 percent of the applications that come before the Vital Statistics branch are mailed in and 20 percent are walked in.

* (1630)

In terms of the percentage of time by activity, registering vital events is 20 percent; the issuing of certificates or certified copies of registrations and providing verifications, 40 percent; correcting registrations due to changes and errors, 20 percent; administering legal changes of name and issuing certificates, 3 percent; issuing marriage licences, appointing marriage commissioners and licence issuers, recognizing religious denominations and registering clergy, 6 percent; providing statistical data for records request, 10 percent; and processing disinterment applications and orders, 1 percent.

Ms. Barrett: Eighty percent then currently of all of these activities are generated in response to mail-in requests.

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: You said 20 percent are walked in. Does that mean that the department currently does not respond to telephone requests? Is that the regulation, that it has to be either mailed in or walked in?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the Vital Statistics processes documents, and 80 percent of them are

mailed in and 20 percent of them are brought in by walk-in traffic.

My experience with the branch is that you have to get your documentation there one of those ways.

Ms. Barrett: This is a small detail, but if I had lost my birth certificate and I wanted to get a duplicate birth certificate I would have to either request that by mail or go down to the Vital Statistics department and do that. You would not send me out a duplicate as a reaction to a phone request.

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct. I think before the branch issues documentation they have to have some sense of assurance that the document that they are now providing for you is a correct one, and it would have to be verified.

My brief experience as a member of the public in accessing the services of this branch is that, yes, you certainly can phone and get advice and information, but in terms of the documentation, you have to provide some sense of comfort and some information prior to them giving you duplicates of whatever it is you are requiring.

I think the Member would appreciate that there would be some sensitivity around this information, and there has to be some assurance that you are who you say you are, and that they provide you with those documentations.

I think it is a very important service that they provide. You might even say it was "vital", and they do ask for this documentation.

Ms. Barrett: The 22 members of the Vital Statistics department who will be affected by relocation and have not said that they will relocate, could you tell me what reasons they have given? Is this just that they have not responded, or they have specifically stated that they will not relocate?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I think I can assure you that right across Government the initiative has been to move positions, and that people who currently occupied those, who do not want to relocate, would be given opportunities to be redeployed or take advantage of retirement. This is being done with the remainder of the staff.

Ms. Barrett: Do you know what the status is of those 23? Have they been redeployed or have some taken advantage of retirement, or is it still all in the process of occurring?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can give you some further information on that. Thirteen have been

redeployed to other positions, four are planning to retire, two positions are filled by term employees and three staff are in the situation where they are still to be redeployed.

Ms. Barrett: The nine positions that will remain in Winnipeg, how were they determined as to which positions those would be versus the 24 that were going to go to Dauphin?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The ones that are remaining in Winnipeg were going to continue providing the service that they are presently providing, which can be described as counter service for the local traffic.

Ms. Barrett: Just for clarification, so the decision was made that all the counter service personnel would remain in Winnipeg? Those are the same individuals who currently hold those positions will continue to hold those positions, or is it the positions themselves that will stay in Winnipeg, and they may be filled with different employees?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The people who are going to continue to do counter service are basically doing that now, and there will be some who provide counter service at the new location in Dauphin. The decisions were worked out with the director and the staff involved.

Ms. Barrett: Under the Expected Results you have the registration numbers and issuing of certificates, et cetera, within five days, 10 days, of receiving the records. Do you anticipate any change in this turnaround time because of the decentralization and the relocation?

Mr. Gilleshammer: We are contemplating some degree of automation in this branch, and we talked about that earlier today. The standards that the branch has are the targets that we will be aiming for with the new location.

Ms. Barrett: Has there been any concern expressed on the part of the staff as to the availability of adequate facilities in Dauphin? I am talking not about facilities for them as individuals, but operating facilities, that the department will have any trouble finding office space that will be accessible and adequate?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I can tell you that the Department of Government Services is involved in locating space throughout Manitoba where decentralization is going to take place. In some communities, existing space was available. In other communities, proposal calls have gone out within

the community to have that space provided by local people.

In terms of Vital Statistics, I do not think that we have arrived at the point where a proposal call or space has been identified, but the decentralization is a big initiative. It has been one that has been widely acclaimed as good for rural Manitoba. Every effort is being made to make these transitions as sensitively as possible. Part of the process is working with the communities to identify space that is available, so that these Government offices can be up and running in the next few years.

Ms. Barrett: I know that the decentralization has been acclaimed as providing more jobs and infrastructure for rural areas. I did not want to put on record that there has been severe criticism of, not the concept of decentralization, but the implementation of decentralization and how it has had an impact on individual members of the Government, who are being asked to make decisions that affect their lives very severely. I am not suggesting that Vital Statistics is part of that. I do not pretend to know what the situations are for all 23.

The other area of concern that I think we will be monitoring very closely, and I again do not know what the impact of this will be, is the service delivery. I think that is incumbent upon us all in all of this decentralization to make sure that service delivery is maintained. While 40 percent of the residents of Manitoba live outside the City of Winnipeg, 60 percent approximately live within it. I am concerned that these services are continued to be provided in an expeditious and efficient manner. I am not suggesting that they will not be, but we do have some concerns about the impact on not only the individuals, but on the service delivery.

I have just a couple more questions. You mentioned earlier that there was a budget item in this year of \$1 million. Is that Government Services that has that budget line?

* (1640)

Mr. Gilleshammer: I can tell you I believe it is at the very end of the Estimates book that decentralization is located. We can get you a page number—page 171. Okay, it is on page 171, and \$1 million has been allocated for decentralization. I hear what the Member has indicated about the need to be sensitive to employees. I think that, again, every

effort will be made to make this change in the best possible way.

The delivery of service, of course, is important. I expect that those people in rural Manitoba are going to be able to deliver that service in a very professional manner. In many cases, with other branches, it will be delivered by the same people. In some cases, it is going to provide employment in these communities. The provision of service is obviously very important to all of us, particularly those people who access the service. I hear what the Member is saying, and I think that the changes that have taken place so far have been done in a sensitive way. We look forward to the remainder of this decentralization initiative in the next year.

Ms. Barrett: Of the three individuals still to be redeployed, that is in process? Are they agreeing to the redeployment, or is there some potential problem there, do you know?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I think we are just in the midst of a process where 13 of them have been redeployed, and three staff are still to be redeployed.

Ms. Barrett: This may be not a very astute question, but this redeployment will take place only when the department itself actually makes the move. Is that accurate, or are they redeployed right now?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Some changes have already been made, and people have been phased in, but it is going to be an ongoing process over the next number of months to have staff redeployed into other positions.

Ms. Barrett: Say 10 of the 13, just for purposes of example, have actually taken on different positions. Those 10 positions, are they now filled with people who currently live in Winnipeg who have said that they will relocate to Dauphin when that time comes?

Mr. Gilleshammer: A number have been redeployed, and the positions are being done by term employees. The standard of service, we hope, is being maintained, and I am assured that it is.

Ms. Barrett: What is the estimation of how many of the permanent employees, when the service moves to Dauphin, will be people from that area? Do you anticipate that it will be all 22 that have not wanted to relocate?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It is difficult to speculate on who will fill these positions, but I believe there is a process through the Civil Service to have these positions filled. We expect there will be a number of

people from Dauphin, or from the Dauphin area who would be applying for the positions.

Ms. Barrett: Again I am not aware of how you can handle this through the Civil Service Commission. Are you making, in a sense, an affirmative action move in this regard to try and make sure that people from Dauphin do get the jobs? I would assume that is one of the goals of the Decentralization Program, not only to have the services decentralized and the spinoff of any jobs that come in. If there are jobs that are filled by people who move from Winnipeg or who do not come from the area, then the benefits of decentralization are cut back quite severely, I would imagine.

Mr. Gilleshammer: One of the concepts of decentralization was to enhance the job availability in rural Manitoba. In this case, with the numbers we have been looking at, there will be considerable new employment available when the Vital Statistics branch is relocated in Dauphin. I would anticipate that people from Dauphin and the area would be the most likely candidates to fill those positions.

I can tell you that there are people who commute some distance in the rural area from time to time, but those jobs will be advertised for location in Dauphin.

Ms. Barrett: Do you anticipate any of the current term employees being hired on full time when the relocation takes place?

Mr. Gilleshammer: They would sort of have the opportunity to apply for the jobs. It would be speculation again to start thinking in terms of whether they might or how many might apply, but the competition would be open. I can tell you that most likely it would be people in the Dauphin area who would be applying for the positions.

Ms. Barrett: I have one final question. Can you tell me how many staff for the 55 Plus and the CRISP will be affected by the decentralization move?

* (1650)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, 14 positions will be relocated to Killarney to administer the CRISP program and 8.26 positions will be relocated to Carberry to administer 55 Plus.

Ms. Barrett: Is that the entire complement of those positions that currently administer those programs, or, like the Vital Statistics, will some of these jobs remain in Winnipeg?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The majority of those positions are being transferred to Killarney and Carberry. It is estimated that two or three positions would be maintained in the City of Winnipeg.

Ms. Barrett: Just one final comment. I have spent some time on this decentralization. I just do not want to leave the impression that the philosophy of decentralization is something that the NDP is in opposition to. Far be it from us to say that because, certainly in the area of Child and Family Services, we are strongly committed to the concept of decentralization. Our only problem with the decentralization as it is occurring in these areas of Government-service delivery is making sure that the process is user friendly to those who are being asked to redeploy or relocate and that it is cost effective. We are certainly not on record in Opposition to the philosophy of decentralization.

Mr. Gilleshammer: There has been a lot of comments made by Opposition Members on decentralization. Sometimes it has been confusing, because it may depend on where they are at, whether they are for it or against it, but I recognize that you do support decentralization from your comments. I think it is an important initiative for rural Manitoba, and it is important, as you say, that a standard of service be maintained, and that it be handled in a sensitive fashion. We are pleased to have your support on that.

Mr. Alcock: Just a couple of quick comments. The two term employees—I presume their term is coming to an end—were they offered the redeployment option?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that the term employees were not offered redeployment. The main concern was with the permanent staff to accommodate them, but they certainly would be welcome to apply for a permanent position.

Mr. Alcock: Is this the consistent policy that is being applied by the Government across all departments, that where there are term positions, those term positions are being allowed to end rather than those employees being offered redeployment?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I believe it is consistent that term employees have the opportunity to apply for permanent positions.

Mr. Alcock: The Minister for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) suggests that Urban Affairs is not being regionalized, which I am pleased to hear. The question though was not, are they being offered

positions. Are they part of that pool that is being offered redeployment? Are you saying, in this department, in this division, that is not the case; that their positions are being allowed to lapse? I am asking is that policy consistent Government-wide?

Mr. Gilleshammer: My information is that term employees are not being placed on redeployment lists.

Mr. Alcock: Then I am prepared to pass this division without any further examination. I know it to be a competent division that performs a very important service. I am surprised that we would be sanguine about a loss of 70 percent of the staff, and that it is going to be difficult, I think, to offer the same level and quality of service for a period of time until you get restaffed and up to speed. I hope there will not be too much disruption to the important services that are provided by this division during that process.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Certainly we want to try very hard to see that service does continue at the same level, and that the decentralization does not have a negative effect on the services that are provided. It is something that the department will be monitoring as the decentralization unfolds.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item 2.(a) Vital Statistics: (1) Salaries \$880,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures \$248,700—pass.

Item 2.(b) Residential Care Licensing: (1) Salaries \$311,900.00.

Ms. Barrett: I have a fair number of questions, and I am not sure if they are specifically in this category, but they deal with the Residential Care Licensing and the whole concept. If I am out of order please let me know, and I will put the questions later.

There plan to be five professional technical SYs in the budget for this next year? Can you tell me what the professional qualifications or the general job descriptions for these professional technical people are?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The qualifications for staff would be an M.S.W or B.S.W. or equivalent training and experience in the field of human service in a position of direct client involvement, a knowledge of relevant legislation and regulations in the field of social services, a working knowledge of the various programs, classification systems and the treatment theories, and possess sound analytical and decision-making skills.

Ms. Barrett: I can speak from personal experience that all B.S.W.s and M.S.W.s have all of those qualifications, having those degrees myself.

Can you tell me what the status of the five current staff are?

* (1700)

Mr. Gilleshammer: They are permanent program analyst positions.

Ms. Barrett: I assume that means that they are hired through the Civil Service system?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: Can you tell me, has there been a fair amount of staff turnover in this area, or have the program directors been in place for a reasonable amount of time?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told there was one retirement last year, but over the last while the staff has been stable.

Ms. Barrett: Under Activity Identification, it is "Develops and maintains policy and procedures manuals for licensing," am I correct in assuming that there is a fairly broad range of facilities that are licensed, and if that is the case, if there is a range of manuals for licensing or how many licensing manuals there are?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told there is one manual.

Ms. Barrett: That one manual would cover all facilities throughout the province, whether they are in Winnipeg or rural or northern areas?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I am pleased to report that the same manual could be used in rural Manitoba, northern Manitoba, as well as the City of Winnipeg.

Ms. Barrett: Do the regulations in this manual reflect the differences that these facilities may encounter being in various parts of the province? I know I am on thin ice here. I am not trying to say anything negative about beautiful Manitoba outside the city limits, but there are differences in distances. There are differences in the size of communities that these residents relate to. There are cost differences. There are potential problems with getting qualified staff, with getting access to training.

The reality of Manitoba is that there is a range of external factors that can have an impact on service provision. I am wondering if this manual has any recognition of those variety of factors.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The one manual is used for rural, urban and northern Manitoba. There is some

flexibility which takes into account the fact that it is a large province and that in rural areas some centres service an outlying area. I am told there is just the one manual, and they are able to use it for all of these facilities.

Ms. Barrett: Is it possible to have a list of the community residential care facilities that are currently licensed?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, we can provide the Member with that list. We do not have it available today, but we will get it to you shortly.

Ms. Barrett: Can that list include the location of the facility and the number of people serviced within each facility?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The list would encompass facilities in rural and northern Manitoba as well as the City of Winnipeg. We will provide that information for you.

Ms. Barrett: Under the Objectives, it talks about regulated standards for the physical safety, health and well-being of persons in care. Does that refer to a regulation that is part of the Government statutes, and if so, which?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It is a regulation under The Social Services Administration Act.

Ms. Barrett: I believe that I have requested a copy of that Act from the Minister, and I anticipate that I will be able to get a copy of that soon?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I think that was encompassed in the package of information that we provided for you.

Ms. Barrett: Thank you, I had forgotten that, yes. The Residential Care Licensing also monitors and audits licensed facilities in relation to the established criteria. Can the Minister explain what that established criteria is or where it exists? Is it in the regulations?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I am told it is within the regulations.

Ms. Barrett: The Residential Care Licensing division also develops and establishes agreements with local authorities for enforcement purposes. Could the Minister explain who the local authorities are, and what the enforcement purposes are?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, that refers to the Fire Commissioner's office, the local health authorities and any regulations in regard to the building codes, et cetera.

Ms. Barrett: These agreements that are established and developed with the local authorities, are they in writing or is this more or less, particularly in a smaller community, the staff person going to the local fire commissioner and saying, we are here? In Winnipeg what happens? What is the formula? How is the process of this communication arrived at?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There is not a contract as such that is signed, but facilities are inspected, for instance, by the Fire Commissioner's office, and the facility would have to meet certain standards, whether it is in Winnipeg or elsewhere. If renovations have to be made, that would be identified for them. The local authorities then will vary, but basically it would be Fire Commissioner's offices, health authorities and any building codes that would have to be adhered to.

Ms. Barrett: So that the staff—when an individual or an organization wants to become licensed—would go in, take a look at the facility, then contact, on behalf of the license applicant, the local authorities?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes. There is a process that they go through in terms of licensing, and they would have to adhere to those local authorities and provide assurance that such things as the Fire Commissioner has passed the facility.

Ms. Barrett: They provide administrative support to designated licensed authorities. What administrative support is provided? Is this going with them to get the licence and that type of thing?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It would encompass the details of the application and the receipt of the licence.

Ms. Barrett: They expect to process approximately 15 to 20 new applications. Is there a sense of where these applications are coming from, how many individuals will be serviced by these applications? What is the description of these applications, or if this is just an approximation based on previous years' experience?

Mr. Gilleshammer: It is based on the previous year's experience, and that is the anticipated number of applicants.

Ms. Barrett: Are these applications from private operators, from people who want Government support? What is the breakdown in that regard?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The number of new licences processed could well include private operators.

Ms. Barrett: Then I take it to mean that most of them are not private operators?

* (1710)

Mr. Gilleshammer: In general, of the number that are licensed, three-quarters roughly are private and one-quarter non-profit.

Ms. Barrett: The Residential Care Licensing division assesses and reviews approximately 230 licensed facilities on a biannual basis. About how long would one of these reviews take? I would assume it is an actual physical walk through the facility. Is there a checklist of sorts, or how do they review?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The inspection for residential care licensing would vary with the size of the facility. There is a checklist that is used. It can vary from half a day to a full day. Again, the other items we talked about earlier, the local authorities would have to have done their inspection, and I would imagine some indication would have to be given that has been complied with.

Ms. Barrett: So each one of these 230 facilities are inspected at least biannually?

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: Other than as the result of a complaint, is there any process for review on more than a biannual basis?

Mr. Gilleshammer: If there is an item brought to our attention in the Residential Care Licensing, or if there is a complaint, then it would be done more often.

Ms. Barrett: I assume that these five program directors are the ones who actually do the biannual reviews.

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Ms. Barrett: Is the cost for their going to these facilities outside the city incorporated in the transportation expense?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, the transportation expense includes the transportation to these facilities.

Ms. Barrett: I will revert back to a question I asked several days ago on this particular item. It appears that there is no change from the actual expenditure to the anticipated expenditure on this particular transportation item. I wonder if that is actually realistic, given the fact that transportation costs of all kinds are going up. These individuals, are they

reimbursed according to the Government regulations for travel expenses?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The estimate for their transportation is similar to last year, and we are hoping to be able to live within that figure.

Ms. Barrett: I do hope if the actual costs for transportation increase that does not mean the reviews will not take place, as I am sure it will not mean. Do you have a list of how many complaints have been reviewed by this branch?

Mr. Gilleshammer: There are three types of abuse that are documented. There are a total of 18 cases. Under Resident Abuse, there were seven complaints. Under Physical Standards, there was a total of eight complaints, and under the category Resident Behaviour, there were three complaints.

Ms. Barrett: The Resident Abuse category, is that a resident who is complaining of abuse by a care worker, or resident to resident? Can you describe what those cases mean?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I think you have captured the two areas where residents make a complaint of abuse that has been perpetrated on them by staff or by other residents. Those would be the two common ones.

Ms. Barrett: The Resident Behaviour would be a complaint on the part of either a caregiver or another resident about the behaviour of a second resident.

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes. In that category of Resident Behaviour, there were three complaints.

Ms. Barrett: Have these incidents increased over the last few years, or is this in the '88-89 Annual Report, which information I can get myself?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that this was an average number of complaints that were brought forward before this Residential Care Licensing branch.

Ms. Barrett: Can you explain what happens then when a complaint is brought before the branch? They investigate the complaints and then they make recommendations. To whom do they make recommendations? If it is, for example, a case of a resident issuing a complaint against a caregiver, what would the process be?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The staff are responsible for the investigation, and I think the Member probably would be aware that the complaint might be a very, very serious one where the local police authorities may have to come and become involved. In other

cases, the complaint might be deemed as unfounded if it had to do with certain standards that existed. Some of them are ongoing. Sometimes changes within the facility in terms of even relocating people solves the problem. The cases of resident abuse can vary greatly as to their severity and kind. Staff are, I suppose, conducting the first investigation, and sometimes it can be resolved at that level. In other cases, it has to go on to police authorities.

* (1720)

Ms. Barrett: I am particularly concerned with the cases where it is a complaint against a caregiver that perhaps is not severe enough to warrant calling in the police. Are there cases where it is deemed to be appropriate, but not necessarily police action. If that is the case, what authority does the program director have in relation to this particular case?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that all concerned parties are contacted, including the operator, the resident, the family or the guardian. Again, depending on the severity of it, the appropriate action would be taken, whether it is, again depending on the severity, the reprimand of an employee or the dismissal, or charges could be laid. There is a variety of outcomes.

Ms. Barrett: These five program directors have authority to make those determinations then? They have the authority to dismiss a care giver—no, they have the authority to recommend.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The employer would be the body that would dismiss an employee, but I think the staff that work with this branch would be involved in the investigation, and again with all of the parties concerned, make recommendations and assist in the resolution of the problem.

Ms. Barrett: I am hoping this scenario that I am talking about does not happen very often, but it is kind of the worst case scenario, so I do want to be clear as to what the role of the governmental body is. If the social worker says, this is a very severe case. I recommend that the caregiver be fired, because I have recommended on three different occasions that the caregiver be reprimanded and nothing has happened; it has continued to the owner/operator of the residence. If that owner does not take that action, what recourse is there?

Mr. Gilleshammer: If the care and the clients are in jeopardy, I suppose the ultimate is that the licence could be revoked. Hopefully, management takes a

responsible position and, again, working with the operator and the resident and the family or guardian, an appropriate resolution to the problem would be worked out.

Ms. Barrett: Do you have information on what the 18 cases resolution has been, or if they are all ongoing now or that kind of data? Can I ask that it be—if you do not have it right here—

Mr. Gilleshammer: We, of course, do have information on file as to the nature of the abuse. Depending on when the situation was brought forward, some have been resolved. Some, as recently as September and October of this year, are currently being met, currently being worked on. There are a variety of cases under Resident Abuse or Physical Standards or the Resident Behaviour, and a lot of them have been resolved.

I think the Member is aware that we would be reluctant to give you detailed information on specific cases.

Ms. Barrett: I just have a couple more questions. Can you tell me how many licences have been revoked over the last year or two?

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, I can provide you with that information. In the last year, there were no licences revoked. The year previous, there was one that was revoked.

Ms. Barrett: These are the 18 cases that are in process in one way or another. These are the standards or the areas upon which a licence can be revoked? If it is the Physical Standards, I am assuming they do not meet the building code or the fire code and that sort of thing.

(Mrs. Linda McIntosh, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Gilleshammer: Yes, that is correct. The other things that we talked about, the health standards, the standards of the facility, physical standards, the fire standards have to be met as well. In a number of these complaints about abuse, appropriate action was taken, and the problem was resolved.

Ms. Barrett: I have no further questions.

* (1730)

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. McIntosh): No more questions.

Mr. Alcock: I wonder if the Minister could update us as to changes that have taken place in the Residential Care Licensing procedures as a result of the inquiry last year into the Winserv incident.

Mr. Gilleshammer: There have been no changes as far as the Residential Care Licensing procedure goes, but your question may be more appropriate when we get to the line on Rehabilitation and Community Living.

Mr. Alcock: I understand that we will get back to that issue at that time, but as far as the policy that underlies the operations then of a facility that support the physical licensing of the centre, there have been no changes since that incident.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told there have been no changes with regard to the licensing.

Mr. Alcock: I wonder if the Minister could comment a little bit on the relationship between this division and the program operating divisions.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I would indicate that the—we are not clear on the question, other than the Residential Care Licensing is the regulatory branch, and the Programs makes assessment of programs and does an assessment of the program.

Mr. Alcock: The question has always been: Who takes the lead in determining the appropriateness of a facility? Certainly that has been a debate that has existed between this division and operating divisions for some time. Now at one time, this division had some responsibilities for monitoring programs, as opposed to strictly the physical acceptability of a location. I am wondering if that tendency to evaluate programs as well as physical suitability has changed.

Mr. Gilleshammer: The two branches do work together to some extent, but the Residential Care Licensing is more regulatory and involved with codes and standards and the Programs branch concerns itself with programming. The two functions are separate.

Mr. Alcock: As well they should be. So that when Residential Care Licensing is doing a review of a facility now, they are simply looking at its suitability in terms of the physical requirements, public health, fire safety code, et cetera, and leaving the program assessments to the Programs branch.

Mr. Gilleshammer: That is correct.

Mr. Alcock: When a program, either operated by a private agency or by the department, goes in to do a review of a facility, is Residential Care Licensing involved?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that they do work together and there is communication, but that their

mandate is distinct in that the licensing is concerned with the codes that we have talked about and Program people assess the program. There is some communication, but I am told the concept of their mandates is clear.

Mr. Alcock: Residential Care Licensing licenses residential facilities, from the name, shelters, group homes, homes for the mentally handicapped. Does it have any involvement in the licensing of day cares as to the physical requirements?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told the answer is no.

Mr. Alcock: The question that the Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett) was speaking about, the regional differences, and I believe the answer was that essentially, when you are looking at things like fire safety and that, the provincial codes apply and there really is no difference, whether it is in north, south, in the city or otherwise. Is that the case?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I believe we were talking about the manual, that there was one manual that covered the concerns for residential and care licensing. The municipal authorities may have some variances from one municipality to another.

Mr. Alcock: Where residential care facilities exist on reserves, does Residential Care Licensing license them?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told there are three such facilities and that we do license them.

Mr. Alcock: One of the arguments that has been put forward by Native agencies in the past is that, because of the very poor housing conditions and the like in reserve communities, sometimes some of the regulations that may apply in an urban community are simply not appropriate for such a facility. Has there been any tailoring of the standards to address this concern?

Mr. Gilleshammer: The facilities, of course, across the province are not identical, and the licensing people work with the local group to see that they match minimum requirements and are licensed appropriately.

Mr. Alcock: I am sorry, could the Minister expand on that remark—are licensed appropriately or are licensed according to this common manual standard?

Mr. Gilleshammer: They fall under the same conditions and are licensed.

Mr. Alcock: Now then, if a facility in a rural area is being licensed, it is being licensed referencing local

fire code, local municipal health, or provincial standards.

Mr. Gilleshammer: They would meet the local municipal codes.

Mr. Alcock: In the past few months, I guess, under the former Minister prior to the summer, there was a discussion about moving to a leveling system in foster care. Now, there is a leveling system in group care. Are these facilities licensed any differently according to the level of care provided within the facility, or is that simply a program decision?

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that the foster homes are licensed under the Child and Family Service agencies and are not licensed by this particular branch.

* (1740)

Mr. Alcock: I am sorry. Perhaps I misled the Minister by making that reference to foster care licensing. I was not asking about the foster home licensing. Group homes are now licensed, are now leveled, and I was asking whether there is any difference in the licensing requirements depending on the level of service provided.

Mr. Gilleshammer: I am told that they are licensed under the same manual and are assessed by the same criteria.

Mr. Alcock: I wonder, Madam Acting Chairperson, if we might take a two-minute recess so that I might confer privately with the Minister for a moment?

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. McIntosh): Does the committee agree to a two-minute recess? Agreed? (Agreed) Two-minute recess.

The committee recessed at 5:42 p.m.

After Recess

The committee resumed at 5:44 p.m.

Mr. Alcock: Madam Acting Chairperson, I believe, if you were to canvass the Minister and the Member for Wellington (Ms. Barrett), there would be a willingness to pass this item and call it six o'clock.

The Acting Chairman (Mrs. McIntosh): Willing? Willing? There appears to be a consensus on that. Thank you very much.

Item 2.(b) Residential Care Licensing: (l) Salaries \$311,900—pass; 2.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$28,700—pass.

Resolution 48: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,470,100 for Family Services, Registration and Licensing Services for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

As the hour is now six o'clock, I am interrupting proceedings. The Committee of Supply will resume sitting at 7 p.m. this evening. Thank you very much.

SUPPLY—FITNESS AND SPORT

Madam Chairman (Louise Dacquay): Order, please. This section of the Committee of Supply will be dealing with the Estimates of the Department of Fitness and Sport. We will begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister responsible.

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister responsible for Fitness and Sport): For the first time in the history of the Manitoba Legislature the Department of Fitness and Sport has its Estimates before the House in a formal manner. No Government in the past, despite urgings of Opposition Parties of the day, has taken the opportunity of placing before the House Estimates for the Department of Fitness and Sport that are funded primarily or wholly by Lotteries.

Madam Chairman, I am quite pleased to be here today to present that to the Members of the House for the very first time. I do not want to drag on the whole issue of Sport and Fitness with a great long speech, except that I would like to point out a few things that have been accomplished over the past year.

Firstly, we have undertaken to develop a sport policy for the first time in the Province of Manitoba as well. That sport policy started in the fall of 1989 with the appointment by myself of a number of people from the private sector, from the sporting community, to develop sport policy recommendations for the Government. That group held hearings across the province. Some 70 or 80 submissions were made, Madam Chairman, and they presented me with a policy recommendation document late last winter. At that time we decided to go for further consultations with the municipalities, recreation districts, and so on, and spread those out over the period of the spring and early summer. It is anticipated to have a formalized sport policy document ready for adoption and distribution within the next couple of weeks.

1990 also saw the continuation of the Manitoba Winter Games, which were held in Carman,

Manitoba. It was very, very successful and had a substantial legacy in terms of ultimate surplus for their operation, a legacy also in terms of volunteers. It was the first time in a long time there were a number of communities in and around the area of Carman which pulled together to create the best ever Manitoba Winter Games.

* (1430)

As I have mentioned earlier in the House, the Western Canada Games also were held in Manitoba in 1990, something that we are very, very proud of, and probably the best ever Western Canada Games. We are to give great credit to the Western Canada Games Host Society and the City of Winnipeg for putting on those very excellent games.

Manitoba Sports Federation, a major beneficiary of Lotteries dollars under the sports system, moved into new headquarters this year, and they have finally consolidated their operations again. The original Sports Federation building, because of the growth of the Sports Federation over time, has now seen a major change. They are now consolidated again into new headquarters at 200 Main Street and are delivering an excellent service to the sporting community of the province.

The sport facilities agreements between the City of Winnipeg and the Manitoba Sports Federation and the provincial Government is continuing. A number of new facilities came on stream in 1990 for the Western Canada Summer Games, and additional facilities are under construction or planned under that facilities agreement.

One of the major issues that came to light in 1990 as far as sport is concerned is the Dubin Inquiry. Madam Chairman, the Dubin Inquiry was wide-ranging, and the recommendations thereof, wide-ranging as well. We will be meeting this weekend with Sport Ministers from the federal Government and from across Canada to discuss the outcome of the Dubin Inquiry and to plan a strategy for implementation of recommendations by Mr. Justice Dubin for the sporting community in Canada.

It was determined at our last meeting a year ago that we would not prejudice Mr. Dubin. We would not take precipitous action, and actions that are taken as a recommendation of Mr. Justice Dubin will be done on the basis of application across Canada on a uniform basis as opposed to individual province by province.

I want to just list a few of the accomplishments of the Fitness Directorate, Madam Chairman. The Fitness Directorate, last year, was restructured. It was previously contained within the Department of Health. We established it as an independent directorate reporting directly to myself as the Minister for the delivery of a number of programs in the fitness area. I can go through them all, I suppose, but I think in the interest of time I will forgo that. If there are questions with regard to the new program areas under the Fitness Directorate, I would be pleased to answer those as the critics wish. Thank you.

Madam Chairman: The Honourable Member for Radisson, the critic of the official Opposition.

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Are you going to outline for us—I do not have a prepared statement, by the way. We will just get right into some questions. It will be very brief.

Madam Chairman: May I just clarify if the Honourable Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) has an official statement before we get into the discussion and questions on the line-by-line items, please? The Honourable Member for Inkster, no? Thank you.

I would remind members of the committee that the debate on the Minister's Salary, item I.(a) is deferred until all other items in Estimates of this department are passed. At this time I would invite the Minister's staff to take their places in the Chamber, please.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chairman, because of the brief notice I had of the impending Estimates of the Department of Fitness and Sport, some of our staff are away, and others have just arrived. I will introduce them once they get seated.

This is Janet McMahon, Mr. Rick Lambert, who are our senior sport consultants in the Department of Sport, and Mr. Barry Moroz, who is also a consultant with -(applause)-

Madam Chairman: I would like to draw to the attention of all Honourable Members that I erred in stating that I.(a) was the Minister's Salary. That has just been customary. Unfortunately, that is not an item for discussion under this section. We will deal with I.(a) Fitness Directorate: (I) Salaries \$115,400.00. Shall the item pass?

Mr. Ernst: I beg the indulgence of the Committee of Supply, Madam Chairman. The director of the Fitness Directorate has not yet arrived. Perhaps we

could consider Sport and then return to Fitness once he has had the opportunity of arriving.

Madam Chairman: Is that agreeable? We will move to item I.(b) Sport Directorate. Agreed?

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Madam Chairperson, if it is all right with the Minister, I would just as soon, we could maybe ask questions pertaining to Sport and Fitness. Then, once we are done asking questions, we would be more than happy to pass all the lines, if he has no objection.

Madam Chairman: Agreed? Agreed.

Ms. Cerilli: To start off with, I would like the Minister to explain the rationale for moving the Fitness Directorate into a separate area, like it has been.

Mr. Ernst: In May of 1988, the Premier named myself as the Minister responsible for The Fitness and Amateur Sport Act of the Province of Manitoba. Prior to that, and in the previous New Democratic Party Government, that portfolio was held by the Minister of Health, and had been held by him for a number of years. Accordingly, both the Sport and Fitness Directorates were encompassed within the Department of Health. It became relatively evident as time went along that to be Minister responsible for certain activities but to have the administrative end of those activities contained in somebody else's department was inappropriate and did not function on a properly constituted basis. Accordingly, we moved both Sport and Fitness out of the Department of Health into my department.

Ms. Cerilli: It indicates that there were Capital Grants: "The Province of Manitoba supports . . . facility development through capital grants." I am wondering if these Capital Grants are Lotteries money, or are they from general revenue.

Mr. Ernst: They are Lotteries money.

Ms. Cerilli: What part of Sport in Manitoba is funded through general revenue, if any?

Mr. Ernst: None, Madam Chairman.

* (1440)

Ms. Cerilli: Perhaps, then, we could have an outline of the detailed positions and salaries and the role of the staff in the Sport Directorate.

Mr. Ernst: First of all, let me say this is very tightly run ship. There are very few staff associated with the Department of Sport. There are very few members of the staff, and they all work extremely hard. In fact, the accumulated overtime hours for which they do not get paid are so significant, that it

would probably equal or double this current staff budget associated with the department. I am extremely proud of all of the staff members that work there. I am extremely pleased at the effort and interest and commitment that they have to the department.

I can start by saying that we have the Director of Sport, who is, unfortunately, away at a conference today and could not be brought in for the Estimates, Mr. Ted Bigelow. We have two administrative positions, two secretaries, if you will, within the department handling the administrative functions of the Sport Directorate. We have Mr. Tim Johnston, who is a full-time sport consultant; Mrs. McMahon, who is here today, is a sport consultant; Mr. Lambert, a sport consultant; Mr. Moroz, a sport consultant; Mr. Ed Dearden, who is our media co-ordinator, a long-time member of the staff; and Mr. Randy Anderson, who is a Games co-ordinator. We also have two part-time people associated with the department: Mr. Geoff McIntyre, who is involved in the coaching area; and Miss Carol Ploen, who is a sport consultant and works on special projects. The total salaries for the department for 9.26 staff years is \$377,600.00.

Mr. Lamoureux: I have a few questions. One, of course, is in dealing with the budget for Fitness and Sport, and you notice that it is, in fact, a decrease over the past year. I am wondering if the Minister might want to comment on the decrease.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, in regard to the Fitness area, I can indicate that last year, because the directorate was transferred from the Department of Health to an independent directorate, certain one-time costs were incurred as a result of that operation. There is no decrease in staff; in fact, there is an increase in programming as a result of that. Those one-time costs—office equipment, moving, actual office space, some renovations associated with putting people into that office environment, and a number of one-time printing costs associated with the creation of the directorate as a separate entity—caused the budget in that area to be higher than was necessary this year to continue on the same level of programming.

In terms of Sport, we have an increase in staff over last year, full-time staff, by one, and actually an increase of 1.26 staff years that came on stream some time last year. The half-year position occupied by Miss Carol Ploen as a sport consultant will be now budgeted for the first time overall for a full year,

as will the addition of a full-time sport consultant position which was also authorized last year.

If you have specific questions in specific areas, Madam Chair, I would be pleased to respond to those.

Mr. Lamoureux: When I look at the summaries of the Lotteries Funded Programs, you will notice that the Fitness and Sport Department had a decrease from \$12,965,000 to \$12,839,000. If this particular branch is relying on our lottery system to fund our sports and fitness programs, I am wondering if there comes a time when the Lotteries do drop, will the Minister approach Treasury Board or request any monies or revenues from the general revenue bag, or is he of the opinion that the monies allocated out to Fitness and Sport should be coming solely from Lotteries.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, first of all, historically, since the advent of Lotteries, sport has been funded under that program. Fortunately, for the people of Manitoba and for people involved in sport, Lotteries funding has dramatically increased, particularly through the mid-1980s and into the latter part of the 1980s so that increases of 30 and 40 percent a year were not uncommon. The beneficiaries of that have been the sporting community, the 250,000-odd people who participate in organized sport in this province.

Madam Chair, whether or not the Lotteries revenues become less in the future or not, I guess, is a matter of speculation. The question posed by the Member for Inkster (Mr. Lamoureux) is hypothetical in nature and I do not intend to respond specifically, except to say that I think the commitment of the Government to sport programs, to fitness programs, is ongoing and we will deal on a year-by-year, budget-by-budget basis with how that is appropriately funded. As I indicated at the start, for the first time any Government has ever put the Estimates of the Sport and Fitness Departments fully before the House.

If you looked at the Estimate books of other years, of other Legislatures you would have seen no expenditure with respect to sport at all and a very limited expenditure with respect to fitness, because a portion of the fitness budget was previously funded under general appropriation as opposed to Lotteries dollars.

We believe, Madam Chair, in the principles and in the delivery of programs that are placed before

you here in the Estimates of the department, the two directorates—the Fitness and Sport Directorate. Otherwise, we would not have put them into the budget. We would not have displayed them before the people of Manitoba to show them exactly what we do and exactly how we carry it out.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, the Manitoba Sports Federation had a freeze from last year to this year. I am wondering if the Minister might want to comment on that, and also if he has a list of organizations that would explain the \$7.8 million.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, what has happened is that subsequent to the Lotteries review that took place from 1987 until 1988, the needs assessment, I think is affectionately but incorrectly referred to, addressed the whole question of Lotteries where they were going and capped the umbrella organizations of which the Manitoba Sports Federation is one.

It was agreed during the analysis and subsequent policy decisions made by Government with respect to umbrella organizations that we would offer each of them a five-year funding plan. That five-year funding plan was offered and has been accepted by all of the umbrella organizations. We have, I think, agreements now in place with three or four of the major organizations.

We will have an agreement with respect to the Manitoba Sports Federation in a very short period of time. Most issues have been addressed and are agreed to, and we are anticipating a resolution of the final agreement with regard to that, but what is not an issue is the question of the amount. They have accepted that. We have, in fact, been funding them on that basis since their former agreement expired on the 30th of April.

Sorry, Madam Chair, I neglected to indicate the organizations that are funded under the Manitoba Sports Federation. I will provide the Member with a list. I do not have a specific one just at the moment, nor do I think he would want me to read the 96 organizations that belong. So I will provide him with a list at a later time.

Mr. Lamoureux: I thank the Minister, and I would appreciate the list.

The Minister has referred to a five-year funding plan. Madam Chairperson, the work of the individuals, as the Minister said from the onset, has been phenomenal. I do not question the work ethic of any members of this particular department.

I do have a question in terms of accountability, in terms of financial statements. What types of financial statements are given from the different organizations that the Minister can make me aware of? Do they send in financial statements?

* (1450)

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, I do not think there is anybody more accountable in this whole process than the sporting community. They are so accountable it hurts, actually. It hurts many of them as a matter of fact, many of the sporting organizations.

There are audited statements from every single individual group. They are analyzed by both the Sport Directorate and the Manitoba Sports Federation because most of them are common. The Manitoba Sports Federation itself has its own audited statement and provides an annual report on a yearly basis for which copies are available. If the Member wishes I would be pleased to provide him one.

Not only that, Madam Chair, what happens on an annual basis is they do a sport profile. Both the Sport Directorate and the Manitoba Sports Federation each do a sport profile on every single sport so they know how many people are participating, who they are, what programs they have, what coaches they have, what technical advice they have.

All of those sorts of things are analyzed and structured on that basis, and that is how their grant is determined. It is a very detailed analysis both at the start in terms of when they get their grant, and at the end after they have completed their program and it is audited.

Ms. Cerilli: I would like to move back to the area of capital grants. I know that in the area of sport, recreation is involved, municipalities are involved, and it gets somewhat complex, the amount of money that is going to the development of sport facilities in the province.

I am wondering if the Minister can tell us if the Sports Federation is also allocating money for development of facilities, if the municipalities are, and maybe give us some idea of a total.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, with regard to facilities located under these two directorates, there is one program. That program is the five-year funding agreement between the City of Winnipeg, the Manitoba Sports Federation and the Government of Manitoba.

That agreement was entered into by the former Minister of Sport under the NDP Government in 1987. It was a five-year \$15 million agreement, \$5 million from each of the three participating partners. That agreement has had—it was roughly \$1 million a year for five years from each of the parties, but was adjusted from time to time based on cash flows and things of that nature.

Facilities like the new softball complex at Blumberg was created under the umbrella of this \$15 million agreement. The artificial turf in the Winnipeg Stadium formed part of this agreement. The soccer complex at Waverley Street in part was funded under this agreement.

Those major facilities, particularly those that were required in the first half or so of the agreement, was done on the basis that it would provide the facilities necessary to host the Western Canada Summer Games in July of this year. The balance of the funds was to go for other facilities, but only again within the City of Winnipeg because that was the focus of this particular agreement.

In terms of funding of facilities outside, there are a number of facilities that are funded under the Community Places Program which comes under the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation. In terms of facilities, we do not have any particular facilities programs under our budget other than the five-year agreement we have with the City of Winnipeg and the MSF.

Ms. Cerilli: I am not quite following. The five-year agreement, how is the money divided up between that amount of time?

Mr. Ernst: It is a five-year agreement, Madam Chair, \$5 million from the Manitoba Sports Federation, \$5 million from the provincial Government and \$5 million from the City of Winnipeg. That is cash flow roughly on the basis of \$1 million a year from each partner.

Ms. Cerilli: The Minister mentioned facilities prepared for the Western Canada Games. I would like an outline of the facilities that were prepared and also any facilities being considered for preparation for the Pan Am Games.

Mr. Ernst: The list is extensive. If the Member prefers, I could provide her with a list at a later time, or else I can go through them all right now if you wish.

The Winnipeg Stadium, installation of artificial turf. The Waverley Soccer Complex, as developed.

John Blumberg Park, that is the softball complex, quadplex that was constructed. Bleachers were put into the Max Bell Centre at the University of Manitoba to accommodate the gymnastics events. There was upgrading of the track at the University of Manitoba Stadium. There was a new sound system put in the Pan Am Pool. Change and shower rooms were constructed at Maple Grove Park for the sport of rugby.

The Manitoba Horse Council received funding to upgrade the equestrian facilities at Birds Hill Park for that particular event, dressage rings and a new building to house animals with respect to the sport of equestrian.

Red River Community College replaced their gymnasium floor. The Winnipeg Rowing Club, there was a new building constructed on the banks of the Red River with respect to rowing sport. Gimli Yacht Club received some funding to complete their docking areas. Some maintenance work was done at the Winnipeg Velodrome. The facility was built in 1967 and required some additional work.

The Winnipeg Trap and Skeet Club, for those sports required some additional assistance. We upgraded the tennis courts at the Sargent Park complex. Installation of a sound system and modification of the syncro-viewing area in the Sargent Park pool. We had some work at the University of Winnipeg, and at the Glen Murphy Shooting Range was also done under this agreement.

Ms. Cerilli: The other part of my question had to do with the Pan Am Games. Perhaps the Minister can give us an update on bids for the games, or plans.

Mr Ernst: Madam Chairman, the Pan Am Games will next be held in North America in 1999. We have had some early discussions with the City of Winnipeg with a view to preparing a bid for the 1999 Pan Am Games. At the present time, it is a little premature—well, certainly we are not developing any facilities for the Pan Am Games—even to discuss bids.

Right at the present time we have conducted a little bit of preliminary lobbying, if you like, for potential for the Pan Am Games. Particularly, it was, I guess, the fall of 1988, when a delegation from Winnipeg attended Puerto Rico to discuss with the—the exact name of the committee, I am not sure—Pan Am Games Committee, I guess, when

they had their meeting in Puerto Rico, indicating that Winnipeg had an interest.

At that time we anticipated that the 1991 Pan Am Games may have become available because of a problem with Cuba who had been awarded the games but who were waffling a little on whether or not they were going to host them. So we, in 1988, attended there indicating that we very likely could accommodate the games on a short-notice basis if Cuba were to pull out. That did not occur and the games will continue in Cuba in 1991.

So looking ahead then, we looked at 1999. We are in the process of doing some analysis. The City of Winnipeg is conducting a feasibility study at the moment. We would anticipate that bids might take place in either late 1991 or early 1992, so there is some lead time yet to consider whether we will go ahead with that or not.

* (1500)

Ms. Cerilli: I understand that the Sports Federation and the Sport Directorate benefit from the Student Temporary Employment Program. I understand there has been a change in this program in the last couple of years so that the funding is no longer central but up to the agencies.

I am wondering how this change in STEP, as it is known, has affected sport, the number of students that are hired in the summer, and where the money comes from now to hire those students.

Mr. Ernst: I can only respond, Madam Chair, with regard to the Sport Directorate. We had two students. The money came from within our budget to fund them. The Sports Federation, I think, had—and I am only going from hearsay at this point because we do not have detailed information with respect to how their student program is funded, but they did have student employment as well within the Manitoba Sports Federation umbrella. How they are funded, I do not know. I assume from their budget.

Ms. Cerilli: One of the concerns I have with a lot of other areas is how is this affecting the programs. If the money is coming from inside the Sport Directorate or from the sport bodies, what kinds of programs are they having to decrease because they are taking that money to hire staff?

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, it is a question of priorities like anything else. If you, in your own personal budget, choose to do one thing as opposed to another, then you set your priorities if you do not have sufficient to do both.

That is exactly what we do within the Sport Directorate. We determine what our priorities are. The money does not come from grants, from the grant account at all. It comes from our administrative budget. Within our administrative budget we deal, on a priority basis, with how we want to expend those funds.

Ms. CerlIII: One of the other areas that I am interested in, curious about, is this Government's policy to do with women in sport. I am wondering if there are any initiatives to create more equity in the amount of money that goes to women athletes in terms of the number of sports that are still only for men. I am wondering if the Government has a policy or any programs that are going to redress this.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, a couple of examples: the Manitoba Games held this year, the ratio was approximately 60-40 women to men; the Western Canada Games, the ratio again was roughly 60-40 women to men in terms of events for women versus events for men.

We are hosting this year the National Coaching School for Women. We have a number of initiatives underway with individual sports where women have not been prevalent in the past.

During the Sport policy discussions that took place a number of presentations were made with respect to the involvement of women in sport and the need to press forward with programs and initiatives that would involve more women in more differing kinds of sport. That has been adopted as part of the Sport policy recommendations, and we anticipate a greater involvement with women in all kinds of sports over the next period of time.

Ms. CerlIII: Was there at any time staff with either the Sports Federation or the Sport Directorate that were looking specifically at the involvement of women in key administrative positions or key coaching positions and also just the balance between sports that are for men and for women?

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, the department per se has not undertaken programs indicated by the Member for Radisson.

With regard to the Sports Federation I cannot answer whether or not they have a program, although one need only go to the Manitoba Sports Federation building and see that the staff people who are working at all levels within the Manitoba Sports Federation are predominately women—my guess, 75 percent would be women.

We have placed people in leadership roles, for instance the Manitoba Games Council, which runs the entire Manitoba both Summer and Winter Games programs, is a woman, Mrs. Isabel Caron from the sport of golf. She has demonstrated excellent leadership qualities, and we are very, very pleased with the leadership that she has shown.

On the Manitoba Games Council the membership is roughly 50-50 in terms of participants on the board there. We are very pleased with the work they are undertaking.

Ms. CerlIII: I would encourage the Minister to take a look at the salaries earned by the women that are working at the Sports Federation and the number of hours they put into overtime. I would not think that is a great plea for equity.

My other question though on the same topic has to do with the relationship between the Sport Directorate and the Women's Directorate. I am wondering if the policy they have developed for Sport has been reviewed by the Women's Directorate, and if they are involved in reviewing the policies and practices of Sport in Manitoba.

Mr. Ernst: I can indicate, Madam Chair, that the Women's Directorate was very involved in the development of the Sport policy recommendations. Approximately half of the membership of that advisory body was in fact made up of women, and we have been very, very active in terms of developing women's programs within all kinds of different scenarios within Sport.

I would also indicate to the Member for Radisson, that as far as our policy is concerned, we try and provide on an equivalent basis in all the programs that we undertake, for instance, the admission staff for any major games is roughly divided 50-50 between men and women. Most of the committees and boards and other people that we involve within the sporting community is made up of the same ratios.

As far as the Manitoba Sports Federation is concerned, the Member may not know that the Manitoba Sports Federation is an independent body. They receive funding under an agreement between the Government and their organization, but they run their own programs, they run their own administration, and they make the decisions with regard to how much they pay their staff, what their staff is made up of and so on. We have no direct involvement in any of those kinds of activities.

Ms. Cerilli: I am concerned by that last statement, because I have some other questions that relate to the Sports Federation. I am wondering if the Government's Sport policy then does not cover the Sports Federation, or maybe if the Minister could outline a little bit more of what that policy includes.

Mr. Ernst: As I indicated, Madam Chair, at the start we undertook the development of a Sport policy. That Sport policy is in the final throes of approval. It is not yet policy and will not be for another two or three weeks or a month. That is the anticipated time line at the present time, so while there are a number of finalized recommendations that are there it has not yet been adopted formally.

We are gearing to most if not all of the recommendations that are contained therein already as are most of the sporting organizations. They had a very active and involved role, and they have adopted that in principle by and large and are putting into practice many if not all of the recommendations that are contained therein. We do not have a formal policy yet, and we will not have for another short period of time.

Ms. Cerilli: I am wondering if the new policy will deal with the relationship between the Sports Federation and Lotteries. I understand that there are a number of sports involved in setting rulings for penalties when sports are absent or do not fulfill their obligations at bingos and the generation of funds. Will the policy clarify and help set some guidelines in that area?

* (1510)

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, as of May 1, the agreement to which the Member refers, and many of the problems to which she refers, was concluded. On May 1 we undertook a new system of funding. The funding now comes from the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation to the Government, through the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance then distributes the money through the appropriate departments so that the money that would go to the Manitoba Sports Federation comes through the department, my department, Fitness and Sport, and then we distribute it under the agreement to the Manitoba Sports Federation. The old agreement where they had a direct relationship with the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation is over and has expired.

Ms. Cerilli: Can the Minister clarify who then a sport body would appeal to or go to when there is a

dispute of the allocation of funds or a decision of a penalty? Is it the Lotteries Foundation?

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chairman, if they are funded through the Manitoba Sports Federation, that mechanism is in place for them to deal with it. There is no appeal beyond the Manitoba Sports Federation. If the funding is provided through the Manitoba Sport Directorate then again any appeal, I suppose, ultimately might come to me but it would not go further.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, I want to refer back to the capital aspect, and I know in the last little while every time we hear about sports and capital investment one of the things that keeps on coming up time after time is, will Winnipeg get a new arena? Will it have a dome facility, a multipurpose facility? I know the Minister met with the consultant group. I believe they even gave him a presentation with this proposed new sportsplex. I am wondering if the Minister might want to comment and give us his views on what his position or his department's position, and what he would like to see brought to Winnipeg.

Mr. Ernst: The short answer is no, Madam Chairman. I might say first of all that the City of Winnipeg must first decide what it wants to do. These facilities presently are either owned or leased under the auspices of the City of Winnipeg. So the existing stadium and the existing arena while owned by the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation are in fact situated on the City of Winnipeg lands under a lease arrangement. The board of directors is appointed—at least half of the board of directors—by the City of Winnipeg Council. So they must decide whether they want to have a new arena or not, if they want to have a sportsplex, if they want to have a combined stadium and arena, if they want to have a domed stadium. All of those decisions must be addressed by the City of Winnipeg.

I have had no request from the City of Winnipeg with regard to funding of any such facilities, nor any specific recommendations by the City of Winnipeg with relation to those facilities. I do not think they have even come to the conclusion themselves of what they want, and what I read in the paper is as much probably as the Member—I know as much as the Member for Inkster in that regard.

I was invited by the Winnipeg football club to attend a presentation by HOK Ltd. who were the design consultants for the "multiplex facility" that

forms part of the current deliberations by the City of Winnipeg, out of interest in sport, out of interest in the facilities I attended, but that is where it started and that is where it ended.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, the Minister says that he attended it, and I am wondering if he attended it as an interested individual or as the Minister representing Sport and Fitness.

Mr. Ernst: That is a good question. I did not ask and neither did they.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, I do not believe any of my colleagues or the New Democratic Party—and I do not even want to speculate that the Government Caucus did not receive invitations. I would have anticipated that the Minister received an invitation because they felt that this particular Minister representing the Department of Sport and Fitness would have a role to play.

I am wondering if the Minister would agree that the department has some role to play. I am not asking him necessarily to define it at this point, but I am asking him if he believes that his department does have a role to play on what could be one of the biggest major capital expenditures in terms of sports that we are likely ever to see in the province.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, as the Minister responsible for Sport, that encompasses professional sport. Amateur sport is not the only thing that the ministerial responsibility covers. We are interested in professional sport. Professional sport provides a great deal to this community. It provides a great deal of recognition. It provides a lot of entertainment. It provides role models for amateur sport athletes.

It provides any number of benefits to the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba, not the least of which is a significant economic benefit. That has been determined in the past and during other lives that I have led, I have seen documents, analyses done by reputable organizations that indicate the kind of economic benefit that comes to our community.

Madam Chair, we are definitely interested in the future of professional sport teams within our province, and we will continue to hold a great deal of interest and support as required.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, I am glad to hear that the Minister does hold a great deal of interest in our professional sports. I, too, can say I have a great interest. -(interjection)- I had a good

train of thought going here until it was disturbed. Someone asked if I was a linebacker at some point in time and it kind of sidetracked me there.

Madam Chairperson, does the Minister, if he recognizes that they have an interest in professional sport in the City of Winnipeg—we had a consultant report, I believe, that was supposed to be announced yesterday. It was mainly for the City of Winnipeg from what I understand. Now it has been put off.

I am wanting to know if the Minister, or any one from his department, has had any type of active role in the development of a potential complex.

Mr. Ernst: No, Madam Chairman.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, I am wondering if the Minister can explain to me why, if he says that he is interested, that he would not want to participate—and this is not saying contribute huge sums of money, at least not at this point—why he would not be interested in looking out for what is in Manitoba's best interest by voicing what the Government's opinion—or should I ask, does the Government have an opinion when it comes to structures for professional sports?

They have an opinion on amateur sports. The Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger) says, maybe yes, maybe no. I will hope that the Minister representing the department can give a bit better of an idea in terms of what direction we can anticipate this Government taking us in regard to professional sport.

* (1520)

Mr. Ernst: As I indicated, Madam Chair, we have a significant interest from a variety of perspectives, particularly even in my department, from a Tourism perspective, from an Industry perspective and from a Sport perspective.

The facilities are owned and operated by the City of Winnipeg, not by the Government of Manitoba. The City of Winnipeg will determine at some point—they have authorized, I gather, a study to deal with this.

I was interested to hear that the Member for Inkster said, we had a study authorized. Well, I do not know whether it was the Liberal Party that had a study authorized or not, Madam Chair.

The City of Winnipeg, I understand, has hired a consulting engineering firm to look at a variety of options for these major sport complexes. They will

ultimately make a decision and decide what to do, but it is not up to the provincial Government to usurp the authority of the City of Winnipeg in this area.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, first I must say no, it was not a Liberal task force report or anything of that nature. I was referring to the consulting engineering report that the city had commissioned.

I would have expected some type of input from the provincial Government. I am not saying that they are supposed to go in there twisting arms and saying this is what we want and we are going to start demanding it but at least to let the group know in terms of what direction, because ultimately that group, if they come up with a proposal for a multiuse arena or facility, that Minister could be approached for funds.

Maybe he should be letting them know that we do not intend to contribute or we do intend to contribute or give them some type of indication because, after all, Madam Chairperson—and I am not going to question the commitment of professional sport after the comments the Minister of Sport has made.

We in the Liberal Party made a suggestion in terms of donating the land, provincially owned land by the Convention Centre. I am interested in knowing, would the Government concur with us that there is a role for the Government to play in the building of a new facility and if so what he thinks of the concept or where he would like to see a facility located?

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, that may be the style of the Member for Inkster or the style of the Liberal Party to interfere and attempt to influence decisions of City Council. It is not the style of this Minister certainly.

The City of Winnipeg, as I have indicated earlier, owns the facilities. The City of Winnipeg currently has an arena and it currently has a stadium. If they wish to look at other options not only as to type or size or use of building, but as to location, that is their prerogative. I am not about to attempt to influence that decision. That is their decision to make.

When I was a member of the City of Winnipeg Council, I would not have appreciated the provincial Government of the Day intervening or attempting to influence decisions by certain types of activities, and I do not intend to influence the current City of Winnipeg Council. They are elected officials. They

have every much a right to make the decisions on behalf of their taxpayers as we do on behalf of ours.

Madam Chairman, as a former member of that Council yourself, you can, I think, appreciate the fact that the provincial Governments have all too often in the past attempted to impose their will upon unwilling city councillors. With respect to this situation, they will make their decision, and then we will see what happens after that.

Mr. Lamoureux: Madam Chairperson, a facility of this nature is not just for the residents of the City of Winnipeg. There are residents throughout the province who would use this particular facility, and I am not suggesting that the Minister and his staff, or this Government, go down to City Hall and start twisting arms and say, you take what we are suggesting or else. I am talking about providing constructive alternatives, options, so that all sides can win.

I am somewhat surprised that the Minister of Sport does not really have any opinions in terms of what types of facilities we should have in the City of Winnipeg that will serve all Manitobans. It is not for just professional sports. We could be entertaining the Pan Am Games, the Western Canada Games. There are many, many uses, and it does not even just have to be for sport, different fitness programs, and so forth. I would have expected the Minister at least to have an open mind toward this and to provide options.

It was an option when the Liberal Party suggested that there is Government-owned land by the Convention Centre. That is just one more option now that can be looked at. I do not see where or why the Minister of Sport and Fitness (Mr. Ernst) feels that he has nothing to do with it and wants to wash his hands of the whole issue. I will suggest to him that he has a lot to do with it, because if we do see a multi-purpose facility of whatever, if it is just an arena or, in fact, a combined dome with a hockey arena, it will be to the benefit of all Manitobans, not just the City of Winnipeg ratepayers.

Ultimately, I would like to think that the private sector would be able to construct it. I think 99.9 percent of the taxpayers would like to see the private sector construct a facility of this nature, but I do not think that is being realistic. We have to look at what the options are. There are things that can be considered. The Minister could be talking to some representatives from Ottawa. I believe we paid the

cost of our Convention Centre while other cities had money given to them for their convention centres. -(interjection)- The Member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr) says we could be asking a bit too much to get them to talk. There was a punch-in-the-nose incident that I do not want to bring up at this stage of the game.

Madam Chairperson, I am going to imply in the best way that I can, and that is probably a very direct way, by saying that I believe you do have a role, and it can be a very positive role. I would encourage this Minister and, through this Minister, the Government of the Day, to stop sitting down and stop washing your hands of the issue. Get more involved, and let us ensure that what is done is in the best interests of all Manitobans.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to pick up briefly on the issue of the arena, I am wondering if the Minister anticipates that the province will be asked for funds to contribute to a new arena.

Mr. Ernst: That is a hypothetical question, Madam Chair.

Ms. Cerilli: Then I would like to move on to the new building that the Sports Federation is enjoying. I would like to find out from the Minister if he can compare—if you can—of the comparison of the amount of rent that Sports are paying in the new facility and in the Ellice facility.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, I am sure that the Manitoba Sports Federation would be delighted to show that information to the Member for Radisson. I am advised that they are occupying some 13,000 square feet, including 200 parking stalls in that building as a tenant. They do not own it, contrary to popular opinion. They are simply tenants in the building on a 10-year lease, and it is my understanding that—I am sorry, it is 63,000 square feet, not 13,000, I read the numbers wrong, 63,000 square feet including meeting rooms, print shop and storage facilities for the federation.

I can indicate to the Member for Radisson that the Manitoba Sports Federation went to tender for their space. They received, I think—22 proposals, I am advised by the staff. I saw a list, I think, where they short listed the tender facilities down to half a dozen or so. Actually, where they ended up going, which is the current building at 200 Main Street, was less money than they could have renewed their lease for at the old facility on Ellice Avenue.

I am sure that if the Member for Radisson is interested in all the details, that if she contacts Mr. David Kilfoyle at the Manitoba Sports Federation he would be delighted to go through all of it with her.

* (1530)

Ms. Cerilli: Could the Minister inform the committee of the developer of the new building, please?

Mr. Ernst: I am advised a company called Continental Equities Limited.

Ms. Cerilli: I would like the Minister to also inform us of the ownership of the building. I am wanting to know the cost breakdown of any other investments in the building, public money as opposed to any other investments in the building.

Mr. Ernst: I am advised that we are aware of one of the owners, a company called Quantum Construction. Who the other owners are, we are not aware, nor would be particularly interested. The Sports Federation, as I indicated, makes their own decisions. They decide where they want to sign a lease and what type of office space they require. There is no public money in the facility per se beyond, I suppose, whatever has been passed through the Manitoba Sports Federation in terms of what they had to do to make the space available for their own purposes.

Mr. Gulzar Cheema (The Maples): Madam Chairperson, I must apologize. I was in a meeting with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). My colleague for Inkster did an excellent job, I heard.

I just wanted to ask the Minister a few questions. Can the Minister of Sport tell us what they have learned from the Dubin Inquiry, and what specific prevention program they have started at the school and at the post-secondary education level to make sure that the kids and the sports people do not use drugs, what kind of incentives they have provided, and how much money they have put in this budget? I have four questions in one.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, when the Dubin Inquiry reported this past summer—let me back up a station. I did report this to the committee earlier and unfortunately the Member was detained. When the Sport Ministers of the country met in October of 1989 in Halifax, Dubin was in the midst of this inquiry at the time. It was determined by the respective Ministers for Sport across the country and the federal Minister that it was important that if applications were going to be made that they be made on a uniform basis across the country, that

one province should not be doing one thing and another province doing something else.

Sport, certainly on a national basis, by and large, is interconnected and so any programs, rules, regulations, or whatever, that are applied should be applied on a uniform basis across the country. The Ministers of Sport unfortunately were to meet again in October of this year, but because of events in Ontario, the Government of the Day, who were the hosts of the meeting, were unable to accommodate that so the meeting was postponed from October until this weekend. Tomorrow, as a matter of fact, I will be heading to the meeting of the National Sport Ministers where in fact this is a major item on the agenda as far as that is concerned.

In general terms now—outside of Dupin of course—the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association run a target program for drugs, anti-drug program. We have committed within the Sport Directorate a new program called Fair Play, which we announced a month or so ago, which in part deals with the question of drug abuse and the fact that if you take performance enhancing substances you are not playing fair. We have committed a sum of money toward that program in conjunction with the Department of Youth and Fitness from Ottawa, and Sport Canada for that matter, a division of that—

While the Manitoba Sport Medicine Council has been reorganized in the province, and they are providing advice and recommendations now with respect to certain programs, the major issue is going to be Dubin. There is no question. Once we have dealt the issue of Dubin, I think from that will flow many other types of programs and recommendations with respect to the whole question of drug abuse, both mind altering and performance enhancing.

Mr. Cheema: Madam Chairperson, can the Minister tell exactly how much money is going to be spent on this year's budget to deal with these programs that the Minister has outlined?

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, we have committed within this budget \$23,000 with respect to the Fair Play Program bearing in mind, of course, that all the new materials and literature, and so on, associated with that has already been paid for by Sport Canada so that our \$23,000 is to be spent on disseminating that information out to the using public.

With respect to the Sport Medicine Council we commit to some. We give them a grant of \$10,000

specifically for their operations. Because no major decisions have been taken on Dubin, we have not committed within the budget any major expenditures in relation to those direct activities, and it may ultimately come that either Sport Canada or the national sport-governing bodies—it has not yet been determined who will in fact be involved directly with the dissemination of programs. So it may be that in terms of the individual sports, the national sport-governing bodies may well decide that they are going to be the ones who carry out these major programs within each individual sport; and, for our sports locally, the Manitoba sport-governing body associations will carry the programs through from the national level. Specifically, to answer the Member's question, those are the sums that we have budgeted.

Mr. Cheema: Madam Chairperson, the Minister has said \$28,000 plus 10; that is \$38,000.00. Thirty-eight thousand dollars for all the programs, for the provincial programs, all the seminars, all this talk for the Dubin Inquiry? I mean, have we not learned anything during the past one year that this is a very important issue? The Minister has said this is the various responsibility of the federal Government and of the provincial Government. I am sure, tomorrow I would like him to discuss this and make sure that we get at least a decent amount of funding from the federal Government, and make sure that these programs run. Basically, these athletes are not going to compete only for Manitoba. They will be competing for Canada, and ultimately, responsibility lies, I think, to a great extent on the federal Government. So I am sure I will ask the Minister to make that stand very clear.

My next question is: What is this Government's position about where we are heading? The soccer team is in trouble in Manitoba. Can the Minister tell me what is there beyond the possible failure of this team and moving out of Manitoba?

Mr. Ernst: With respect to the Winnipeg Fury, we have a \$160,000 loan guarantee that we gave them two years ago to assist them in their trials and tribulations at that time. We have provided them with Lotteries funding now on a regular basis; I think \$80,000 a year is the sum to be provided on an annual basis to the Winnipeg Fury. We have advanced \$10,000 of that 1991 grant, next year's grant, to the Winnipeg Fury to assist them in an attempt to salvage their program. They are presently embarked on a season ticket campaign which would

create some 1,500—they need to create 1,500 new season ticket holders. We have invested \$10,000 on that basis, and they will then decide whether they want to continue if they succeed in that program. So that has been our involvement to date, Madam Chair.

* (1540)

Ms. Cerilli: I will move on to the area of Fitness. I am wondering about the initiatives that the Government is involved in to promote fitness, an outline of the kinds of major initiatives that this Government has undertaken.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chairman, if the Member will bear with me here, I have it. Just a review of some of the basic programs. We deliver a Rural Fitness Leadership Development Program to all communities in Manitoba. We have approximately 650 fitness leaders that have been certified to date. We have established performance standards and established for the basic fitness leader specialty interest courses designed to prepare fitness leaders in the province. Development of Manitoba Fitness Leadership Development Association, which is a mechanism of fitness leadership people to create the basic standards for fitness in the province, to ensure that you do not—there are a lot of people allegedly involved in the business of fitness, everything from European Health Spas to very long-standing, well-run programs by very well-qualified people.

We are attempting to try and find a basic standard of fitness, and those fitness leaders are banded together now in association to develop those basic standards for the province.

We have programs for regional fitness development. We participate with Canadian Government in Canada's Fit Week. In early May of each year we participate in the Corporate Challenge program which is a fun type of games for corporations where they send competing teams to participate in a healthy lifestyle.

We participate financially in the Manitoba Society of Seniors 55-Plus games. We have a Fitness for Seniors Leadership Development program. Nutritious Ways to Fitness is another program, Quality Daily Physical Education. We have Project Apex in co-operation with the Manitoba Milk Producers Marketing Board in developing an educational program involving key elements of both physical activity and healthy eating habits.

We have resource development activities within the department in co-operation with Fitness Canada and other provinces and territories dealing with literature and T.V. promo advertising. There is a—I forget just the name of it now—a half-hour television documentary series with which we had some involvement—Fit Parade, I am sorry, the staff member has given me the name of that particular program. We are involved in a great many activities within the province. We are doing it on a volunteer and leadership type basis as opposed to running it through staff.

Fitness Directorate presently has a staff complement of three SYs. There are presently two people occupying that as we have had one of the people leave just recently. We have one professional and one support staff at the moment. I guess we just hired a second professional just within the last week or so.

We are pleased with the work that we have done. We have done an awful lot of work, as a matter of fact, in the Fitness Directorate with some pretty limited staff and limited resources, but we have had excellent co-operation right across the province with all kinds of people involved in the leadership areas of fitness in virtually any community you could name in the province.

Ms. Cerilli: I have always thought that having only two staff people in a directorate that is supposed to encompass the entire province is not going to be very effective. I know that there has been a lot of good work especially in the area of certifying fitness instructors. I am wondering if this Government is making any plans to expand the number of staff into other regions or to expand the parameters of the Fitness Directorate.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, we have, as I say, three fitness staff. Presently in the department there is a complement of three SYs. We have just hired someone within the last week to fill that third position after having lost one of our fitness consultants just this past fall.

Nonetheless, we have carried out an amazingly large number of programs. We have done it by using the resources of others as opposed to creating and spending money on staff. We have used the money, by and large, to run programs and to involve volunteers, to involve the staff of other departments, particularly those of Culture, Heritage and Recreation who have staff spread throughout the

province. We have a variety of networks that we deal with, municipal recreation associations and so on. Through their staff we can assist them in creating fitness programs to be delivered in their individual areas. We have all kinds of other associations, sport associations and regional associations across the province where we can utilize their volunteer base.

They are looking for a program. If we can provide the program for them, if we can provide some training for them so they can in turn train their people and then deliver the programs throughout their communities, that is the ideal situation.

We do not want to quite frankly have a huge bureaucracy here and have to send them at great public expense out into the community, but rather if we can utilize the people that are there, the associations that are there, the existing infrastructures that are there to deliver the program, that is the ideal situation, and that is what we are working toward.

Ms. Cerilli: Three people does not nearly approach a huge bureaucracy, and the budget being just over \$300,000 is for what could be a very valuable preventative health component of the Government.

I am wondering what kind of agencies the Fitness Directorate is working with now to encourage the use of fitness as a preventative measure in terms of dealing with people that are having heart condition problems, overweight problems or even in terms of people that are just dealing with doctors and that.

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, I hope the Member for Radisson does not judge the success of the program by the shape of the Minister. I am one of their largest failures as a matter of fact, and they tend to remind me about it on a regular basis.

Most of the people that we do work with are in fact—or most of the activities that we are associated with are in fact aimed at healthy lifestyles. That seems to be sort of the major focus of the whole program. In terms of preventative medicine that is exactly what we are doing. That is exactly what the programs are targeted for, to encourage people to become involved, to exercise regularly, to become involved in healthy lifestyles. We are involved with agencies for school health. We are involved with all kinds of agencies across the province to deal with those particular programs.

Ms. Cerilli: One of the things I have in mind is looking at expansion of corporate fitness and the opportunity for people to have some staff where they

work and facilities where they work where they can improve their fitness.

Does this Government have any policy or commitment that is going to address that area, besides the corporate relays?

Mr. Ernst: Through ourselves and through the Health Promotion Directorate of the Department of Health we have networks of people involved in workplace fitness on a regular basis.

The Corporate Challenge program is exactly that. It is workplace fitness, workplace involvement. You encourage people within those workplaces, particularly those who are not involved in physical work type of activities but rather are more sedentary in their work.

We are at the present time working with both the Sport Facilities Committee and a group from downtown Winnipeg who are looking at a major fitness centre for downtown Winnipeg for office workers who have little opportunity or little in the way of facilities to incorporate a fitness program within their general workday lifestyle. We are looking at that as well at the present time. We are well aware of the concern that the Member has, and we have programs in place to do that.

As a matter of fact, the Minister for the Manitoba Telephone System and myself, only two weeks ago, I guess, or three weeks ago, opened a new fitness centre for the Manitoba Telephone System employees in their workplace on Corydon Avenue. It was created specifically for employees of the telephone company. The fitness centre is located right in their building, the major telephone exchange building on Corydon Avenue and is available to all members of the work force of the Manitoba Telephone System. We have a number of those kinds of programs in place.

* (1550)

Ms. Cerilli: I am wondering if the Minister can tell us what kind of studies have been done that are going to take a look at the actual use of materials prepared by the province, by social service agencies and health care agencies in the city. I am concerned that a lot of the material is made, but are we getting some showing that agencies which are having contact with the public are actually encouraging fitness as an option to deal with health problems?

Mr. Ernst: Madam Chair, Health and Welfare Canada conducted a significant health promotion survey of recent time, and many of those questions

are answered within that survey. I would be pleased to provide a copy of it to the Member at some later time.

Madam Chairman: 1.(a) Fitness Directorate: (1) Salaries \$115,400—(pass); (2) Other Expenditures \$113,700—(pass); (3) Grants \$109,200—(pass).

Item 1.(b) Sport Directorate: (1) Salaries \$377,600—(pass); (2) Other Expenditures \$263,000—(pass); (3) Grants \$2,333,800—(pass); (4) Western Canada Summer Games \$170,000—(pass).

Item 1.(c) Manitoba Sports Federation \$7,856,400—(pass).

Item 1.(d) Capital Grants - Major Sports Facilities \$1,500,000—(pass).

Resolution 62: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$12,839,100 for Fitness and Sport, Lotteries Funded Programs, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—(pass).

That concludes this department.

SUPPLY—HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Madam Chairman (Louise Dacquay): Order, please. This section of the Committee of Supply will be dealing with Estimates of the Department of Highways and Transportation.

We will begin with a statement from the Honourable Minister responsible.

Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation): Thank you, Madam Chairman. The transportation industry is vital to Manitoba's well-being. It is a key player in the regional economic development of the province and impacts trade, commerce and jobs. That is why the Government is committed to not only maintaining but expanding the significant role the transportation industry plays in the lives of every Manitoban.

The industry generates about 7 percent of the province's GNP and also employs more than 37,000 people who account for about 7.5 percent of the total employment in the province. This includes workers in the trucking business, rail industry and highway construction as well as other areas in the transportation sector.

Manitoba is continuing to play a leading role in promoting the need for a national highway policy

incorporating the concept of federal-provincial cost-sharing on a long-term equitable and sustainable basis. A modern, well-maintained national system of highways is vital to the social and economic well-being of this country.

Investing in improvements to such a system will provide economic opportunities in the construction industry, enhance our trade position in many sectors of the economy through improved productivity as well as strengthen the road transportation linkages that bind our provinces together as a nation.

The national highway program is vital in view of the vast amount of traffic being diverted to the highway system, particularly as a result of rail line abandonment and the extensively costly upgrading that is needed.

The Department of Highways and Transportation will spend \$106.5 million on construction of roads this year. This is the largest construction expenditure in the department's history. It is an increase of \$4.5 million from the \$102 million that was allotted to highway projects in '89-90 and is considerably more than the \$95 million in highway construction in the year '88-89.

The increased budget is a vital factor in a quest to keep travel routes at acceptable standards and vehicle operating costs low.

The upgrading of Highway 75 is of prime importance because it is a major port of entry from the U.S. both in terms of trucking and tourist activity. A safe and convenient route should attract even more tourists to Manitoba and attract others to pass through Manitoba to access other parts of western Canada.

Experts predict that traffic on Highway 75 will triple within 30 years; 40.2 kilometres of Highway 75 have been twinned, and another 52 kilometres need to be twinned to make the highway a four-lane facility from Winnipeg to the U.S. border.

* (1600)

A great deal of emphasis has been placed on highway improvements around Winnipeg, since improved access routes to and around the city are important to a large segment of Manitobans.

One of the major projects underway is the construction of a traffic interchange on the northern boundary of the city, at PTH 7 and the 101 Perimeter.

This year's construction program included the acquisition of right-of-way as well as design and survey work for the PTH 101 Perimeter on the northeast side of Winnipeg. This is the first step in plans to complete the highway around the city.

The Yellowhead Route is one that touches all the western provinces, and improvements are going on for the Manitoba portion of the highway. Many of the projects are designed to improve safety, the riding surface and the overall geometric standards of this important interprovincial transportation link.

One of the major projects on the Yellowhead is the \$10 million interchange at PR 240, at the Portage la Prairie by-pass. This will eliminate the need for traffic lights at a hazardous intersection. The first tourist and trucking rest stop has been constructed on the Yellowhead in the Minnedosa area to accommodate travelers on PTH 10 and 16.

An aggressive highway program is being continued with the announcement in October of the largest advanced construction program in history; \$44 million has been approved under the program for 1990-91 compared to \$35 million in last year's advanced program.

Included in the \$44 million advanced program is \$25 million in paving projects, \$13 million in grading projects and about \$6 million on bridges and structures.

Roads play an important role in the social and economic development of rural areas, and many smaller communities are hard-pressed to fund these requirements on their own. In this respect, the Government is continuing its grants to local Government districts, villages, towns and cities throughout the province to upgrade local qualifying streets.

Under the Grant-In-Aid Program, the province covers 50 percent of the costs of upgrading eligible streets within community boundaries.

The Government is also continuing with its new Rural Municipal Bridge Assistance Program which will improve safety and service on municipal road systems in rural Manitoba, while helping to relieve the rural municipalities of the burden of infrastructure investment. The province will bear 50 percent of the costs to rural municipalities and bridges that cost between \$25,000 and \$200,000.00.

For structures exceeding \$200,000, the department will share on a 50-50 basis up to

\$200,000, and on a 75-25 basis any portion over \$200,000 within the province, assuming the 75 percent share.

The trucking industry is of vital importance to Manitoba's economy with more than half the national carriers headquartered in Winnipeg, nine of the 14 national carriers are headquartered in Winnipeg. About 8,600 people are employed directly in the industry, with thousands more working in jobs created by the spin-off from the industry.

The most dramatic challenge facing the trucking industry in Manitoba is deregulation. Immediate deregulation would throw the industry in Manitoba into a state of uncertainty, therefore, we continue to phase in deregulation in accordance with the federal-provincial agreement, allowing for a transition period ending in 1993.

A number of additional highways have been designated as interprovincial routes, and additional provincial roads have been identified as Class A1 highways for the purpose of allowing increased loads. The department has approved increased weights on provincial access roads to cities, towns and villages which have a population of 50 or more, and are located within eight kilometres of a PTH.

Under the new policy, the maximum gross weight on applicable access roads will equal that of the adjoining highway for a maximum distance of eight kilometres. More than 175 rural communities will benefit from the new policy, allowing them to receive and ship on PTH loads of commodities. This means additional economic benefits.

The expansion of the designated interprovincial routes represents a significant step towards assisting business and manufacturing industries, providing the opportunities for more efficient and productive transportation of goods and services to a number of regions in the province.

As part of a nation-wide effort to improve truck safety on our highways, The Highway Traffic Act was amended to provide for a number of safety programs under the National Safety Code. A new regulation was enacted in March 1989, requiring truck tractors and semitrailers to be inspected at regular intervals.

Regulations were enacted to limit drivers to hours of service. As well, an on-highway commercial vehicle inspection program was implemented to compliment the effort.

In order to improve service to the public in the driver testing area, a centralized booking system was introduced which allows the public to book appointments for written and road tests. The new system eliminates line-ups and reduces waiting for this public service.

Under the Airport Grants Program, airports in rural Manitoba saw their annual grants increase 100 percent. Twenty-five airports benefited from the increase, which saw airports without paved runways granted \$1,200 from \$600, and airports with paved runways saw their grants increase from \$1,200 to \$2,400.00. Many of the airports are being used by business, industry and Government, and require increased maintenance and more timely snow clearing to meet increased usage.

Since the program's inception in 1972, usage of airports has changed from primarily supportive private flying to support of agricultural aviation. The province will spend about \$464,000 on the Handi-Van program this year to provide accessible transportation service for the mobility disadvantaged. Thirty-eight communities from across the province are now involved in the program.

In July 1989, the Government announced that a photo licence system would be established over a two-year period beginning in January 1991. Photo licences will prevent the unauthorized use of licences, as well as serve as an identification for the driver during day to day transactions.

The province is committed to an increased grain program for the Port of Churchill and will continue to pressure the federal Government to that end. Nine ships used the port last year unloading about 390,000 tonnes. This compares to about 300,000 tonnes last year.

The federal Transport Minister has given assurance that there will be passenger service to Churchill for the next five years. Manitoba has taken an active role in promoting maintenance and upgrading of this service. Those are my remarks, Madam Chair.

Madam Chairman: We will now hear from the critic of the official Opposition, the Honourable Member for Transcona.

Mr. Daryl Reid (Transcona): I am pleased to be able to take part in the discussions of the Estimates of the Highways and Transportation Department today.

I would like to start off quoting from the Minister's department on the submission of the Province of Manitoba to the Royal Commission on National Passenger Transportation. In here it talks about transportation in Manitoba: As the socio-economic structure of Manitoba is dependent on transportation, every effort must be made to capitalize on Winnipeg's extensive and diversified transportation and distribution base.

That I find is very interesting, Madam Chair, considering we have lost thousands of jobs in this province in the different modes of transportation that are so important to the operation and continued well-being of this province. -(interjection)- We will get into that some other time; we are going to deal with the Estimates of this department right now.

We talk about some of the areas in the airlines where the jobs have been lost and, of course, we are going into some discussions now about the open skies policy. That causes me great concern because over the last few years we have seen the loss of a couple of the airlines in this country. We have gone to two major ones now and there is a potential for the loss of those as well with the open skies and the allowance of the American airlines to come in and take over some of the traffic in this particular country.

An Honourable Member: Free trade.

* (1610)

Mr. Reid: It has a lot to do with free trade and deregulation, that is correct. As well the railway, which has been a very important part in building this country and this province, we have lost as well there many, many jobs. It is very unfortunate because that leaves that risk, the areas of the province that are least able to support themselves and rely very heavily on these services that are provided by the railways and, of course, the jobs that support their families and the communities themselves.

The freight and passenger rail both have lost many jobs. Of course, in particular the remote and northern areas of our province are put at risk by the loss of these services.

The trucking industry, I am told, is presently under some pressure, pressure from the American trucking industry that is coming up into this country and taking some of the traffic away from the trucking companies here. The Minister has indicated that nine of 14 of the major companies are located here in Winnipeg. If the American companies take away

the freight traffic from the Canadian haulers, of course we stand to lose not only the companies, which are very important to the economic well being of this province, but we stand to lose, as the Minister talked about, many thousand jobs. I believe the figure was 8,600 in trucking, if I understood correctly. That would be disastrous to the economy of this province.

We have to ensure that the cabotage that is now being discussed in the different levels of Government in this country is dealt with in a fair and equitable manner to make sure that the industries are protected in this province.

The taxi system, the limousine service, I am going to have some questions on that for the Minister as well. There is some discussion that is going to be coming up with the special taxicabs that are due to be implemented toward the end of this year, and I am going to have some questions for the Minister to find out his position on that area.

As well, I am very concerned about the lack of funding that has occurred in this budget, where the transportation and research policy has been reduced from a budget of \$3,404,000 last year and we have dropped to \$1,794,000 this year. That is a substantial drop. To me that is very important, because if we do not continue to do the research and development, then this province and this country will not grow in the future.

I look forward to asking questions of the Minister on the different portions of the Estimates. For me as a new MLA in this House, I find this is going to be an educational experience. I hope he will indulge maybe some of the questions that I have that may not be worded so well throughout the process. Thank you.

Mr. Neil Gaudry (St. Boniface): Madame le présidente, -(interjection)- non, non, it is just en français. I know Members from the Conservative Government have been learning French and you are doing a pretty good job.

It gives me great pleasure to rise and be part of this department. First, of course, I would like to say thank you and congratulate the Minister of Highways (Mr. Driedger), who has given some time to spend with us in briefing us on the department. It was well appreciated.

Now I will start criticizing. A line of congratulations is enough.

I will be very brief as it is my first experience with the Department of Highways and like I say it is -(interjection)- no, there is a lot to criticize, because I could go on and take highways by highways.

You take last year. I decided I was going to visit Manitoba for a change and some of our highways up North leave to be desired and—where is the Honourable Member for Lakeside (Mr. Enns)? We go through that highway quite often over the weekend, Highway No. 7 and the overpass.

It seems to me last summer it was growing weeds instead of having work being done on that highway -(interjection)- Well, there is a lot of traffic, but the Minister of Highways decided he was not going to do anything in 1990. Then he goes on and says he is going to spend \$44 million in '91-92. When is that \$44 million going to be spent, this year, next year, last year? We are not sure. -(interjection)- Well, it should not be announced to say \$44 million, the highest highway construction budget. In '90-91 the budget has not increased that much.

I could go on and on on different highways, because I had the pleasure of visiting Manitoba last year. I think it is important that we go across the country to visit first our own province. We have a lot to offer, but the highways leave to be desired.

Highway No. 75, we could go on, it has been talked about for many years, and I think the NDP have been talking about it for the last 17 years. They have not done -(interjection)- no, there we are, but the Conservatives are talking about it at least.

Rather than go on and be negative, I would like it to be an educational process with the Minister. We will dialogue and ask him questions, and I am sure he will give us good answers and look forward to going through the Estimates with the Minister.

Thank you very much.

Madam Chairman: I would remind Members of the Committee that debate on the Minister's Salary, item 1.(a), page 99, is deferred until all other items in the Estimates of this department are passed. At this time I would invite the Minister's staff to take their places in the Chamber.

Mr. Driedger: At this time I would like to introduce my staff people who are here. This gentleman on my immediate left is somebody I think everybody knows, the Deputy Minister Boris Hryhorczuk, who has been there a long time.

Next to him is Bill Dyck, who is with the Administrative Services Division. On my right here is somebody whom I think everybody in Manitoba knows, Siggi Goodbrandson, who is the ADM for Construction. I might add at this time that after 41 years of service with the department and with Government that he is retiring at the end of this month. We certainly think all Manitobans really are sorry to see him go.

I think on behalf of all Members of the House I want to offer you a happy retirement and thank you for the service that you have provided for the people of Manitoba. I might also add that if anybody wants to know about roads, I think he knows every road, provincial and municipal, within the province. If we get to the Capital end of it, and the Member for Transcona (Mr. Reid) and for St. Boniface (Mr. Gaudry), once we get into the Capital end of it I am sure that I can provide all the information through him. Thank you.

Madam Chairman: Item 1. Administration and Finance: \$4,636,900; 1.(b) Executive Support 1.(b)(1) Salaries \$384,300.00.

* (1620)

Mr. Reid: I would like to also join with the Minister in congratulating Siggi Gudmundsen—I think that is the proper pronunciation—on his—

An Honourable Member: It should be Goodbrandson.

Mr. Reid: Goodbrandson? Pardon me for my mispronunciation of the name—and join with the Minister in extending best wishes for his long service to the department and in wishing him well in his retirement, which I understand will be taking place at the end of this month.

I have a few questions, returning to the Estimates, concerning the Executive Support. I believe it is probably standard. Maybe the Minister could explain, under the heading Executive Support, the salaries, the staff that are there and the salaries that would be part of those Estimates.

Mr. Driedger: We have nine staff under the Executive Support. Five of them are mine, and the other four are the Deputy and his staff.

The salary for this component is, as the Member can probably see, is \$364,400 last year, and the natural increments brought it up to \$384,300.00.

Mr. Reid: The Minister states that five of these staff people are under his office, I believe. Could he give

a breakdown of the staff that are in there, in the sense of salary ranges for his particular department?

Mr. Driedger: I am sure we can provide that. That is not much of a problem. I just want to indicate that in my office, for example, I have a special assistant who is in the category of the range that we have established. I think it is around \$36,000.00. Then I have an executive assistant who is in the range of around \$34,000.00. These are my political staff. Then I have a secretary, who is sort of my right arm in the department, and two other people in my office, staff people. That makes the component of five in my office.

In the Deputy's office, he has three secretarial staff. I think his number one person in the office is, like mine is in mine, almost the right arm, and we are very dependent on those people. In terms of the specific salaries of these people, I can indicate to the Member that I will get you the breakdown in detail, because we just have the general salaries here. I have given you the indication of the S.A. and the E.A. The others are the normal staff wages as the increments have accrued. I will get that information for him.

Mr. Reid: I thank the Minister. It is not that I require that information right now; I just needed a general indication at this time, but I would appreciate having that list at his convenience in the near future.

Maybe the Minister could explain some of the duties that his support staff perform for him, just briefly, to give me some indication for educational purposes for myself.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, the Minister of Co-operative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery) I think gave the right answer. Two of my staff people, the political staff people, are there to keep me out of trouble. Seriously though, I suppose every Minister runs his political staff in a different way. The way I have apportioned it my special assistant, by and large, tries to help me with the departmental problems that are there and is my liaison between many of the staff people and works very closely with the deputy. The executive assistant is involved more with the constituency problems and looking after those issues. I think most of the Ministers probably operate in that fashion. Every Minister, I believe, hires those on the basis of somebody who he feels is competent to handle those positions.

Mr. Reld: Madam Chair, since this is a new process to me, I need some guidance on this. Under the heading of Administration and Finance: 1.(b), do we also cover Other Expenditures at the same time in this process?

Madam Chairman: That is determined by the will of the committee, the Honourable Member for Transcona. Whatever the will of the committee is, we should establish that at this point. Traditionally it is preferable, I might add, to go line by line and get approval on each item so that it is easier on the Minister and the staff.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, if I might just, for the benefit of the critic, I have no difficulty with that as long as we could, instead of going on a totally general basis, if we can keep to the sections because I have different staff people coming in at certain times. Certainly if the Member wants to cover anything in the first category there, I have no difficulty with that.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, in the Decentralization Program of the Government, has there been any consideration of moving any of these to outside of Winnipeg?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, there is none in this general area here that we are looking at for decentralization. There are certain areas which we can discuss—I do not know in which category we would discuss it. I am not quite sure how I would answer this because I think every department of Government is involved to some degree or other, in terms of some decentralization, of the total Decentralization Program.

When I dealt with Government Services the other day, there were specific questions asked as well as to what was happening. I think probably the majority of the Department of Highways staff already is decentralized. As you are aware, we have 13 districts throughout the province that have a component staff, so a lot of the people are out already. We are looking at some minor decentralization activity, very limited. I think in one case we have survey crew that is going—(interjection)—Pardon me?—land survey crew that will be moved out of Winnipeg.

I suppose the biggest initiative that we had in this department was the establishment of District 13 in Thompson as a district office. We used to have only 12 district offices before. We have now established that as a major district office.

Many of the other questions really related to decentralization—I thought I had explained, the other day in Government Services, a little bit of the process where we have a Decentralization Committee and a co-ordinator of that. They have been working with the various departments, asking them to look at what kind of possible areas could be targeted for decentralization. I suppose in Highways, because the majority of my people are out already, it is a little more difficult to do that.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairman, you mention that at this stage you are looking at a figure of nine that are moving in the decentralization. How many of these nine have agreed voluntarily to move out of the city?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I want to indicate, in the survey crew we have four SYs that are moving to Portage. We have two radio staff people who are moving to The Pas. We have four staff people under the marine moving to Selkirk, two staff people to Thompson under the establishment of a district office and two to Ashern. This is our component in terms of decentralization at this stage of the game.

* (1630)

I have to indicate that we have absolutely no problem in terms of staff people moving to these areas, because what we have tried to do is establish things that are related that would fit into the areas where we move them in. So certainly, in this department, there has been absolutely no problem in terms of decentralization.

Mr. Gaudry: I have just one further question. You mention there was a couple to Selkirk, a couple to Portage la Prairie. I see my friend from Portage la Prairie appreciates that, but will these people be commuting between Winnipeg and Portage and Selkirk, or will they be moving to these towns?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I addressed this to somebody, I believe, the other day in Government Services. The one thing that the Government has indicated to communities where decentralization takes place is that the onus is on those communities to try and get the people to make them feel welcome and make them want to move into the general area.

As I indicated the other day, in my community of Grunthal, which is an hour's drive from Winnipeg, most of the teachers commute from Winnipeg. So I do not think we are in a position and would not want to take and force anybody to move, but I think the challenge is there for the communities to try and

make them feel welcome and make them want to move into that area.

Madam Chairman: Item 1.(b) Executive Support: (1) Salaries \$384,300—(pass); 1.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$81,900—(pass).

Item 1.(c) Administrative Services: (1) Salaries \$528,200.00.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chairman, I ask the Minister to give me a brief explanation on the Administrative Services, and the salaries and the number of people that are under that particular heading, please.

(Mr. Jack Reimer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, under this category, first of all, we have no change from last year. We have 14.13 SYs under this department, and this basically deals with the financial services, personnel services, computer services, the internal financial services of the department. Bill Dyck is the one who is responsible for that, has been for a long time and is a very capable individual. I appreciate his services.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(c) Administrative Services: (1) Salaries \$528,200—pass; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$68,600.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, in Communication there is a decrease of some \$2,000.00. What was the reason?

Mr. Driedger: A glib answer could be, I suppose they do not communicate as much. Mr. Acting Chairman, I do not know. I think we have just scaled down on communications to some degree.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$68,600.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Chairperson, in the increase of \$2,000 in Supply and Services, what do those supply and services include in that department?

Mr. Driedger: If the Members will look under most of the—as we go through this on a line by line basis, I have no difficulty with that, but in most cases, you will see that the other expenditures, by and large, are virtually the same. In the salary end of it, the increase is just the normal increments that increase. In this particular case, where you have an increase of less than \$2,000, this is just the ongoing cost of running the departments in terms of paper clips, pens, paper, whatever the case may be.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$68,600—pass.

Item 1.(d) Financial Services: (1) Salaries \$734,300.00.

Mr. Gaudry: There is a substantial increase from \$687,700 to \$734,000 and the SY remains the same. It appears to be in the Administrative Support.

Mr. Driedger: These are just the normal increases and the merit increases, so there is no additional staff. These are just something that, under the Civil Service Commission, are the normal increases. If the Member will look, it varies that way throughout where salaries are, because by and large, we have had, except in exceptional cases, I guess, very little of an increase, but the salary increases are something that automatically take place.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(d) Financial Services: (1) Salaries \$734,300—pass; 1.(d)(2) Other Expenditures \$73,900—pass.

1.(e) Personnel Services: (1) Salaries \$783,700.00.

Mr. Reid: I note that there has been an 8.5 percent increase in the funding for Personnel Services over 1989-90 in the area of salaries under Personnel Services. Could the minister give an explanation for that increase, please, which appears to be well above the cost of living increase for that area?

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman the same thing applies here. There is no increase or decrease in staff. I think we have 21.39 as far as last year; we have the same thing for this current year. The increases are just the normal increases and the merit increments that staff accumulates.

There are no additional people hired or fired; that remains the same, and these increases, we have no control over that. It is within the Civil Service Commission, under the agreements, they are entitled to so much of an increase each year as well as certain merit increases.

Mr. Reid: Since I am fairly new at this—I understand that a cost-of-living factor would be built into the salaries structure—maybe the Minister could explain, for my benefit at least, the merit structure that is built into that and how it works. Just a brief explanation would do.

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that under the natural increments you have various categories. When you hit a certain category, then your next step is to the next category which reflects wage increases in all cases. Also, in some cases where we are

anticipating retirements, there is certain funding that is worked into the system for somebody that retires like Mr. Goodbrandson, and there is a certain severance area, in terms of the retirement, that is involved in that.

There is nothing untoward in terms of these increases. It is monitored very closely, because the Minister certainly and, I think, staff do not have discretion other than to maybe award merit increases based on performance from time to time in certain categories, but other than that, the Civil Service, by and large, in their negotiations work out these things as part of the total package.

* (1640)

It is not like the Minister can decide we are going to give a guy increases, stuff of that nature; it is all done by a formula that has been in place for many years.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, Mr. Acting Chairperson. In the Activity Identification there, it talks about Affirmative Action policies and programs within the department. Can the Minister tell us what he has done in regard to policies for Affirmative Action?

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, maybe I can just give the Members some accomplishments in Affirmative Action between '89 and '90. Now, we have had 26 career presentations, 63 Native people hired in six different construction contracts for a total of 387 person weeks of work, six Native summer students hired, three additional female engineers hired, bringing the total to five, and we are very pleased with that. We are having very good results with our female engineers. One female engineer, an engineer 4 classification, one female engineer acting in an engineer 3 classification, one female engineer at engineer 3 classification, two female engineers promoted to engineer 2 level. We placed one Native employee on a career development program, trades helper to an apprenticeship program.

I think we are very conscientious about trying to adhere to certain guidelines in trying to achieve that, although I think Members must realize that in this Department of Highways construction it is not quite as simple as it is may be in some other areas. Certainly, efforts are being made to move in that direction. Once again, I want to compliment the female engineers that are coming on stream; we are getting good performance out of them.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Acting Chairman, the Minister talked about severance payment for those that may be retiring in the department, which would explain some of the increase, the 5 percent increase in that area. Have there been people that have retired in the last year or within this budget year?

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, we have approximately 2,500 people that are employed in the Department of Highways, so there are ongoing changes taking place all the time. This is probably one of the highest employment departments that we have, but I have to indicate, as my ADM, Mr. Goodbrandson, is retiring, we also have three district engineers that are retiring. So there is ongoing change. We try and bring other people on stream. It will reflect here to some degree in some of these areas, but with the amount of staff that we have—it is not like the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Connery). I do not know how many people he has, but I have dramatically more, and relatively, you have more things changing all the time.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(e)(1) Salaries \$783,700—pass; 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$138,600.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Could the figures of Computer Related and Other of \$52,100 and \$14,100 be given an explanation, on page 29?

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am sorry, I am trying to follow. I believe the Member is going through the Supplementary Information on 31. I wonder if you could just re-indicate where you had the concern so that I can check it through? Sorry.

Mr. Gaudry: On page 29.

Mr. Driedger: No, it is 31 in my book.

Mr. Gaudry: Other Expenditures.

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, I am sorry for the delay. I want to indicate that in the department we spent \$6.7 million in computers this year. Out of the total budget that is approximately 2.8 percent of the budget, but I have a list here of the major projects where we have gone to computers.

Staff has various abbreviations here, I am having some difficulty with them. Construction management system, equipment management system, maintenance management system, general administration and support, driver licensing system, driver on-line system, the word processing, electronic mail. There is a list if the Member would

care to look. I can read that all into the record, but this is all to do with the computerization of the department which makes us operate very, very efficiently.

Mr. Gaudry: I appreciate the comments, but these figures of \$52,000 and \$14,000 are not included in the total figures of the total expenditures. Why, or is it just as an information?

Mr. Driedger: The particular one that the Member is referring to is the cost of issuing pay cheques. The computer issues pay cheques and that is what that expenditure is related to. If the Member looks at the next page where we have Computer Services, he will see the other figures there, on page 31. That is where I got confused.

Mr. Gaudry: How much was spent on computers totally for the department?

Mr. Driedger: The systems operation, the figure that I quoted was \$6.7 million. Like \$3.370 million of that is just to maintain the present system, and then the systems development enhancement was about \$3 million. We have a system in place. We have been adding to it to give us more efficiency, and all this basically is done over a period of time as indicated. We just went through some figures where 15-20 years ago a highway program that was a lot less than it was now was delivered by more people.

So over the years the department has been economizing and computerizing, and we can deliver the kind of program we have now which is a record program of \$106.5 million. We will get into capital later, but we are delivering that with less people than it was done 15-20 years ago.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, but I am still not clear why those figures are not included in the total of \$922,300 for example in Personnel Services. They are on the left-hand side: \$52,100, \$14,100, and they are not included.

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Chairman, he has the answer already, but now I want to clear it on the record you see. Those two figures that he is referring to move over and make up the \$66,200.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes.

Mr. Driedger: Okay.

Mr. Gaudry: Just trying to confuse you, that is all.

Mr. Driedger: You did.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$138,600—pass.

Item (f) Computer Services (1) Salaries \$1,092,900.00.

* (1650)

Mr. Gaudry: Mr. Chairman, again I imagine there is no increase in SY except in monies. It probably will be again just a general increase in the merit?

Mr. Driedger: Yes.

Mr. Reid: The Minister just indicated a few moments ago under the Section (e) that we just spent \$6.7 million on computers. Now we are under Section (f) Computer Services. Does his department contract out for computer services or is this internal operations within his own department?

Mr. Driedger: To the largest part, this is internal operations here. From time to time, under certain circumstances, we have tendered out or gone to the outside, but most of this is internal.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(f)(1) Salaries, \$1,092,900—pass; 1.(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$509,200—pass.

Item 1.(g) Occupational Health and Safety: 1.(g)(1) Salaries \$181,000.00.

Mr. Reid: Could the Minister give me a brief explanation on what this section is for, Occupational Health and Safety? Is it Worker Compensation related? Just a brief explanation on it would do.

Mr. Driedger: First of all, under the safety end of it I think my department is exceedingly conscientious about the safety aspect of it in terms of highway construction where we have bad highways. I have to indicate to the Member that very often when there has been an accident on our highways, lawyers write us letters wanting to know whether—so I am saying from the construction end of it, we are always very conscientious.

What is involved under the activities here is health and safety training, accident investigation, worksite inspection, hearing conservation program, workers compensation claims management, first aid training, environmental monitoring, injury illness statistics, record keeping, hazardous materials control program. All of these things come under this category, and I have to indicate that we are very proud of our record.

Mr. Gaudry: You say that in the activity program you provide direction and rehabilitation to the injured worker. What are the statistics as far as injured workers in the Department of Highways?

Mr. Driedger: I do not have that information available here. We will have to work at getting that, and I can undertake to have the statistical information forwarded to the Member, if that is acceptable. These are details that we do not have available here right now.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): Item 1.(g) Occupational Health.

Mr. Reid: Looking at the Supplemental Estimates, page 16, year ending March 31, 1991, is that an estimate to '91, because I detect a discrepancy in the totals on the Staff Years column.

Mr. Driedger: Mr. Acting Chairman, two things. You asked the Members on my side to try and control themselves until they get recognized by the Chair. I wonder if the Member for Transcona (Mr. Reid) could just clarify his question again and the page where he is looking at under the Supplementary Information?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): I must remind Honourable Members that the Highway Department Minister would like to answer the questions, please.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Acting Chairman, I agree with the Minister's statement. Sometimes it is difficult to concentrate when he would be distracted by his own colleagues behind him. -(Interjection)- The only difference is on this side of the House I am getting good advice.

Mr. Acting Chairman, for the purpose of clarification, I am looking at Schedule 5, Page 16 of the Supplementary Estimates, Staff Years column, year ending March 31, 1991. The total for that column is 101.26, and yet if you total up that column it comes to 100.78, a discrepancy of .52 staff years.

(Madam Chairman in the Chair)

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, just to clarify that, where you have the .26, for example, that is weeks, that is not fractions. Does that explain it to the Member?

Mr. Reid: The column under SY, which it was my understanding is staff years, if you add up that column it comes to, the figure shown there is 101.26. The 26 is the weeks of the year, I believe. Yet, when I total that up, the numbers in that column, I get 100.78. There is a discrepancy in that column. I am just wondering the reason for that.

Mr. Driedger: Staff is telling me that the additions are accurate in terms of how they establish staff years, whether it is 26 weeks, whether it is 39—39

weeks is three-quarters of a staff year. Am I getting through? I am not either because I am still not sure where the Member's concern is, but I am trying to accommodate.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I think we are not on the same wavelength here and we will make sure that we explain it somewhere along the line. I will ask Mr. Dyck at an appropriate time to clarify how we work it for the staff years so we do not have to waste any more time on it, if that is acceptable with the member.

Mr. Reid: I would appreciate the opportunity to find out about that. Also while they are looking at that if you might move down to the bottom of that page, the same column, staff years, the total is 552.12. When I total up the column it comes to 551.16, a discrepancy of .96 staff years. Maybe the Minister could also undertake to determine why that discrepancy is there too.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I will give the undertaking to the Member that Mr. Dyck is going to clarify that as well just so that he has an understanding you know of exactly how we do these additions.

Madam Chairman: Item 1.(g) Occupational Health and Safety: 1.(g)(1) Salaries \$181,000—pass; 1.(g)(2) Other Expenditures \$50,000—pass.

Item 2. Operations and Maintenance, \$77,044,100; 2.(a) Maintenance Program \$55,498,000.

* (1700)

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, I see that there is a decrease of .4 percent, which does not even allow this area to keep up with the cost of inflation for the Maintenance Program. Maybe the Minister could give me a brief explanation on that, please.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairperson, I can try and give a long and involved answer or else I basically have to indicate to the Member that I did not get the money for the increase in the Maintenance that I would have liked to see there. That is a short and simple question and certainly creates some concern within my department and myself.

I think Maintenance is a very important part, and I will continue to take and bring forward my concerns to my colleagues in terms of the decision making. Hopefully we can get that kind of appropriate increase at least to the rate of inflation for the future.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(a) Maintenance Program \$55,498,000—pass.

Item 2.(b) Winter Roads: 2.(b)(1) 100% Provincial \$196,000.00.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chairman, I see in the '90-91 figures that when in comparison with the '89-90 figures there has been an increase of 14.6 percent in that area. The Minister a moment ago talked about underfunding in the previous Maintenance Program Section (a) there, and I am just wondering why this area should have such an increase in that area unless that area is having an expansion of the winter road program.

Mr. Driedger: The increase is due to the extension of the winter road system to communities of Pikwitonei and Thicket Portage, an increase due to the extension of the winter road system to communities of Shamattawa, Pukatawagan, Bloodvein and West Doghead. So we added more to the winter road system and that reflects the increase.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(b) Winter Roads: 2.(b)(1) 100% Provincial \$196,000—pass.

Item 2.(b)(2) Shareable with Canada \$3,004,000.00.

Mr. Reid: I would like to ask the Minister on the Shareable with Canada if we have recovered these monies of \$1,502,000 from the federal Government at this time?

Mr. Driedger: Yes we do. We have no difficulty in terms in many cases actually. We almost get it as an advance because we have a good arrangement with them. That has not been a problem with the federal Government. We get our money.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(b)(2) Shareable with Canada \$3,004,000—pass.

Item 2.(c) Operations and Contracts: 2.(c)(1) Salaries and Wages \$1,722,500.00.

Mr. Reid: It talks about operations and contracts, and I am just wondering, are these contracts within the department, internal, or is there contracting out that takes place there?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, under this section here is where we do all our tendering, the major contracts in construction or any other portion within the department where we go out for tender calls. So that is what is all involved in here, whether it is for even under the maintenance end of it, whether it is for crushing material, roadside mowing, everything

that we do in terms of contracting and tendering comes under this area here.

Mr. Gaudry: You are talking about tendering contracts. That is, the road contracts are tendered out. Are all contracts tendered and given to the lowest bidder, or is there a clause in the tenders where it does not have to go to the lowest tender?

Mr. Driedger: A clause in our contracts makes a proviso that if the department feels that a contractor would not be capable of delivering the program, then we could use that option, but in 99.9 percent of the time we go with the lowest tender. It is the very odd time when we have somebody that maybe did not have the right information or for whatever reason, you know something that is -(interjection)- Pardon me? Yes, but it is a rarity, as my Deputy indicates, that we would ever use that clause, but there is a clause in there. Basically, by and large the department knows the construction industry well. I do not think I have seen one where we have not recommended that the lowest tender take place.

Mr. Gaudry: These tendered contracts, are they public information where the Members can look at the tenders—who was the lowest and so forth?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, these are open tenders. They are sealed tenders, and they are opened publicly. Everybody can go and participate and see exactly what has happened.

Mr. Reid: I will pass, Madam Chair.

Mr. Gaudry: Looking in the Salaries in Operations and Contracts where you have Allowance for Staff Turnover, in '89-90 you had \$5,000 and in '90-91 you have \$175,000.00. Why the difference?

Mr. Driedger: There are vacant positions that have not been filled this year.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, with the increase of the Highway budget coming up for '90-91-92, are these positions going to be filled?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, these are positions that are established for staff training, and we do that on a rotation basis to give them training for various categories and various positions.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, the Minister indicated that these are vacant positions. I would like to ask the Minister if he could give me an understanding of where these positions are vacant, which part of the province, which department?

* (1710)

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, because we did not have final approval on the budget, these positions were basically not filled for approximately five months. They have now been filled, but as a result, we did not expend the monies. This is a staff turnover; that is the reason for it.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, the Minister indicated these positions are now filled. I would still like an understanding of where these positions were vacant throughout the province?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, these positions have always been under this category here. They could be anywhere within the province. It is not that there are five vacancies in The Pas, or whatever the case may be. We have it under this category, and then, as we fill them, we can do the training either in Thompson and Dauphin or in different sections within the Department—it could be Materials, et cetera, et cetera. So it is not that they are vacant positions that sat somewhere in any one area. It is under this category where we have this provision for these people. As I indicated, they were vacant for five months because we did not have an agreement in terms of our budgetary figures, so they come under this category. They could be in any one of these areas where we want to use them for training in the various segments of department for that.

Mr. Gaudry: I am still not clear on these vacancies, but these vacancies, you say there were five and they have been filled. Were they filled here in Winnipeg, Thompson, The Pas or—you say there is training in different areas?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, we have not necessarily filled all of them yet. This is sort of an ongoing thing, and they could be anywhere at all. These are usually young people that are coming on as engineers, you know, out of school and stuff like that. So we get them into positions with the districts somewhere along the line or with our Materials Branch or stuff like that just so they start getting some experience, and that is what this is for.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(c) Operations and Contracts: (1) Salaries and Wages \$1,722,500—(pass); 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures \$350,500—(pass).

Item 2.(d) Bridges and Structures: (1) Salaries \$1,800,400.00.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chairman, in this category, Bridges and Structures, Salaries, there is a decrease of 3.3 percent. Have the staff years—and

I have not had a chance to look in the book yet. Staff years appear to be the same for that area. I am wondering why there is a decrease of 3.3 percent funding for that area as far as staff salaries.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, we have had difficulty filling some of these positions and there have been some retirements, so we will not be able to flow all of the money that we have. Like, we have the positions there, but because we have had difficulty filling them, we will not be expending the full amount of money that we have there.

An Honourable Member: Now ask him, what are you going to do with the money you are going to save?

Mr. Reid: I take that question as being good advice, and I will ask that question, Madam Chairman. What are we going to do with the money that we are going to save? I would advise the Honourable Minister to ask his colleague why he would give me that advice.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, you must have heard the expression, "With friends like that, who needs enemies?" By and large, by the time the whole year is sorted out, there is no surplus that we hold over somewhere that we can take and hide away.

In some cases, and this is very minute, the monies are not expended; they basically lapse. We work on our next year's budget again, and there is no advantage. Other than having had the difficulty of filling the positions—there is nothing that we gain by not expending these funds.

Mr. Reid: For these monies that we save in these areas, for whatever reasons—I am sure there are various and many—are these funds not transferable to other sections of the budget that may be in need through underfunding?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, that \$121,000 which is there is money that we will not be expending this year. That has been taken away from our budget, so we do not have it. What we have is \$2,210,400.000. That is the money that we basically have budgeted to spend. If we do not expend that within—with that particular Bridges and Structures department, there is room for some movement in there to other appropriations.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, in Bridge Maintenance, you have \$532,000.00. Where was this maintenance done?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, first of all, we have two categories under Bridges. One is under the Capital Program where we build new bridges, and then we have Maintenance. This is across all the bridges across the province where we have some deteriorating bridges. I see the Member for Selkirk (Mr. Dewar) sitting there, where we have to do some work on the East Selkirk Bridge. Now that would probably be a Capital Program, but we have endless smaller projects. I can compile a list, possibly, but it is a very substantial list. This is all the minor maintenance. If the Member has been travelling Manitoba, as he has indicated, he must see hundreds of bridges that we have and this can involve all kinds of things: patchwork on the bridges, doing the painting on the bridges, doing minor repairs on the bridges. For that kind of money—I do not know whether we have any specific major capital repairs because if they are bigger we do that under our Capital Program. So this is just all the ongoing sundry repairs that we do of all the bridges that come under our responsibility.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(d) Bridges and Structures: (1) Salaries \$1,800,400—(pass); 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, I see that there is a significant increase in the Other Expenditures. The '89-90 figure was \$95,100 and the current figure is \$125,100, an increase of 31 percent. I know, in comparison to the previous item, it is not a large amount of money, but maybe the Minister could give me a brief explanation as to why the big increase there.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, it is very insignificant, really, in terms of the figures and things that happened, but this is an increase in costs of automobile, telephone, travel, office expense, attributed to the increase in the Construction Program. Because we have a higher Construction Program, this is where it is related to.

Madam Chairman: 2.(d) Bridges and Structures: (2) Other Expenditures \$125,100—(pass); 2.(d)(3) Bridge Maintenance.

* (1720)

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, the Minister a few moments ago talked about the East Selkirk Bridge. I am wondering what bridge maintenance program is going to be undertaken to ensure that bridge is maintained in a passable and safe condition until at

least there is an opportunity for his department to expend the necessary funds to replace that bridge?

Mr. Driedger: I will give the Member the explanation, but this would technically come under my Capital Program. What we have done with the bridge is the consulting work and we have completed it. Now we are going to move to the design aspect of it. It is a major program and undertaking. We are moving through in stages in terms of getting ready for tender on that project whenever we feel that we have the funding allocation. We have done the preliminary investigation and now we will be doing the design work, then next comes the tendering project.

Mr. Reid: It is my understanding then that this design work is ongoing now currently and that we will be moving into the tendering phase sometime in the next year or two years?

Mr. Driedger: The design work is starting now and should be completed by midyear. The decision as to when the actual physical work will be undertaken is a decision that as we work on next year's program would be one that would get consideration.

An Honourable Member: Under Capital?

Mr. Driedger: Under Capital, yes.

Mr. Gaudry: In regard to the bridge maintenance, I know there was a new bridge, East Selkirk, that was built a couple of years ago. I do not know whether it was under your administration. What was the cost of that bridge? I tried to use it last summer, and I got lost or it was going to nowhere.

Mr. Driedger: If the Member had maybe asked for one of our very nice Manitoba maps, he would have been able to find his way through that.

I have to indicate that all the work and the connections to that bridge have been completed and we anticipate extensive use of that, especially when we go into the repair of the East Selkirk bridge.

The trucking industry is using it now. I do not want to get into the politics of whether it should or should not have been built. That decision was not mine to make. My decision and my department's decision was to basically give the accesses to that bridge after it was built. We have done that, and it is now in operation and functional.

Mr. Gaudry: I appreciate that you are non-political. What was the cost of that bridge?

Mr. Driedger: The total project involving the interconnects with the various accesses to it, we are looking in the approximate area of \$20 million.

Mr. Gaudry: Did that project not start at \$10 million? Where did the other \$10 million go?

Mr. Driedger: No, I do not think that the project started at \$10 million. I was not privy to that aspect of it. A portion of the costs that are involved with that bridge was not just the bridge itself, but there was extensive roadwork that had to be done to tie it in to make it feasible so that you did not have a bridge, as it ended up, to nowhere for a long time. Now with the connects to it, it is functioning well. It connects Highway 59 to Highway 9, which is an important intersection or junction there.

Mr. Reid: I would just like to thank the Minister for recognizing the true value of that bridge and completing that project that the previous administration had undertaken to start, and to have provided the great service for the community of Selkirk in providing access from 59 Highway to the Highway 9, and I would like to thank the Minister for that, Madam Chair.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, because I am a relatively nice person and I was trying to stay away from the full political debate as to whether it should be there or should not be there, I do not know whether we necessarily want to get into that. If the Member does, we can take and spend an extensive time debating as to the merits of where it should be, however, I was trying to be relatively nice guy by indicating that because it is there that we have done the accessory road work, and it is serving as an important interconnect at this stage of the game, and maybe we should leave it at that. But if he wants to pursue it on terms of how wise a decision it was or not, we can get into that debate.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(d) Bridges and Structures (3) Bridge Maintenance \$942,000.00. Shall the item pass?

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, since I am new at this, and I have stated this several times today, are any of the bridges structures within the confines of the City of Winnipeg boundaries, and are they covered by any provincial jurisdiction under that Minister's department?

Mr. Driedger: The structures that we have within the city limit is on the Perimeter which we have the overpasses at Pembina, at Portage West. Right around actually. Any of the structures on the

Perimeter, they are ours. The city's bridges like Norwood Bridge, Midtown Bridge, the new one that was just opened, these are the responsibilities of the city.

Mr. Reid: I think that answers my question, although it was my understanding that the province had some cost sharing in the Kildonan Bridge which just recently opened. That was a separate department, I believe, if my understanding is correct?

Mr. Driedger: It is my understanding there was some cost sharing through the Department of Urban Affairs on that particular bridge.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(d)(3) Bridge Maintenance \$942,000. Shall the item pass—pass.

Item 2.(e) Transport Compliance (1) Salaries and Wages \$1,705,000.00.

Mr. Reid: I could not let this pass without at least some comments. I noticed that in comparison to the previous year's funding there has been a decrease of 3.9 percent in the area of salaries and wages, and I believe, if my understanding of this department is correct, this section Transport Compliance that this is where the safety factor comes in, and the people who do the safety inspections. I would like to know why there is a decrease of 3.9 percent in this area?

Mr. Driedger: The reason for that is because of a delay in filling some of the vacancies, and we have staff turnover allowances relatively high, and we are trying to catch up in terms of the compliance officers that we hire. We are very conscientious about the safety aspect of it under the National Safety Code and the requirements that the department has in terms of doing the inspections, and we are making sure that we do get these positions filled.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, the Minister indicated that some of the positions were vacant and had gone vacant for awhile. I would like a better understanding of this, where the positions were vacant and in which section of inspections for Transport Compliance that these positions were vacant.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, under the system that we have in place, for example, I indicated in my opening remarks that we have inspections of semis and trailers. These have to be done through the private sector where we have identified—throughout Manitoba, I do not know how many people we have or garages that basically do the inspections—where they have to get their inspection done.

* (1730)

This particular area that we are talking about here, where we had the vacancies, is in those people that go out and do the spot checks to make sure that these vehicles have been inspected properly through the private sector. We have designated in many communities individuals where they can have their safety checks done. So these are basically those who do the spot checks for us, who go down the highway and flag somebody down, a trucker, and check to see whether he has the safety inspection or whether there is something wrong with his unit.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, since the safety inspections of equipment that are operating on our roadways are very, very important, particularly to the residents of the communities in which these vehicles pass, if we have a vacancy for these people who go out and do the spot inspections, that means there could be some cases or occasions where equipment should be inspected more frequently and it is not now occurring. I am wondering why this Minister and his department has not undertaken to ensure that all of these positions are filled on a regular and continuing basis.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I would like to indicate that I am very conscious of the safety aspect of these vehicles. It is because of turnover in staff that we have not caught up as fast as we can, and that is no indication that we regard this area in any lighter vein at all. I am sure, as the Member travels down—I certainly know from coming down Highway 59 that we have many of these units that bring in crushed cars stacked up high and stuff hanging out all over the place. I have major personal concerns about some of this so I just want to indicate that it is certainly not a matter of lessening the concern that we have in terms of this, and we are going to continue filling the positions and making sure that we have inspections done.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, I still ask the Minister if he would be willing to give me an indication on where these positions are vacant throughout the province, in areas that are covered by his department for these random spot checks that he was talking about.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, let me indicate to the Member I got it from some of his previous questions that we have identified a certain area where there is a vacancy. These are rolling programs that we have throughout the province. Our

inspectors do not just sit outside of Winnipeg; we have them all throughout the province. So it is in this department where we had the vacancies that we are filling them, but it is not like we have a vacancy in Dauphin. These are our roving inspecting teams that go out. They could be in southeast Manitoba today, and they could be in the western part of the province tomorrow, so it is not that I can say, well, these are vacancies that happen in Brandon. Through my department and some of these categories, we have people that are not necessarily permanently stationed in one area. They cover the province in some of these categories.

So I am not quite sure what the Member is asking as to where these vacancies are. They are in this area of the Estimates, but they do not have a specific location.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, it is my understanding now, and I thank the Minister for it, these are roving inspections, but if there is an underfunding for these people who are required to do this particular portion of the work in the inspections, then does that not put increased onus or pressure on those remaining in the department to carry on with those inspections and ensure the safety in compliance with the regulations of this province?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, this is a temporary thing. We are filling the positions. There is no major problem here that there is a trend developing this way or that way. We ran into one of these glitches. As I indicated to the Member before, we have 2,500 people working in this department and we keep filling these things as they come along, trying to get qualified people and there is no change in terms of the direction, in terms of our inspections. I mean, we are doing it and we are moving along with it.

Mr. Gaudry: In Activity Identification you have "Delivery of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods program, . . ." What is identified outside of Winnipeg for dangerous goods transportation as far as a highway is concerned so that they do not go through the City of Winnipeg?

Mr. Driedger: I want to indicate that the transportation of dangerous goods, for example in the city, the city designates routes which they can use. In the province, we allow them to travel on pretty well any of our PDHs or PRs providing that they have met with the safety aspect of it and that is where our inspectors do some of the checking.

Most of the people who haul hazardous goods check with the environmental people to make sure that they comply with these kinds of things and our inspectors, the roving ones that I was talking about, do some of the spot checks on these as well to make sure that they comply with the safety regulations as outlined by the department of the Clean Environment Commission.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairman, why would not 101 be designated as a route for dangerous goods?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, for example, when trucks enter from Kenora, we have an inspection area there and most of the truckers know what the regulations are and where they can go. As I indicated before, the perimeter is the responsibility of the province and truckers use that. The routes into the city are the responsibility of the city as to which routes they have designated as allowable for transportation of hazardous goods, but on the perimeter by and large it is our highway and, as I indicated before, they can use our highways for the transportation providing that they comply with the requirements of the Clean Environment Commission.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairman, maybe just a plug in here for our Premier (Mr. Filmon), who has come to St. Boniface at the SFM meeting and indicated that he would have bilingual signs where there is demand. I think here coming into St. Boniface we should have signs indicating where the dangerous routes to travel through the province or coming into St. Boniface.

Mr. Driedger: I am told that there are signs up in the city; they are symbols, basically. I always have a little problem when it comes to the symbols, whether they are French or English, when I see a picture of these things, but I will check that to see whether there is some way we can differentiate that.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(e) Transport Compliance: (1) Salaries and Wages \$1,705,000—pass; 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$388,800.00.

Mr. Reid: There is an indication here that it is Recoverable from Canada, \$115,000.00. Have we recovered those funds?

Mr. Driedger: Yes, we have. That comes under the National Safety Code, and most cases where it says Recoverable from Canada, these are agreements. There is no problem in terms of recovering these monies.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, I see in Other Operating Expenses, down by \$10,000.00. I imagine the Transportation Minister might want to trim a little bit more, but what is included in Other Operating Expenses?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, if the Member would look under page 9 of the Supplementary Information, under Other Operating expenses: Hotels, Meals, Computer related charges, Loss, damage, insurance and extraordinary costs, Publications, Employee education assistance, Relocation and transfer costs, Other (membership fees, hospitality, uniforms, conference/convention registration fees, incidental allowances).

* (1740)

Mr. Reid: One question pertaining to my previous question. The Minister indicated that we have recovered the \$115,000 from the federal Government and most areas, he says, are recovered. The question I have is, after we have expended the money and then recovered this from the federal Government, where does the recoverable money go to?

Mr. Driedger: Where all the money goes that gets recovered, it goes straight to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) and to general revenue.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(e) Transport Compliance: (2) Other Expenditures \$388,800—pass.

2.(f) District Offices (1) Salaries and Wages \$7,832,300.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Again we see a decrease in this section. Could I have an explanation on the decrease in salaries?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, here again, if the Members look, we have 236 SYs in this particular area. This deals with all our district offices and stuff of that nature. This is an ongoing turnover in staff that is taking place, and that is where the reduction is taking place. We have probably been maybe, for whatever reason, possibly slower in terms of filling it.

I want to indicate to the Member as well, with these many staff years very often you fill—if somebody retires and was at the top category of his wage scale and we bring in somebody at the bottom end, you have quite a difference, a substantial difference in some of these wages. When you look at 236 positions, this is an ongoing thing so it

fluctuates to some degree. That is basically all that has happened there.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, so it would mean that you have had several retirements or whatever, or people who have left the department?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, because we are talking of many employees here, like I say, 236, it could be that other positions within my Department of Highways opened up, they bid onto a different position and until we get this position filled—when you have that many people, you know it does not remain stable on an ongoing basis.

You have movement in there because—and I would hope it would be that way because I certainly would hope that employees, if opportunities for bettering themselves come along, they would avail themselves of that. That is basically what has happened in this area here.

Madam Chairman: 2.(f) District Offices: (1) Salaries and Wages \$7,832,300—(pass); 2.(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$1,259,500.00.

Mr. Reid: Under the District Offices, Other Expenditures, I see there has been a significant increase in that area, 46.5 percent. Could the Minister give me an explanation for that, please?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I would be very pleased to. Basically what this indicates is an increase in cost of automobile, telephone, travel, office expense attributed to the increase in our highway construction program. As our program has been expanding, I am very proud to say, with that are related costs that come up, and that is what that is all about.

Madam Chairman: 2.(f) District Offices: (2) Other Expenditures \$1,259,500—(pass).

2.(g) Other Jurisdictions: (1) Gross Expenditures \$3,517,000.00.

Mr. Reid: Once again we see significant changes in the area of Gross Expenditures, a 37 percent decrease in the funding in those areas. Could the Minister give me an explanation for that, please?

Mr. Driedger: Basically these expenditures in this department are dependent on request for services on 100 percent recoverable basis from Government departments and other jurisdictions. Basically this amount is recovered from municipalities, cities, towns, local government districts, Government agencies, private citizens and credited to general revenue—recoverable from Canada, the federal

Government when we do some of this. We do some work for Hydro. These are the kinds of things that basically come into this category, and we recover the biggest percentage of those.

Mr. Reid: If I understood and heard the Minister correctly, these were or are recoverable expenses and should be recoverable from these different jurisdictions?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, if they are outside of Government, they are all 100 percent recoverable and within Government we would cover them, too, but -(interjection)- Yes, they are shown on our budget here and recovered back in the budget.

Madam Chairman: 2.(g) Other Jurisdictions: (1) Gross Expenditures \$3,517,000—(pass); 2.(g)(2) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations.

Mr. Reid: Once again we see a significant decrease in the recoverable amounts, 64 percent. I would ask the Minister to give me an explanation for this, please.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, basically what this is, it is a lack of request for our services. If they do not request, we do not deliver on these. That is what has happened. There has been less demand for our services.

Madam Chairman: Item 2.(g)(2) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations \$1,297,000—(pass).

Resolution 79: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$77,044,100 for Highways and Transportation, Operations and Maintenance, \$77,044,100, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—(pass).

Item 3. Planning and Design and Land Surveys \$3,831,200 (a) Planning and Design: (1) Salaries and Wages \$1,915,200.00.

Mr. Reid: I see in this item as well there has been a decrease in the funding for this area. I see that the staff here has appeared to be constant. I am wondering if there is less planning going on, less planning and design taking place, or do we have vacancies in this area?

* (1750)

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, there is no change in the SYs. What happened was we have had some topnotch qualified people that left at the top end of the wage bracket. We have brought in people at the lower level, and as a result we pay them less. That is the reflection there, but we have the same number of people.

I want to indicate that probably we are getting more bang for our buck right now in our design field because of the escalated programs that we have brought forward. We have them, I think, putting out tremendous efforts in terms of keeping up with the demands that we make from our end in terms of expanded programs. I am very pleased with the work that we are getting there.

Madam Chairman: Item 3.(a) Planning and Design: (1) Salaries and Wages \$1,915,200—(pass); 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures \$396,500.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Madam Chairperson, there is an increase of \$60,000 in that Other Expenditures. Could we have an explanation?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I would like to indicate that every second year we produce a new highway map. We have a new one every year, but we do major revisions on the highway map every second year, and this is the year it will be done. This winter we will be redoing the highway map. We do that every second year and so there will be —(interjection)— Well, we hope, the Member for Portage (Mr. Connery) wants to know. I sort of liked that picture. That is what is happening this year.

Madam Chairman: Item 3.(a)(2) Other Expenditures \$396,500—pass.

3.(b) Land Surveys: (1) Salaries and Wages \$1,220,000—pass. 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$299,500.00.

Mr. Gaudry: Yes, Madam Chairperson, again there is another \$50,000 increase in that department. Could we have the details?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I am very pleased to indicate why there is an increase here. It is because of our expanded program, and because we have more projects on stream all the time so we have a bigger requirement in terms of getting this work done, to get the survey and design done.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, are we on Other Expenditures or Salaries and Wages?

An Honourable Member: Either one.

Mr. Reid: Either one, okay. I have a question concerning some of the projects that are ongoing under the Land Surveys here, and I am not sure if this would be the appropriate or proper area to ask this question in conjunction with the completion of the Perimeter Highway. Is there surveying being done for that project at the current time, or would this be more appropriate under a different section?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, I would like to indicate that part of the work I have announced under the northeast Perimeter is under Capital Program, but by and large we have some of the design would be coming under this area here in terms of the surveys. Under Land Surveys, there would be some of that work under here. Most of it basically has been done. There were some adjustments that had to be made so a portion of that project would be under this one here.

Mr. Reid: If I understand the Minister correctly, then the surveying is ongoing for that project and that the design work is now taking place so that we can start construction or move into construction for that project.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, yes, the survey work is pretty well completed. We are into the design stage at the present time, both with our staff as well as with a consulting firm. As the Member well knows if he is interested in the northeast Perimeter that we have three major structures that have to be involved there. We have either an overpass or underpass. We have a consultant who is doing the study on that intersection there, and then we have two main line railways running out. In total the project will be in excess of \$60 million. Some of the design is being done, and surveying done, by our department, and we also hire consultants to do the design work for some of these major structures, which is what we normally do within the department.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, I ask the Minister to please tell us today who the consulting company is and when we can expect to see the consulting work completed, and when we will move into the next phase?

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, DS-Lea is one consulting firm that is doing one portion of it, which is only the intersection at 15 and the Perimeter. We will be hiring, over a period of time, other consultants to do it in stages, because the Member can well appreciate that this will be a lengthy process that we are going through in terms of—if we finally initiate it after it is sitting dormant for 25 years, and with the project being over \$60 million we will be doing it in stages. We expect that possibly during the course of maybe the middle of next year we will be getting the consultant's report on one stage of it. We will probably be looking at doing further design work, maybe asking for proposal calls or appointing other consultants to do it.

Subsequent then, over a period of time, money being available, then we would start doing—let us say we would stage the construction of the whole project. We would probably tender a certain project based on the consultant's recommendations that we have right now at 15. We would hire another consultant to do the other under-overpass over the major rail lines going through there. So it would be done in stages. I know the next question is going to be, well, when are we going to actually start doing some grading. That will depend a little bit on the finances available I suppose and the decision of Government, but I would indicate that the commitment has been made to get the northeast Perimeter on stream and that will be ongoing activity, you know, to consultants and ultimately grading work taking place. I cannot be more specific in terms of the time frame that it is going to take until we actually start moving dirt.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, the Minister indicated that there was an underpass-overpass that is being considered. Could he give me an explanation of that, please? It was my previous understanding, and I believe that there had been some consultation work done previously by the previous administration, and we were looking at an overpass only. Maybe the Minister can explain his comments, please.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, why I mentioned overpass-underpass, this is why we hire consultants to look at the options and come forward with the best recommendation as to which is most feasible to do that. We expect that possibly in the one case with the rail line, depending if the consultant concurs, CN is going to be an underpass and CP is going to be an overpass. By and large, those are the general directions that the consultants have, and then they do the design work of exactly what is going to take place there. I was not trying to confuse the Member

by saying overpass-underpass, because there is some of both taking place, and we have three major structures there.

Mr. Reid: Madam Chair, if the Minister or his department has any information, and it is available, I would be interested to look at some of it to see the project as it is planned. It is my understanding that in the previous administration there was some consulting work that had been done, and I thought that the project was all but ready to go to the construction phase. I may be misinformed of that, of course, but I am sure the Minister could bring me more up to date on that.

Also, I believe that there was a consultation process that had taken place in the community surrounding where that construction was going to take place. I am wondering whether or not the Minister and his department are going to undertake to consult or allow the public some input into this project, once again.

Mr. Driedger: Madam Chairman, those processes have all taken place. I do not anticipate that we would go through that process again in terms of public hearings, et cetera. By and large, I think the onus is now to come forward with the required design and then the required funding to actually start undertaking the construction.

Madam Chairman: Item 3.(b)(2) Other Expenditures \$299,500—pass.

Resolution 80. RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,831,200 for Highways and Transportation, Planning and Design and Land Surveys \$3,831,200 for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1991—pass.

The hour being 6 p.m., I am leaving the Chair and, as previously agreed by the House, will return at 7 p.m.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Thursday, November 22, 1990

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS		MAST	
Tabling of Reports		Carstairs; Derkach	1670
Supplementary Information		Fuel Pricing	
Manitoba Health Services Commission,		Maloway; Connery	1671
Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba		Urban Native Strategy	
Orchard	1665	Friesen; Ducharme	1671
Introduction of Bills		Provincial Revitalization	
Bill 22 - Statute Law Amendment		Friesen; Downey	1671
Act, 1990-91		Winnipeg Education Centre	
Manness	1665	Friesen; Ducharme	1672
Oral Questions		Winnipeg Rivers	
Recycling Program		Edwards; Ducharme	1672
Doer; Downey	1665	Manitoba Intercultural Council	
Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project		Cerilli; Mitchelson	1673
Doer; Downey	1666	Mathematics Examination	
Conawapa Dam Project		Chomiak; Derkach	1674
Doer; Downey	1666	Strategies For Success	
Involuntary Sterilization		Chomiak; Derkach	1674
Chomiak; Manness; Orchard;	1666	Tabling of Reports	
Bankruptcy Rates		Supplementary Information	
Carstairs; Downey	1667	Northern and Native Affairs	
Unemployed Help Centres		Downey	1674
Carstairs; Gilleshammer	1668	ORDERS OF THE DAY	
Metis Child and Family Services		Concurrent Committees of Supply	
Barrett; Gilleshammer	1668	Family Services	1675
Burns Meats Ltd. - Brandon		Fitness and Sport	1701
L. Evans; Ernst	1669	Highways and Transportation	1715
Mathematics Examinations			
Carstairs; Derkach	1670		