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

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS
(HANSARD)**

40 Elizabeth II

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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

LIB - Liberal; ND - New Democrat; PC - Progressive Conservative

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
ALCOCK, Reg	Osborne	LIB
ASHTON, Steve	Thompson	ND
BARRETT, Becky	Wellington	ND
CARR, James	Crescentwood	LIB
CARSTAIRS, Sharon	River Heights	LIB
CERILLI, Marianne	Radisson	ND
CHEEMA, Gulzar	The Maples	LIB
CHOMIAK, Dave	Kildonan	ND
CONNERY, Edward	Portage la Prairie	PC
CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.	Ste. Rose	PC
DACQUAY, Louise	Seine River	PC
DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.	Roblin-Russell	PC
DEWAR, Gregory	Selkirk	ND
DOER, Gary	Concordia	ND
DOWNEY, James, Hon.	Arthur-Virden	PC
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DUCHARME, Gerry, Hon.	Riel	PC
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ERNST, Jim, Hon.	Charleswood	PC
EVANS, Clif	Interlake	ND
EVANS, Leonard S.	Brandon East	ND
FILMON, Gary, Hon.	Tuxedo	PC
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LAURENDEAU, Marcel	St. Norbert	PC
MALOWAY, Jim	Elmwood	ND
MANNES, Clayton, Hon.	Morris	PC
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ORCHARD, Donald, Hon.	Pembina	PC
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PLOHMAN, John	Dauphin	ND
PRAZNIK, Darren, Hon.	Lac du Bonnet	PC
REID, Daryl	Transcona	ND
REIMER, Jack	Niakwa	PC
RENDER, Shirley	St. Vital	PC
ROCAN, Denis, Hon.	Gladstone	PC
ROSE, Bob	Turtle Mountain	PC
SANTOS, Conrad	Broadway	ND
STEFANSON, Eric, Hon.	Kirkfield Park	PC
STORIE, Jerry	Flin Flon	ND
SVEINSON, Ben	La Verendrye	PC
VODREY, Rosemary	Fort Garry	PC
WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy	St. Johns	ND
WOWCHUK, Rosann	Swan River	ND

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, May 6, 1991

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

PRAYERS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Harry Enns (Minister of Natural Resources): Mr. Speaker, honourable members will be pleased that the tradition of this House carries on with a presentation of a sample of our nursery stock, white pine spruce tree, particularly notable on this occasion because this Chamber has had considerable debate on the bill introduced by my colleague, the Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship (Mrs. Mitchelson) with respect to the white spruce tree before you.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, simply to read the proclamation that I issued this morning:

WHEREAS Canada's forests are one of the major aspects of our national heritage;

AND WHEREAS our forests provide millions of Canadians and visitors with opportunities for healthful recreation and sport each year;

AND WHEREAS these same forests provide protection in our watersheds for soils and crops and form a home for wildlife and also provide thousands of Canadians with jobs in the forest products industries;

AND WHEREAS the losses suffered each year through man-made forest fires are detrimental to the interests of all Canadians;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Forestry Association is well-known for its efforts in reminding us of our ever present responsibility for the conservation of our forest wealth and is co-operating in the promotion of a national week focusing attention on our forest resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN THAT I, Harry J. Enns, Minister of Natural Resources, do hereby recognize the days from May 5 to May 11, 1991, as National Forest Week. Thank you.

* (1335)

Mr. Cliff Evans (Interlake): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I would like to reply to this traditional event that we have here today.

It is an important aspect of our environment. We certainly do appreciate the values of our trees and our environment. We would also like to make mention that with the Dutch elm disease and such, we, here on this side, work along with everybody in the House to maintain our environment and our trees. Perhaps the minister will be so kind as to work very hard to get the Dutch elm disease program back in and keep that going. On behalf of myself and my colleagues, thank you very much.

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and join with the minister in wishing all Manitobans well in this, the National Forest Week. We salute the efforts of the Manitoba Forestry Association in coming forward with this week and this important event.

Mr. Speaker, I notice that one of the whereas's in this proclamation says that the losses suffered each year through man-made forest fires are detrimental to the interests of all Canadians. We know that well in this province. Unfortunately, we know as well the detriment to forests which can be created, not just by forest fires, but by man-made cutting rights and the allowance of our forests to be depleted unreasonably and unwisely for the future of all Manitobans.

That is something which we believe this government has indeed a lot to learn about, Mr. Speaker. We hope that in National Forest Week, this minister may reconsider the cuts to his department and to the Forestry Branch, some 231 jobs, which is definitely going to impact on the health and the survivability of our forests.

I would ask the minister to take this proclamation to heart, and not just forest fires are putting our forests at risk, the very actions of the government of the day. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to remind the honourable minister of our Rule 19.(4) which states quite clearly that a minister of the Crown may make an announcement or a statement to the House, but that

copies of the announcement or the statement shall be made available to the House also.

As much as I appreciate the honourable minister tabling a proclamation, I believe there was much more to the minister's statement.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill 36—The Legal Aid Services Society of Manitoba Amendment Act

Hon. Clayton Manness (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. McCrae), I move, seconded by the Minister of Energy and Mines (Mr. Neufeld), that Bill 36, The Legal Aid Services Society of Manitoba Amendment Act (Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société d'aide juridique du Manitoba), be introduced and that the same be now received and read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Introduction of Guests

Mr. Speaker: Prior to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have with us this afternoon from the Hugh John Macdonald School eighty Grade 9 students, and they are under the direction of Rudy Turman. This school is located in the constituency of the honourable member for Point Douglas (Mr. Hickey).

On behalf of all honourable members, I welcome you here this afternoon.

* (1340)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

Pines Project Minister's Position

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Last week, it was demonstrated in this House that not only are there numbers of citizens in the city of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba opposed to the Pines project, but the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) courageously admitted that he was opposed in cabinet to this ill-advised project, Mr. Speaker, and put clearly on the record his position which I salute the minister for, and all Manitobans salute the minister for taking a courageous and honest position on this project.

The Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ernst) is responsible for the affairs of all Winnipeggers, and I would ask the Minister of Urban Affairs: What is

the position his government took when he represented the affairs of all Winnipeg at the cabinet table dealing with the Pines project and the potential encroachment upon the Winnipeg International Airport as articulated by the advisory council which his department signed, as articulated by this Minister of Transportation, as articulated by Marshall Rothstein who is the advisor to the government on transportation matters?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think it was known last week that I, in fact, wrote to the City of Winnipeg suggesting that they take a very strong and hard look at the whole question of the impact of the airport on the city of Winnipeg and vice versa.

There are great tracts of land adjacent to the airport as yet undeveloped where, in fact, there have been proposals from time to time put forward to suggest that development should take place at those lands. Mr. Speaker, I think before any Plan Winnipeg amendments are approved—that is, any change in the existing development pattern of the city of Winnipeg—before any of those changes take place, that the City of Winnipeg should review, and I have asked them to do that, to review within Plan Winnipeg the airport, the impacts on the airport, and to review the question of how strongly they put in Plan Winnipeg the details with respect to the airport and its operations.

Mr. Doer: I would ask the same minister how, on November of 1990, the former Minister of Urban Affairs could prepare a document dealing with the Plan Winnipeg and state very clearly on page 4 of this document, which I will table, that the province is committed to the promotion and protection of the Winnipeg International Airport. It raises the economic resource of this airport and further raises the policies that the province will support to protect the airport from unacceptable, incompatible land use, encourage development support and take advantage of the airport operations to ensure an accessible and convenient airport location.

I ask the Minister of Urban Affairs: Which hat was he wearing in cabinet when he approved the housing project in St. James? Was he wearing the Urban Affairs hat in terms of his role, his sworn duty to protect all of Winnipeg? Was he wearing the hat that submitted this document to the City of Winnipeg, or was he wearing the hat of his friends in the Winnipeg west area in approval of this project

which is not compatible with his own development plan for the city of Winnipeg?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would remind the honourable Leader of the Opposition of *Beauchesne 6th Edition*, 411, which says a question may not seek information about matters which are in their nature secret, such as decisions or proceedings of cabinet, and I would ask the honourable Leader to rephrase his question, please.

Mr. Doer: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister why he did not take the recommendations in his own Plan Winnipeg document that was submitted to the City of Winnipeg, why he is not practising what he is preaching to the City of Winnipeg with the decisions he made on the Pines development.

Mr. Ernst: Mr. Speaker, what happens is a question of whose perception that this particular project, the Rotary Pines project—would in fact impact significantly on the airport in the years to come. I did a little investigation over the weekend.

There are three apartment buildings, Mr. Speaker, located at the corner of Mount Royal Road and Portage Avenue. Those three apartment buildings are Park Terrace Apartments, Park Towers apartments and the St. James Place apartments. Those apartments are overflowed every day, in one case since the 1950s, in the next case from the 1960s, where those buildings are overflowed daily, night and day, by aircraft landing at Winnipeg International Airport on Runway 1836.

Mr. Speaker, in the question of the Park Towers apartments, there are 121 suites in that building. There is one vacancy. In the St. James Place apartments, there are 87 apartments where there are two vacancies. In the Park Terrace Apartments immediately next door, there are 67 suites and there are no vacancies. I am informed by the property managers of those particular buildings, that type of vacancy record has been ongoing since those buildings were constructed.

I think this building, located now some four-tenths of a kilometre west of those particular buildings, would, in fact, not impact on the operations of the airport significantly. On that basis, it was approved.

* (1345)

Pines Project Environment Assessment

Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer the question. I refer the question to the Premier.

We know now that this project received preferential treatment to other projects that were being submitted at the same time. We know now it was contrary to the advice of the advisory committee on transportation. We know now that it was contrary to the recommendation of his own Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger). We know now it is against the advice of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and people concerned about jobs and economic development in the province. We know now it is contrary to the document the province has submitted to the City of Winnipeg on Plan Winnipeg.

I would ask the Premier: If he is not going to stop the project as we asked him last Friday, will he now initiate a full independent environmental assessment, because the project was approved by the city in '89 and The Environment Act was proclaimed in 1990, and stop funds for that project until that environmental assessment is concluded?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated last week, the project was approved because it was approved by the City of Winnipeg who went through extensive public hearing processes with countless opportunities to hear the public, to hear all of the representations including every single comment and every single criticism that has been placed on the table by the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues in the opposition benches.

We know, as well, that the project was consistent with the zoning and land use requirements of Plan Winnipeg which he, the Leader of the Opposition, approved when he was the Minister of Urban Affairs. We know, as well, that the project is approved by the St. James Chamber of Commerce, St. James-Assiniboia Chamber of Commerce which is the Chamber of Commerce for the area in which the project and, indeed, the airport is located.

We know, as well, that the project has substantial approval and support by the people of St. James-Assiniboia area, primarily seniors who are looking for low-cost, high-quality housing in the area and want to have a place to go when they retire. Under all those circumstances, the project was

approved because it met the criteria of the Seniors RentalStart program as laid down by the former NDP government. Under all those conditions, it was approved.

Pines Project Development Guidelines

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Housing has very lengthy and detailed guidelines for the Seniors RentalStart program. The guidelines are very specific. They say, quote: Groups must be properly incorporated prior to receiving project development funding. The St. James-Assiniboia Rotary Pines project was not incorporated before they received their first grant. Other guidelines refer to equity in the land.

Why has the Minister of Housing approved conditional project development funding and not followed the guidelines for the Rotary Pines project since they have no interest in the property on Portage Avenue?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Housing): Mr. Speaker, as in many cases when housing projects, both private and public, proceed, they proceed on the basis of an option on the land. Rather than invest in the land and find out later that they are not going to be able to utilize the land or to utilize it in the way they had originally anticipated, they take an option.

My understanding is that option was taken by one of the consultants with respect to this particular project, Akman developments limited. With that option on the property, they have proceeded both to zoning which they had approved by the City of Winnipeg, and now they are going through the processes with the Department of Housing in order to achieve a RentalStart program's funding commitment under that program.

* (1350)

Offer to Purchase

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Housing: Why was the Rotary Pines project approved when there is no option to purchase registered on the title which we checked at the Land Titles Office this morning? There is no offer to purchase registered on any of the lots.

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Housing): Mr. Speaker, I do not suspect for a minute that options that are taken on land to purchase land are

registered on the title at all, very infrequently, I would suspect.

Mr. Speaker, what would be required in order to proceed with the zoning is the permission of the owners of the property to allow that particular agent to proceed with the zoning. They would not be allowed to proceed with the zoning until such time as that was concurred in by the owners of the four private homes that exist on the site. I think that occurs all the time and is nothing extraordinary.

Cancellation

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Mr. Speaker, will this minister cancel the Rotary Pines project immediately since they have not followed the incorporation requirement, and there is no legal interest in the land? Will he do the right thing?

Hon. Jim Ernst (Minister of Housing): Mr. Speaker, the question that the honourable member raises with respect to the legal interest in the land, the legal interest in the land does not necessarily require registration against the title. I think if you would ask any real estate operator in the city of Winnipeg whether or not an option against the land is registered against the land on a frequent basis, the answer would be no.

As I indicated earlier, it would require the permission of the people optioning the land to the development company, that they would require their permission in order to proceed with the zoning. When the zoning proceeded, they had that permission.

Pines Project Government Support

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): My question is to the Premier.

Throughout this debate we have heard the Premier make the case that the province only supported this project after it had been supported by the St. James-Assiniboia Chamber, the public, by citizens and whatever, but in fact, Mr. Speaker—and I will table the minutes of the City of Winnipeg-St. James-Assiniboia Community Committee meeting which took place on May 16, 1989. It states, and I quote: Mr. R. Lev indicated that they had met with the Minister of Housing and that he had indicated that they were likely to be successful in obtaining the necessary funding approval and that they should have that approval after the June 5, 1989, budget is presented.

The facts are that this government has been behind this project from Day One despite the opposition.

Will the Premier finally admit that support from the beginning, and will he now withdraw his support for this project?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Leader of the Liberal Party unequivocally that the matter did not come to cabinet until sometime early this year. I know nothing else of the matter, and she would have to ask the individual involved as to his source. The matter could not have been given any approval by cabinet because it did not come to cabinet prior to earlier this year.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to believe, quite frankly, that we have developers quoting the government of the day, but the government of the day seems to have no knowledge of it.

Vacancy Rate

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a second document. This document is an advertisement which was placed in people's homes, in their mailboxes. Contrary to the Premier's words a few minutes ago, they advertise the Rotary Pines as affordable upscale housing for active self-sufficient seniors over 55.

My question to the Premier is: Why is he so convinced that there are so many people lining up at the doors when it is clear through this drop in mailboxes of last weekend that they are still trying to attract tenants to this project?

* (1355)

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): Upscale affordable—affordable is the key word. Mr. Speaker, when we speak of credibility, we have to question the credibility of the Leader of the Liberal Party who was quoted in Saturday's paper as saying that her sources in cabinet told her that the Premier forced the issue through. I would say that if she has any sources in cabinet who attend cabinet meetings, I will eat this paper.

When we talk about credibility, Mr. Speaker, I invite any member of the media to talk to any member of cabinet and ask them whether or not they would ever share any information of substance with the Leader of the Liberal Party.

The fact of the matter is that the Rotary Pines project has had very substantial support from the community and from seniors who want to—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Filmon: This project has had substantial support from seniors throughout the community, and indeed many, many of them have come out, expressed their support and in fact put down deposits on it. That matter, of course, is well known, Mr. Speaker.

RentalStart Program Premier's Involvement

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the developers have been bragging about meetings which they have had with the Premier saying that he had met with them and that he certainly had given his approval to this project.

Can the Premier, in the House, tell this House if it is his practice to meet with all RentalStart applicants for assistance under the RentalStart program?

(Mrs. Louise Dacquay, Deputy Speaker, in the Chair)

Madam Deputy Speaker, my question to the Premier is: Is it his practice to meet with applicants of the RentalStart program in order to assure them that they are getting grants or to perhaps persuade them that they are not getting grants?

Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier): No, it is not, Madam Deputy Speaker. That is why I have not met with anybody from the Rotary Pines project, from the Rotary Club or Mr. Lev or anybody else involved with this project.

Free Trade Agreement Minister's Support

Mr. John Plohn (Dauphin): Madam Deputy Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture.

On April 4, the Minister of Agriculture stood up in this House and in response to our Leader, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Doer), he said: I do not fear that they will deteriorate our ability to get a fair price from our millers in this country.

He was responding to the question regarding the impact of American wheat for domestic markets flowing into this country under the Free Trade Agreement. At that time, my Leader asked the

minister what action the government was prepared to take on this. Yet on Saturday, the Agriculture minister is quoted as saying: It is time to throw the gauntlet down and say, enough is enough. I oppose opening the border at this time, given what they are doing with their export subsidies—Findlay said.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Agriculture when he had this change of heart on the Free Trade Agreement. Will he now come clean and make his position clear with regard to the Free Trade Agreement? How is it possible to make this kind of a statement and at the same time support the trade agreement with the United States which is allowing retaliation?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Deputy Speaker, this is a very complex question, and I hope the member will bear with me while we try to describe the events that are taking place.

Yes, we object to the use of the Export Enhancement Program by the United States. It is violating the agreement; there is no question about that. We object to the fact that they are dragging out the hog countervail question even though Canada has won it. We object to that. I have talked to the Minister of Agriculture federally, Mr. Mazankowski, in February and April, saying, on that basis, let us try to find some technical means we can hold this up to try to negotiate settlement of the other two issues.

He analyzed that. The subsequent minister who came in looked at the details of the agreement and found there was no way that we could hold up the present agreement with regard to opening the border on the two-year-average basis. They had to make this move. I want to tell the member that Canada has fared very well in terms of exporting to the United States in wheat, durum, oats, barley, pork, canola and flax. These items I have put on the docket before. I have told the House that we are faring very well. We have a quality product; we have a willing buyer down there. When the border is opened on wheat, I know we will continue to compete very well.

It is unfortunate it is opened at this time without resolution of the other two factors, but it was not possible, at this time, to get them resolved.

* (1400)

Mr. Plohman: The minister is contradicting himself again. He says that they should keep the border closed, Madam Deputy Speaker, and then he says

that there is this \$1-billion surplus which Charlie Mayer says the Americans will retaliate on if the border remains closed by this government.

I would ask this minister now whether he will rectify and clarify his position with regard to the Free Trade Agreement. How can he support the trade agreement if, at the same time, he is saying the border should remain closed?

Mr. Findlay: I support the agreement as it is written, and I do not like what the United States is doing in terms of really violating the principle of the agreement and the intent of the agreement on the hog countervail question. We oppose those two actions by them, but on the basis of this agreement and with regard to the opening of the border, if they are following the letter of the law, there was no technical basis on which it could be objected to.

We do not like it at this time. We would like the other two resolved before we open the border, but the federal officials have looked at the legal consequence of doing that. If we did hold it up and they refused to accept our products moving across the border, the member has already indicated \$1 billion of trade surplus that we might jeopardize if we were to fight this if there was not some legal technical basis on which to do it.

Mr. Plohman: Madam Deputy Speaker, this is clearly grandstanding on this minister because he knows Manitobans want to hear opposition at this time.

Renegotiation

Mr. John Plohman (Dauphin): I ask the Premier, given the fact that the former Agriculture minister federally, Don Mazankowski, said that the subsidy trigger level was a fluke under the trade agreement and they were going to fight it, will the Premier now admit that the agreement he and his government so enthusiastically supported and still support in this House is a badly flawed document and should be renegotiated immediately, and will he call for that renegotiation now?

Hon. Glen Findlay (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Deputy Speaker, he says it is a flawed agreement. I would like to again put some numbers on the record for that member. The United States is our eighth largest exporter for grains and meat products from this country. I also want to tell the member that the United States is our first market for oats. It is our first market for malting barley, our third

best market for durum wheat and we have a billion-dollar surplus with that market.

Madam Deputy Speaker, to say that agreement is flawed and that we did not have fair access to their market is a ludicrous statement by that member. We have done very well under the agreement. We have done very well with free trade in meat overall, long before the agreement was in place—a trade surplus continues with that country. I think Canada has fared very well and will continue to because we have quality products, and we are aggressive in selling that product.

Also, I would like to tell the member that the Canadian Wheat Board has been a little cautious in being aggressive to the American market. Now that the border is open, the Wheat Board will get much more aggressive, and our sales will increase very dramatically.

Free Trade Agreement Impact Manufacturing Industry

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): Madam Deputy Speaker, the response from the Minister of Agriculture is typical of this government when it comes to recognizing the dilemma that we are in because of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States and now the proposed free trade agreement with the United States and Mexico.

My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. Unlike the recession of 1980-81, when indeed Canada and Manitoba lost manufacturing jobs, the Conference Board of Canada is now predicting that the loss of permanent jobs will be more than double the last recession across Canada.

Can the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism identify for the people of Manitoba how many permanent manufacturing jobs are not going to be coming back to the province of Manitoba because of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, and can the minister indicate whether he has had any final report on the consultations he was holding regarding the free trade agreement with Mexico in Manitoba?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Madam Deputy Speaker, if I am allowed the time, I would like to address at least two of the questions that were asked by the honourable member for Flin Flon.

He often refers to various economic indicators, and this is an opportunity to refer that Manitoba is faring above the national average on seven of the 13 indicators used by economists.

In terms of the Free Trade Agreement, if I can remind the honourable member of two recent reports by the Canada West Foundation and by the Royal Bank of Canada that clearly point that in terms of what information is available, that Canada and Manitoba are faring better with the Free Trade Agreement and that our net export deficit has, in fact, been cut in half in the last five years. Certainly, the numbers speak for themselves.

He asked me about the ongoing negotiations vis-a-vis the Canada-U.S.-Mexico free trade, and that has provided us with a good opportunity, Madam Deputy Speaker, to ask people doing business in this province what the impact of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States has been. There certainly is no evidence in terms of direct contact with people doing business in our province to substantiate the kind of suggestions and accusations made by the honourable member for Flin Flon. In fact, they do suggest—and in most instances, it has benefitted their businesses.

Certainly, once our consultations are complete—we have had about seven or eight of them to date; we have a couple more to go. We anticipate they will be done within the next week or so. We will be providing the information as part of the position that our government does, in fact, take, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Storie: Madam Deputy Speaker, the minister continues to use the pro-free trade rhetoric without any substantial facts to back him up.

Price Waterhouse Report

Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon): On April 8, the minister indicated that a survey being undertaken by Price Waterhouse would be available for tabling in the House.

My question is: Can the minister indicate now whether that report from Price Waterhouse on the implications of the free trade agreement with Canada and Mexico is available? Can this House have a copy?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Yes, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Storie: I assume, Madam Deputy Speaker, that means we will have a copy of that.

Free Trade Agreement - Mexico Manitoba Position

Mr. Jerry Storle (Filn Flon): Madam Deputy Speaker, this week the Congress in the United States will be discussing fast tracking, the negotiations between Canada and Mexico and the United States. Can this minister indicate whether the government of Manitoba, through the First Minister (Mr. Filmon), has indicated to the federal government any Manitoba position with respect to these negotiations?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Madam Deputy Speaker, I have touched on that question before in this House. The time frame that we have discussed with the federal government is a response by approximately the end of June of this year.

We, like the Province of British Columbia, take seriously the opinions of Manitobans. We are going through the process of consultation with businesses, with labour, with academics, with all kinds of organizations here in our province, Madam Deputy Speaker, to help us as a government formulate our position, but also, to be very careful to express concerns of the people in Manitoba in light of that potential agreement.

We take that process very seriously. We are going through it right now. It will help us as a government formulate our position on behalf of Manitobans, and certainly, we will be doing that in the next several weeks.

Family Services of Winnipeg Inc. Funding Reinstatement

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): Madam Deputy Speaker, this government has done something that I never believed a government would do. In fact, in the 25 years that I have worked in this province, most of it in social services, no government has done so much to destroy the services available to vulnerable children and families as this government has in two short years.

First, they cut the funding for prevention. Now they are cutting the maintenance services available to teenagers in this province, and they are stopping providing support to vulnerable families. This can only lead to more kids being abused and more kids coming into care.

I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services today, if he is prepared to reverse his decisions

relative to Family Services of Winnipeg and to see that they get sufficient funding to provide the same level of services this year that they provided last year.

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): Madam Deputy Speaker, as usual, the Finance critic for the third party is partially correct.

The Family Services of Winnipeg Incorporated does have an extremely fine record of service in the province over the last 50 years and more and has worked with government to provide service for many vulnerable Manitobans.

At the present time, my department is committed to working with Family Services of Winnipeg Incorporated over the next few weeks to do a review of the existing services that they have and the existing rate structure that exists at that organization. We are prepared to explore options and alternatives which will help them maintain the services which they have provided in the past.

We have committed to that review and committed to having the review done fairly quickly, and we anticipate by the early part of June we will be able to have some results.

* (1410)

Deficit Relief

Mr. Reg Alcock (Osborne): It is interesting to note how many of these well-managed agencies who have run surpluses in the past are now in deficit as a result of the policies of this government. I am pleased to note, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the minister has reversed his policy on the withholding of the deficit funding in order to force agencies to sign gag orders, and he has agreed to let that money flow.

I would ask him: Is he prepared to compensate the agencies for the additional interest costs that they have incurred while he has dithered?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): I would like to correct the member who is factually incorrect on his first point, that the Family Services of Winnipeg Incorporated have had a surplus, and part of their shortfall for last year will be accessed from that surplus position that they have. We are committed to working with not only Family Services of Winnipeg Incorporated, but all of the service agencies in the province.

The member is asking that we pay the interest costs on debts that these organizations have

accumulated over the last year. We have been working with them on service contracts and trying to make them live within agreements that they are in the process of signing with us. Those agreements, some of them have been signed at this point in time and others are still being worked upon. We should have some resolution of that in the near future.

Mr. Alcock: Well, Madam Deputy Speaker, the minister got his answer partly right, but he did say something that is at variance with the information that others in the system have.

I would like to ask him specifically: Is he saying that in order to get that deficit relief, the agencies that have not received it have to sign the agreements as they were originally written, or have those agreements been withdrawn?

Mr. Gillehammer: Madam Deputy Speaker, our commitment continues to be with the children and families in the province of Manitoba. We have worked at great length with the agencies over the past six months to have them bring forward service agreements and to, in turn, put in place some funding agreements.

Some of the agencies, of course, have a good record over the last few years of living within their budgets, and we have been able to approve service plans for them. Others are in a much more serious deficit position. The work that we are doing with those agencies, those agency boards and those directors, is taking a longer period of time, and that work is continuing at this point. We would hope to have a resolution to that situation in the near future.

Child Care Programs Parent Fees Study

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): Madam Deputy Speaker, I find it passing strange that the government says that it is committed to families in Manitoba when, in addition to the information given by the Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock), three weeks ago the Department of Family Services decided to increase fees for parents of child care users between 18 percent and 47 percent in one year.

I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services if prior to that decision, his department did any impact studies at all to determine the number of families just above the subsidy level who would not be able to afford to send their children to day cares,

if any studies at all were done before this decision was made?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): Madam Deputy Speaker, the answer is yes. I would caution her today, as I have in the past, of accepting the information given by the critic for the Liberal Party and accepting that as fact. I know that she has been very wary about that in the past, and I just remind her of that.

The department has worked very closely with a working group over the last 18 months. That working group represented all of the organizations in the child care field. They brought forward some short-term recommendations which were accepted in total by this government. Recently they brought forward the long-term recommendations, and although we were not able to accept all of them, we did in substance accept most of them.

Those recommendations were the result of a good deal of study by a committee led by Mrs. Gayle Watson. The government has worked very well with that committee who met with child care workers and organizations throughout the province over the last 18 months. We were very pleased to be able to accept those recommendations.

Ms. Barrett: Madam Deputy Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Family Services if he would be willing to table the impact studies that were done by his department on those families just above the line who will not now be able to have their children in day care, and if he would be willing to table any statistical analysis that the day care field or his department have done on the 49 percent of families who currently use day care who do not get any form of subsidy—if he would table both of those documents, please.

Mr. Gillehammer: Madam Deputy Speaker, I know that the member is looking forward to the Estimates process, and we will be able to get into that in more detail.

I will tell you that the subsidies that are paid to parents who access the day care system have not changed. The subsidy levels have not changed from the previous year. In fact, we have put more money into subsidies for Manitoba families and extended the level at which those subsidies can be accessed.

I would also point out to her that under the former system, all of the grants that were put into the day care system were a subsidy to all of those who

accessed the day care system. Now we are targeting those subsidies to those people who need it the most.

Ms. Barrett: You talk to the people who are middle income about their suggestions—

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would the honourable member for Wellington put her question now, please?

Special Needs Funding

Ms. Becky Barrett (Wellington): I would like to ask the Minister of Family Services: In his announcement of April 18, he talked about \$370,000 additional funding going into special needs care, can he expand on that for the parents of the special needs children of Manitoba today in the House? Are additional children going to be able to be helped by this, or is this going to go into just helping the current numbers?

Hon. Harold Gillehammer (Minister of Family Services): Yes, part of our announcement on day care last month was additional money going for special needs. I think this is one of the areas that we feel that government can really assist the low-income families and other families who have special needs children who want to access day care so that those parents can pursue education or careers and have their children in day care.

We anticipate that we will be able to offer an enhanced program for special needs children and also be able to accommodate more children in the day cares across Manitoba with that additional funding.

CFB Shilo Future Status

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

The federal Conservative government is planning to make further drastic cuts to Canadian Armed Forces. CFB Portage and Winnipeg's Kapyong Barracks have already been slated for closure. Now, Mr. Felix Holtmann, the Conservative member of Parliament, has said that CFB Shilo could be closed. -(interjection)- If I could repeat, Mr. Felix Holtmann has said that CFB Shilo could be closed. Shilo, of course, is a very large base near Brandon, with a multimillion-dollar payroll.

Has the Minister of Industry any information on the future status of Shilo?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Madam Deputy Speaker, not at this time.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Well, because of the importance of Shilo to the Brandon area economy, indeed to the provincial economy, would this minister now forthwith—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member for Brandon East, please put his question now.

Mr. Leonard Evans: I wish the members opposite would take this matter seriously, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Would the Minister of Industry seek assurances from the federal government on the continued existence of Shilo in the light of the importance of this particular base to the provincial economy?

* (1420)

Mr. Stefanson: Madam Deputy Speaker, I want to assure the honourable member for Brandon East that we do take this matter very seriously, as we do each and every job in this province. Yes, I will undertake to pass on those comments as well.

Mr. Leonard Evans: I thank the minister for that undertaking.

Simplot Plant - Brandon Modernization

Mr. Leonard Evans (Brandon East): On a separate question to the same minister, as the minister knows, the Simplot plant in Brandon is being jeopardized by the construction of a high-tech fertilizer plant in the province of Saskatchewan by the Cargill company with the financial assistance of the Saskatchewan government.

Are the minister and his department now in serious—

Some Honourable Members: Oh, oh.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Would the honourable member for Brandon East please put his question now?

Mr. Leonard Evans: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am trying to put my question, but the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and others across the way keep

interrupting, so with your assistance, I will put the question.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Leonard Evans: Is the government now in serious final negotiations with the Simplot company in Brandon to assist it with regard to modernization of the plant so that it can continue to exist in the province of Manitoba?

Hon. Eric Stefanson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism): Yes, we are, Madam Deputy Speaker.

I have met with representatives from Simplot myself. Our department is in contact virtually almost daily. I get updates every few days. We are in very serious discussions with them on the future of their plant and what is happening in Saskatchewan and elsewhere.

Certainly, once again, I can undertake to clearly indicate to the honourable member for Brandon East that is a very serious matter. We are very concerned, and we are in a lot of contact with the representatives from Simplot.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The time for Question Period has now expired.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. Doug Martindale (Burrows): Madam Deputy Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), that under Rule 27.(1) the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the proposed provincial expenditure of public funds for the Rotary Pines project.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Before determining whether the motion meets the requirements of our Rule 27.(1), the honourable member for Burrows has five minutes to state his case for urgency of debate on this matter.

Mr. Martindale: Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe this is an urgent matter because we are into debate on bills, and there is no other opportunity during the daily course of the business to debate Rotary Pines. It is a matter of urgency because I have no doubt that it will be debated in cabinet on Wednesday, and I think the public would like to see it debated before it goes to cabinet again on Wednesday.

I believe it is a matter of urgency because the public believes there are two issues at stake in

funding to Rotary Pines. One is the economic health of Winnipeg International Airport, and the second is the question of fairness and whether other projects were given equal and fair consideration.

It is urgent that we discuss this matter today because people in Flin Flon want to know whether their Rotary project was treated fairly a year ago when they applied or whether it was treated differently than the Rotary Pines project. The Flin Flon Rotary submitted an application under Seniors RentalStart—

Madam Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I would like to remind the honourable member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) that his debate should be relevant to the urgency of the matter at hand.

Mr. Martindale: Madam Deputy Speaker, I believe it is urgent that people know whether this project is being given fair and equitable treatment compared to all the other projects in Manitoba. I believe that it is urgent that the members of the Charleswood-Tuxedo Lions project know whether their application was given fair and equitable treatment compared to the Rotary Pines. They signed up 56 percent of their units, contrary to what the Minister of Housing (Mr. Ernst) said, and they required deposits of \$1,000 which they later lowered to \$250 and they were given an initial grant of \$10,000. They were given no further funding, they were told that their funding was not available, and yet if they got an additional \$20,000 they claim that they certainly could have signed up 100 percent of the units. So why were they not given further project development funding?

This project has an appearance which we do not like. Rotary Pines has an appearance of having been cleared, the government appears to have cleared the decks to give preferential treatment to this project, contrary to the other five applicants.

Finally, we have checked the Land Titles, we have discovered that there is no legal interest in the land which is the proposed site for the Rotary Pines, and we believe that they have not met even the minimum criteria set out in the guidelines. We know that with the Flin Flon application, the applicants there were told they had one of the best applications, that it was totally complete. One of the things they did was they photocopied the Title of Deed. In the Rotary Pines case, they do not have the caveats or registered liens on their property to prove that they have clear title to this land. They might have

informal agreements with the property owners, but they have nothing registered with the Land Titles Office.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we know that there was an interest in the land because they had a caveat and the caveat expired, so that the current status of this applicant is in jeopardy. They have not followed the criteria that the others have gone through; in fact, there are major differences between the Rotary Pines project and other projects. At Niverville they had 10 tenders and they found that all of them were too high and they sent them back again, and they said to the lowest three, we want you to re-tender your project. What happened at Rotary Pines? They did not tender, they accepted a proposal from a developer.

So, Madam Deputy Speaker, we believe it is of urgent necessity that we debate this matter, that we find out how all the applicants were treated and whether all of them were treated fairly and equitably, or whether in fact there was favouritism involved in this particular sweetheart deal. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): Madam Deputy Speaker, we feel also that this is a matter for urgent public debate, the Rotary Pines issue.

There are many occasions when we are able to put forward questions through Executive Council debate, Department of Housing which will not be upon us for what could be a number of weeks, we have finished the budget debate, we have finished throne speech debate. It is in fact in the public's best interest that this be debated today for the simple reason that there is a public perception out there that what the government has done is all wrong and that has to be clarified. It is important that we get on the record, in a very clear fashion, as to why we believe the government has done the wrong thing, and what is not in the best interest of Manitobans.

We have heard from the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. We have heard from the City of Winnipeg Airport. There is concern about the airport noise, the whole question of the RentalStart program in terms of the high-income seniors that it is going to be serving and the demand for low-income senior housing, the direction that the government is bringing the program itself into. It received monies prior to even being incorporated, which is in direct conflict with the regulations that

have been set forward. The government has said that it is full, yet it is still advertising. Over the past weekend, they were advertising for space.

The perception in the public is that this issue has been mishandled from this government, and it needs to be clarified. There is nothing before us the next number of weeks that can guarantee that we will be able to debate this matter in the fashion in which it should be debated, so I would encourage you, Madam Deputy Speaker, to rule in favour of this emergency debate. Thank you very much.

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Madam Deputy Speaker, I have been in the House almost for 10 years. I have never, over that period of time, seen a more dismal effort in trying to determine urgency in the period of time that I have been here.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I understand why the Liberal spokesman would, of course, be inclined to support anything that the NDP brought forward as far as establishing urgency, but let me say, I think even he has taken a new low as to try and somehow develop an urgency argument out of the case for the issue as put forward by the NDP.

The NDP have failed to establish urgency. What they are wanting to argue is fairness. Let me say to members opposite, when you have competing projects for scarce resources, of course, everybody can bring the question of fairness forward and attempt to argue. We are not today, over the five minutes that we have, standing here in our places arguing fairness. We are arguing urgency.

Nowhere in the arguments put forward by both of the opposition parties have they made the case, if we are to debate this, set aside the ordinary business of the House and debate this matter, as to whether or not the principles around determining which of competing projects for scarce, limited funding indeed should be selected by the government. That is what in essence is the beef of the members opposite. They do not like the choice, and they do not accept the choice of the government of this project.

* (1430)

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you are well aware, members opposite have plenty of other opportunities to bring forward this discussion. I can tell them, for instance, that the Estimates of the Department of Housing will most likely be considered some time this week, failing that, next

week, in very short order, per the agreement that we entered into as political parties, as we have filed and tabled the list of Estimates.

Grievance time is available to all members as soon as I move the motion. Indeed, I believe it was this issue that was grieved upon on Thursday last, Madam Deputy Speaker, and indeed the members opposite have another opportunity to do so again today, if they so choose.

Private members' resolutions, members can bring forward that possibly if they would care to do so, dealing with this issue, because again the issue is fairness from their point of view. It is not urgency. Of course, concurrence, once we have hit the final time, the final consideration of all of the resolutions on the votes during the Estimates, they will of course have that opportunity.

Madam Deputy Speaker, in summation, I say to you that the opposition parties have failed miserably in their attempt to establish urgency. I ask you to rule in opposition to the motion and that I be allowed to bring forward the motion asking us to go into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates to be provided to Her Majesty. Thank you very much.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thank all honourable members for the advice provided respecting whether or not the motion proposed by the honourable member for Burrows (Mr. Martindale) satisfies the conditions which must be met if a matter is to proceed as a matter of urgent public importance.

The honourable member did provide the Speaker with the notice required under our subrule 27.(1). If a motion is to be debated as a matter of urgent public importance, the subject must be so pressing that the ordinary opportunities for debate will not allow it to be brought on early enough and the public interest will suffer if it is not given immediate attention. These conditions are set out in Beauchesne, Citations 389 and 390.

The honourable member has other opportunities, I believe, to address the question. He could raise the matter as a grievance when the motion to resolve into Committee of Supply is before the House.

I note also that the Estimates of the Department of Housing are near the top of the list for Estimate consideration in Room 255.

As much as I understand that this is a serious question about which the member is genuinely

concerned, I am not satisfied that the public interest will suffer if it is not debated today.

I must therefore rule the motion of the honourable member for Burrows out of order as a matter of urgent public importance, because I do not believe it warrants setting aside the regularly scheduled business of the House and because the honourable member will have other opportunities to debate it.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Opposition House Leader): Madam Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, I challenge your ruling.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The ruling of the Chair has been challenged. Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained? All those in favour, please say yea.

Some Honourable Members: Yea.

Madam Deputy Speaker: All those opposed, please say nay.

Some Honourable Members: Nay.

Madam Deputy Speaker: In my opinion the Yeas have it, and the ruling of the Chair is sustained.

Mr. Ashton: Yeas and Nays, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Call in the members.

The question before the House is, shall the ruling of this Chair be sustained?

A STANDING VOTE was taken, the result being as follows:

Yeas

Connery, Derkach, Downey, Driedger, Ducharme, Enns, Ernst, Filmon, Findlay, Gilleshammer, Helwer, Laurendeau, Manness, McAlpine, McIntosh, Mitchelson, Neufeld, Orchard, Penner, Praznik, Reimer, Render, Rose, Stefanson, Sveinson, Vodrey.

Nays

Alcock, Ashton, Barrett, Carr, Carstairs, Cerilli, Cheema, Chomiak, Dewar, Doer, Edwards, Evans (Brandon East), Evans (Interlake), Harper, Hikes, Lamoureux, Maloway, Martindale, Plohman, Reid, Santos, Storie, Wasylycia-Leis, Wowchuk.

* (1510)

Mr. Clerk (William Remnant): Yeas 26, Nays 24.

Madam Deputy Speaker: The ruling of the Chair has been sustained.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Clayton Manness (Government House Leader): Madam Deputy Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Downey), that Madam Deputy Speaker 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 St. Norbert (Mr. Laurendeau) in the Chair for the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship; and the honourable member for Seine River (Mrs. Dacquay) in the Chair for the Department of Education and Training.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY—CULTURE, HERITAGE AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Deputy Chairman (Marcel Laurendeau): Order, please. Will the Committee of Supply please come to order. Today this section of Committee of Supply will continue considering the remaining Estimates of the Department of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

When this section last met, it was considering Sections 2.(g) Regional Services: (1) Salaries, \$903,600 and 6.(f) Regional Services Grant Assistance, \$104,000. Shall these items pass?

Mr. Kevin Lamoureux (Inkster): No.

Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Lels (St. Johns): Let me first ask what the reduction in the Professional/Technical line is, what position?

Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship): Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that is the reduction of one staff year, and that was the instructor's position for the Northern Water Safety Program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Can the minister tell us why they eliminated funding for the Northern Water Safety Program?

Mrs. Mitchelson: This is a program, I think, that has been ongoing for some 20 years. In fact, what we have done is devolve the authority for providing water safety programming to the Northern Recreation Directors program that has been instituted. I can just indicate that, I guess, over the last two years, if we take a two-year term, we have

spent something like \$200,000 for the Northern Water Safety Program.

In the last two years, with the Recreation Director Pilot Project, there has been some \$1.3 million provided through Education and Training through New Careers, plus the money from our department to put in place recreational directors.

In fact, there will be more money spent on northern recreation with this change, and the northern swim program will be run by the northern recreation directors.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Can the minister tell us if the exact same program is being run, but under a different way?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is a different way of delivering the program. We will have a more culturally sensitive set of materials that will be available to share with all northern communities as the result of the northern recreational directors being able to deliver the program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: What was the total cost for this program in this department?

Mrs. Mitchelson: It was \$106,000 per year.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Did we see a transfer of that money to the northern recreation directors? Was there a direct transfer in terms of covering this program?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we saw a transfer of \$30,000 to the northern recreation directors' program, but as I indicated, over the last two years throughout government, we have put \$1.3 million into northern recreation through the Department of Education, through the training of recreation directors. In fact, if you look at the overall impact of new programming and recreation directors who are trained, directors who have come from northern and remote communities and will be going back into their communities to provide recreation programming—and part of that recreation programming is swim programming—I think we will be much further ahead. Through the northern recreation directors, we will now have 35 communities served where, through the Northern Water Safety Program, there were only 31 communities served last year.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Just to get a clarification, will all the people who want to take this course on northern water safety be able to do so?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairman, they have never all been able to do it in the past, and they will not all be able to do it at this point in time, but as I said, we will be serving 35 communities this year with the northern recreation directors where there were only 31 served last year with the swim program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: What kind of waiting list will we see this year, and how does it compare to previous years?

* (1520)

Mrs. Mitchelson: There has never been a waiting list. There were 31 applications last year, and 31 communities received the training.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: My question related to the previous one where I asked, what kind of a waiting list, or will all the people who want to take the course be able to get the course. The minister said everyone in the past has not always been able to get in, that there has always been a waiting list, so my question is, for this year, what is that waiting list and how does it compare to previous years?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess, maybe for some clarification then, there are 77 communities that could have access; only 31 in the past applied, and they all received. Does that clarify?

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Just let me ask a follow-up then. Is the minister saying that all those interested, all communities interested, in this program have been able to get access?

Mrs. Mitchelson: It will be the 35 communities that will be able to access the Recreation directors at this point that will be able to receive programming. As I indicated, the culturally sensitive materials that will be developed will be available on an outreach basis for communities that may not have Recreation directors. So that material that will be developed will be able to be accessed by all communities, but in fact there will only be Recreation directors serving 35 northern and remote communities.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: With this change in terms of funding and responsibility, who is now responsible in the event of a death from a swimming accident in the North?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it was never our responsibility as a provincial government if there was a death in the North, and it will remain a community responsibility as it was in the past.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: On the funding, you mentioned that \$30,000 from the previous expenditure has gone into this program. That means in effect a savings of about \$76,000 that is gone—not into Recreational Regional Services.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the money in the reduction is money that was going to those from southern Manitoba that were sent into northern communities to provide a swim program. Now, in fact, it will be the recreation directors in remote Manitoba who will be providing the assistance to the communities in the way of swim programming, swimming awareness, or safety awareness and other recreational opportunities. So the money that has been reduced is money that would have sent those from southern Manitoba into those northern and remote communities.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: In this new arrangement, is there a written agreement that ensures a Northern Water Safety Program will be continued regardless of changes at local community level?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, as in the past, where it was up to the communities to apply for it, it will still be a community responsibility.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I would like to know about the three swim associations listed on the cutback list. Is there a relationship here or is this a separate issue?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is a separate issue completely.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Since I raised it, maybe I will ask then, why were these—the Whiteshell District Swim Association, the Eastman Swim Association, and the Interlake Swim Association—cut off all funds?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, this is all part, I suppose, of community development. These swim associations were given some start-up money to get off the ground and to get a program in place. As a matter of fact, the community organizations have taken ownership now over these programs. All of them have been consulted with as a result of the decisions. They all indicate that it will not be changing the success of their program, that the community is going to continue on with that programming, and those courses still will be available.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels): What is the amount for each of these swim associations that will no longer be forthcoming?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The Whiteshell Swim Association was receiving \$1,000; the Interlake Swim Association was receiving \$3,000; and the Eastman Swim Association was receiving \$1,000.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: It seems to me like a considerable amount of money for a volunteer association to come up with in terms of continuing to provide the service. Is the minister saying that these organizations, these associations, will have no difficulty in continuing this work and that they are not unhappy at all with this cutback?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, they have indicated to us that there will not be any insurmountable difficulty, that in fact the money that was given to them was startup money. The community has decided that it will be able to continue the program without provincial government funding. They have taken over ownership of the programs, and I guess that is all part of what one might consider community development.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister just tell me once again, I cannot recall this from the past, what exactly the grants were used for or directed toward?

Mrs. Mitchelson: It is my understanding, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that the money was used to bring lifeguards into these remote communities. They were for travel costs to bring lifeguards into the more remote communities, and all of them, through membership fees, will be able to continue along the same programming. They do not believe there is going to be a threat at all to the success of their programs in this year.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The more we get into this, it seems that there is an overall strategy on the part of the provincial government currently to pull out of any responsibility for lifeguard service provision, for training of lifeguards and for assistance in terms of water safety. I am wondering, is this part and parcel of the decision by the Department of Natural Resources to abdicate its responsibility in terms of providing lifeguard service?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I guess each community develops its own types of recreation programming, including swimming program that is going to meet the needs of that community. In fact, if we can provide money for them to get started and if they can run an effective program without government support, I guess there are directions we should be putting our money where we can have a major impact. If in fact the

community is going to continue along and run a successful program without government funding, and they have indicated to us that they can do that kind of thing, then I question whether, in this time of need and in time of great financial difficulty, we should not be channeling our money in other directions.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I am certainly concerned with that statement because it seems to me that swimming ought to be seen as a fairly major aspect of recreation in any recreation policy, yet it seems that this government is pulling back responsibility in this whole area.

I am wondering if the government and the minister have thought through the long-term ramifications of this kind of action, and if she will in fact reconsider if those communities find it difficult to continue to provide the services that have been provided in the past.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairman, in discussion with the communities, they have indicated that they will have a successful program. The community has taken ownership over the programs, and I have absolutely no problem with that. I think that they believe it is worthwhile programming. We were able to assist them to get started up, and they are going to continue on. I do not believe there will be a need to reconsider because I think in fact they have indicated clearly that they will be able to continue on a successful programming. They have accepted that responsibility and I commend them for it.

* (1530)

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: What other organizations under Regional Services have received reductions in provincial funding?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There have been no reductions elsewhere.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The reduction under Grant Assistance for Regional Organizations from \$54,000 to \$39,000—what else is part of that reduction? It is obviously more than the swim association's.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairman, there was a carryover for NORMRA of \$10,000. There was a carryover of \$2.6 thousand for Remote Communities Equipment Grants and the discontinuing of the regional swim associations, and that was all the decrease -(interjection)- 17.6.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I am sorry, I missed the reduction.

Mrs. Mitchelson: We will go through it again. There were the reductions to the regional swim associations, the NORMRA carryover and the Remote Communities Equipment Grants carryover.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Let me just move on to another line while I think about that.

The reduction in Transportation, which is a major reduction from \$128,600 to \$97,000, what accounts for that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That Transportation reduction is because of the Northern Water Safety Program. There is no travel to northern communities from the south for that program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: So that was the full deduction?

Mrs. Mitchelson: For transportation. Yes.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister explain the increase in the Communications line from \$74,000, roughly, to \$81,000?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes. That is the increase for telephone and more consultation with rural and remote communities from rural offices.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: What were the issues that led to the need for more consultation and more communication?

Mrs. Mitchelson: This is a result of travelling less into the remote communities and using the phone more to reduce costs. So there would be increased telephone costs, reduced travel costs.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I am still not quite sure I understand that. The minister has said that their reduction in Transportation was basically because of the move towards decisions being done at the local level. I do not quite see how the two statements jive in terms of why. If you had moved to the kind of system that does not require the transportation costs, what is the basis for needing more telephone costs or use of the telephone?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I think I have it, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. The increase in Communications reflects more telephone consultation, as I indicated, and less travel. The less travel would be reflected not only through the Transportation line, which I indicated earlier was only the Northern Water Safety Program, but it would be in less travel by Regional Services staff also, so there is a combination of both. It might be reflected through the Supplies and

Services and some of the other reductions in the Operating lines.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Just let me pursue then the reduction in travel for staff, because it seems to me that there are incredible responsibilities that the Regional Services staff have. I do not know how, I do not quite understand how, there can be reduced travel without having a significant impact in terms of delivery of services.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I guess, with increased technology and the use of cellular phones and that kind of thing, there is more productivity whereby people can be traveling, can be using phones and can be delivering a better service.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: It sounds to me like a fairly weak excuse for a reduction in direct service. My remembrance of the past is that the Regional Services staff were always overworked and finding it hard to meet all of their responsibilities and that there were always demands, on the part of communities, to be there to help them through different issues and to provide one-on-one contact.

I guess, I can only conclude from this, and unless the minister has further clarification, that this is a reduction in terms of regional services to many communities in Manitoba and not consistent with the minister's statements in the past about reaching out to all parts of this province and meeting all the needs of different groups.

* (1540)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Well, I guess, I would like to hand these out for both of the opposition members, because I have the regional bulletin from the Norman region. This has a picture of the recreation directors that have been trained. In fact, as we get those directors moved into the remote communities, then we need less travel by our Regional Services people into those communities that are going to be able to have a recreation program delivered by trained staff who have come from those communities and are going back into those communities to provide the services, so I will pass out to you. I think I maybe did this—I do not know if I did last year, too—just some five months ago, but maybe the critic has not received that.

In fact when we have trained people, and I said we have spent \$1.3 million to train recreation directors to go into remote communities to deliver recreation services in those communities, there is

not as much need for our Regional Services people to be traveling into those communities. Maybe a phone call to consult with and to work with the recreation director might serve as well as traveling into those communities.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: As I understand it, though, Regional Services staff provide assistance in a whole number of areas, not just recreation. I am wondering about the impact of reduced travel on being able to fulfill the objectives as listed on page 44 in Cultural Resources, Historic Resources, Public Library Services, Provincial Archives and so on. Does this cutback not impact on other areas of service?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I guess, if you look at recreation directors throughout the province of Manitoba, they do deliver all kinds of programming. You have to look at recreation in the broad context of all things that people do in their leisure time activities, and that is what Regional Services people in our department provide to all of Manitoba, that is, the services and the consultative services on the programs that our department delivers. That will not be unlike what the recreation directors in remote and northern Manitoba will be doing. They will be working on overall programming for the community that will look after people's leisure time activities in that community.

In fact, if you have 35 communities being served by 23 or 25 recreation directors who were not in place in the past, there was never that service available, obviously those people who are in the communities are going to be able to, maybe with a phone call to our Regional Services staff, find out the information that they need and our staff will not be having to travel into those communities as frequently.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister explain the reduction on the Supplies and Services line?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Both Supplies and Services were related to the remote community water safety program—the reduction.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: What accounts for the significant reduction under Capital?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That was for computer equipment that has already been purchased.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: And finally, the reduction on Other Operating?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That also reflects cost savings associated with the Northern Water Safety Program.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could I ask, back to the whole change in reduction in terms of Communication and Transportation, what kind of links there are between staff and the department, central staff in your department with all of the recreation directors with the remote communities and northern communities? How does dialogue happen? How are ideas and information shared? Are there sessions when people get together? I mean, it cannot all be done by fax and phone. There has to be human contact and face-to-face exchanges. I am wondering how you maintain any kind of connection?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there are regular ongoing meetings with staff in Regional Services. I certainly do utilize—when I travel out to the regions of the province, I am in contact with the Regional Services offices, but there is communication on a regular basis and there are ongoing meetings with all of the program branches in the Department of Culture, Heritage and, now, Citizenship.

Of course, we will be meeting to bring them up to date on citizenship issues that will have to be delivered by our Regional Services people also, but that is the Cultural Resources Program, the Historic Resources programming, the public libraries. It will be, of course, now immigration and settlement, as I said, recreation, the Community Places Program and Sport and Fitness throughout the province.

There are regular ongoing meetings. Staff from Regional Services do come into the city of Winnipeg. Our program people from the different branches do go out into rural Manitoba when there is a new program that needs to be explained, either they come in or go out, so there is ongoing consultation. They are kept up to date on what all the programs are, what the changes are, because they are the front-line people who have to deliver the service out there.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: What exactly then will not be covered in terms of transportation with this reduction?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the transportation costs are decreased in the main part due to not sending people into remote northern Manitoba for the Northern Water Safety Program.

In fact, also with the 23 recreation directors, who will be in 35 remote communities organizing the programming, there will be less need for our Regional Services people to travel in. They can be in telephone conversation with those recreation directors to do the trouble-shooting and to be the consultative person to ensure that programs which are available through the department are communicated, and they are working with those recreation directors.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am pursuing this only because the minister had said previously that that reduction on the Transportation line was both related to the Northern Water Safety Program and reduced travel for Regional Services staff. I was still trying to figure out the impact on—or what that means in terms of what reduced travel for Regional Services staff will mean and what will have to be cut back in order to meet this new expenditure level.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, absolutely nothing. In fact, there will be enhanced service because the time that Regional Services had to spend going into those communities that did not have recreation directors will be able to be spent servicing other parts of the province, so there may be less travel into those remote communities, but there will be recreation directors who were never there before. There was no source.

The only time they ever had any exposure to our department would be when our Regional Services people traveled in there. Now there are 23 recreation directors who will be working in those communities on a regular basis, so they will have enhanced services in those communities. There will not be the need for Regional Services to travel as much in there, and they will be able to spend more of their time working in other parts of the province.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister explain—it is a small reduction but a curious one under Remote Communities Equipment Grants Program.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that was a carry-over from the previous year.

* (1550)

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Has the demand for this program increased at all over the year?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, everyone who applies does get a grant.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I just wanted to ask briefly about the description on page 44, “. . . rotating satellite offices and offering services in French as well as Native languages.”—if the minister could explain a bit about that whole initiative?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the satellite offices provide, I suppose, maximum exposures to department programs in each region. Three of the six regions deliver services in French, and that is Central, in Morden; Eastman in Beausejour; and Norman in Thompson. Norman region has two consultants of Native ancestry who deliver programs in Native languages also. They rotate in on a day basis to several different satellite offices throughout the province to provide these services.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I am sort of being told to move on, so I will not try to drag this out far. I would like to just ask what specific way it means in the Estimates book when the minister refers to implementation of priorities relating to provincial, recreation, library support, arts and multicultural policies in rural and northern Manitoba arising from new policy and program developments in these fields.

Is the minister saying that in each one of those areas there has been a new policy put in place and new program initiatives taken?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, staff will be delivering programs as a result of announcing a new policy. There has been a new program put in place, the Recreation Innovation Fund. There will be a few changes to the Community Places Program and in fact any programs, or any announcements that are made as a result of the moving of Citizenship, Immigration and Settlement into the department will have to be communicated to Regional Services staff, and they will be responsible for talking to clients, that are departmental clients, to help them or assist them with understanding the programs and accessing government services.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Is today any better a day to ask when we might see the new recreation policy, since we are on that line again?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We will certainly ensure that you are one of the first people to know as the announcement is made.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: My last question is: What grant, what amount of funding, did the Piney Blueberry Festival receive?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Just give me a moment to get those exact figures. Funds have been provided as follows for the year 1990-91, \$715; the year '89-90, \$514.36; the year 1988-89, \$356.14; 1987-88, \$670; 1986-87, \$510; 1985-86, \$750.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: It seems to me, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that there is a direct correlation between the Conservatives in power and size of the grant. I did not catch all of the numbers, but it seems like the grant has risen this year.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I am informed that it depends on the crop, that in fact it has fluctuated over the last number of years considerably within \$200 or so, back and forth, up and down.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Is that a crop of blueberries, or a crop of politicians?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I guess it all depends on what the community applies for and we base the grant on the application.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: This does not relate directly to this, but just to see if the minister has been able to come up with that list of grants for the whole department yet.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, '90-91 is not completed yet because it is just the end of the year. As soon as it is completed, we will be able to forward a copy.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, could we get at least a listing in terms of anticipated or projected grants for 1990-91 and this year's projected—estimates for both years?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We will attempt to get that as quickly as possible.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item (g) Regional Services: (1) Salaries, \$903,600—pass; (2) Other Expenditures, \$267,400—pass.

Item 6.(f) Regional Services Grant Assistance, \$104,000—pass.

We will now move on to (h) Community Places Programs, under Lotteries Funded Programs. I believe that is the next one in order on your file. -(interjection)- Did you not want to finish off the lottery ones? What we were looking at prior was going through 6.(h), 6.(j), 6.(m), 6.(n), then back to

Resolution 23. If you follow them in your book, it was all in order that way.

An Honourable Member: Which one do you want to move up to right now?

Mr. Deputy Chairman: 6.(h) Community Places Program.

Mrs. Mitchelson: I do not have staff here for that. I can get them in. -(interjection)-

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Provincial Archives Grants goes with 3.(f), which is the Legislative Library. Those two are interconnected, so it would pass after that. We are trying to connect the two departments up with lotteries that are connected up at the same time. Do you want to go back and just do the other one?

An Honourable Member: Let us just go back.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: We will continue on with Information Services? Okay.

First we will pass Resolution 22.

Resolution 22: RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,318,000 for Culture, Heritage and Citizenship—pass.

We are now at the top of page 31. The resolution is accordingly passed.

Now we will move to the top of page 32. Item 3. Information Resources (a) Advertising Services: (1) Salaries, \$485,800.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, last year, in terms of advertising, the government had a major thrust in terms of drinking and driving legislation and spousal abuse. I am wondering if there is a breakdown in terms of advertising, those put out from the departments.

* (1600)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we can give a rough estimate, because I guess all of the final financial implications might not be known yet at the end of the fiscal year. We can pull that together and provide it.

(Mr. Jack Reimer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I would appreciate if we can get a copy in terms of where and what the government has spent their advertising on. At the same time, is the minister aware of which departments have requested the major part of the advertising for this coming budget?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The communications call has just gone out to all departments. All of the information is not back in yet on what different departments will be requesting and what their initiatives will be, but I understand that Tourism will probably be a fairly major department for advertising this year.

I cannot give you that complete information until all of the departments have responded, and that call has just gone out.

Mr. Lamoureux: No doubt we will likely be out of the Estimates, at least in this department, when it does come out, so I would ask the minister if she could get that to me when she does receive it.

I know the department, through this line, does the purchasing of advertising, radio, all the different spots. I am wondering if the minister can answer, has the advertising—given the times, the recession, I would imagine it has been somewhat more competitive. Has the department reduced its costs on advertising?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There has been a reduction in that line of the budget by about \$260,000 this year.

Mr. Lamoureux: From what I understand, the reduction is a direct result of the election. Is that correct?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Acting Chairperson, that is a large portion of it.

Mr. Lamoureux: In the subline, it reflects a decrease of \$260,000 in spending authority related to nonrecurring expenditures by Elections Manitoba. What I am trying to get after is, if the competition, given the times, has reduced the cost of advertising somewhat and we find no real decrease in the advertising dollars allocated out this year, is it then safe to assume one of two things, either we are paying the same dollar that we were paying last year for those advertising spots or we would be increasing our amount of advertising?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I am informed that media costs for advertising go up 7 percent to 12 percent per year, so the fact that we are holding the line on the budget will mean, in fact, that we will be doing less advertising because the cost of advertising will be up 7 percent to 12 percent.

Mr. Lamoureux: I am not familiar with the term "media cost," if you can maybe expand on that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That is the cost of buying ads on radio, television, et cetera. The cost of purchasing

ad time on radio and TV. Our cost, or their charge to us, has gone up 7 percent to 12 percent, so it costs us more to buy each spot when we advertise.

Mr. Lamoureux: I am somewhat surprised, in a sense, if I understand the minister correctly. The advertising spot, for example, on CKND, a 30-second commercial, has increased in the last year in and around 7 percent to 12 percent. That would be applicable to radio, television, newspapers. In fact, that is the case.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: Then I would go into the salaries where we have the Professional/Technical increase by one staff year, and given the government is not spending more money or acquiring or purchasing more advertisements, why would there be a need for an additional person?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Acting Chairman, I guess this goes back to the whole overall restructuring of government communications and in fact each different department is bearing the responsibility.

As you know, in our Communications line, if we go back to the beginning of Estimates when we talked about Communications, we no longer have a Director of Communications and a Communications Branch that reports directly to the deputy. We are going to have one overall Communication director who in fact will have a more consolidated structure working underneath her to do communications. In fact, instead of having a Communications line reporting to the deputy minister, we have our communications positions now within this Communications line in our budget, our departmental share I suppose of the overall Communications budget.

Mr. Lamoureux: Does that then apply to all 26 departments?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Not every department will have communications staff that they will have in their budget lines. Most of the departments will, but a few of the smaller departments will not have a line for communication staffing. Communication staff will be spread out so that each department will have a shared responsibility in absorbing some of the costs for the services that will be provided to them.

Mr. Lamoureux: What is the actual number of communicators who have been cut in the last budget from the different departments?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There were about 57 staff years reduced and \$1.8 million saving.

Mr. Lamoureux: Those 57 staff years were the idea of amalgamating everything into your department. Am I to understand that this one staff year in this line is to do what those 57 communicators were doing in the past?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That one staff year will be part of the component that remains in the 40-some positions—I think it is about 49 positions that will remain throughout government in communications functions. Our department will show one person in this line. The Department of Family Services will show a communications position. Ultimately all departments will be receiving communications services and the budget is not centralized. The budget is spread out so that each department shares some responsibility in supporting communications staff because all departments receive support in some fashion.

Mr. Lamoureux: Instead of having a communications officer, they would be having communications assistants. If we go through the different departments, we will see a staff year in most of them being deducted.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: Then maybe if the minister could just elaborate on what is the difference between a communicating officer and a communicating assistant.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Acting Chairperson, I do not know if maybe we are not thinking along the same wave length but a communication assistant would be a support staff, and we will have communications officers throughout government as a result of the new structure. Maybe I just could indicate what happened in the past. Every department had a communications director and a communications staff with support staff that served that department. What we are doing with the new structure is consolidating departments so that, in fact, there will be teams of communications specialists. We will have a communications officer that will be in charge of several departments. Rather than having just one department and reporting to one deputy minister, there will be responsibility to several departments.

All of the communications requests, whether they be for marketing, for publications, for advertising, for specialized writing, will come through a

communications officer that will look after approximately four departments. That officer will direct work to people in their specialized areas, whether it be in writing, whether it be in advertising, whether it be in publications.

* (1610)

Each department is going to be asked to bring forward a strategy or a plan for the next year on what types of media buys, what types of advertising from within their own staff, and it will go to the communications officer who is in charge of several different departments. That communications officer will be responsible for distributing the work out, so that the team of specialists will be able to deliver to their respective departments the kind of work that they need.

So, in fact, it is a system that will, I believe, be more efficient and more effective in the long run, and you will have co-ordination. There will be lack of duplication from department to department, which there has been some duplication of services in the past.

Mr. Lamoureux: The minister mentioned—in terms of more efficient, will the workload increase then for this particular line as a direct result?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Obviously, when there is a reduction of some 57 staff years, there is going to be an added responsibility on those that are left. Rather than having a person in every department who, let us say, writes speeches for 18 different ministers, there will be a group of writers that will do speech material, whether it be for the minister or the deputies or the departmental representative that is going out to represent government. You will have people who will be doing strictly that kind of work.

So instead of having someone who is a generalist, we will have people working in this branch who will be specialists in their areas, whether it is in media buying, whether it is in developing publications, whether it is marketing or whatever the area of need is, they will be specialists rather than generalists. So we will have people who will be working, as I said, in specific areas, not a communications person who is going to have to be all things to all people in every different department.

Mr. Lamoureux: In terms of the 57 individuals who had lost their work as a direct result of this move, was there any thought given in terms of amalgamating over a two or three-year period with

hopes that through attrition of some sort that you would not have to lay off the 57 individuals?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess there had to be some consideration in these tough economic times to save the most amount of dollars in areas where we felt we could amalgamate, because \$1.8 million is a fair saving to the taxpayers of Manitoba that can be redirected into other areas of service to Manitobans and to taxpayers. This was one area that we felt we could move on fairly effectively.

I guess you could talk about attrition, but there were 18 departments with 18 communications directors. It seems to me that if we can, with one communications director throughout government, reduce the duplication and the management and serve the needs of the Manitoba taxpayers more efficiently and effectively, it was incumbent upon us in these tough economic times to move on that; so we have.

Mr. Lamoureux: Are any of the communicators, the ones who have been laid off or the ones who are currently in place, do they go through the Civil Service or are they appointments—or are any of them appointments through the government?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Acting Chairperson, there were those who were retained who were part of the Civil Service hiring process. There are some vacancies right now that will have to be filled, and they will be dealt with according to The Civil Service Act and the process that is in place to hire.

Mr. Lamoureux: The increase on this particular line—there are two of them, Administrative Support and Professional/Technical Support—did those two go through the Civil Service?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The one SY there is—as you know we have an executive director that was hired back in February of last year that has never had a secretary. That position is one of the positions that is in there to be filled, it is vacant right now and will be filled through the normal Civil Service process. The other one is someone that existed within the system and is going to be part of the communications team that will be working throughout government providing communication services for departments.

Mr. Lamoureux: The one that is vacant right now is the Administrative Support person, and that one is going through the Civil Service. The other one currently works for the government, but is not going through the Civil Service. Is that correct?

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

Mrs. Mitchelson: It is one of the positions that was retained. As we said there were people who were retained from Communications. This is one person who was retained through the process, someone who has been in the Civil Service for many years. It was someone who was doing writing within government that will continue to do that.

Mr. Lamoureux: I am interested in knowing the person who was put into this position. What type of seniority did it have with the Civil Service, or did it have any seniority with the Civil Service?

Mrs. Mitchelson: It was a person with 30 years of seniority with the Civil Service.

Mr. Lamoureux: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairperson. The Executive director with the vacancy spot there. When are you anticipating having that position filled?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We would hope that within the next month or so the process could be followed. As you can understand there is a process going on right now within the Civil Service whereby there might be someone that is on the redeployment list, or that kind of thing, that might fill that position. So it will not necessarily be an open bulletin depending on the process and who might be available that has been redeployed from somewhere else. It will be a position that we will fill as quickly as we possibly can.

Mr. Lamoureux: It would be encouraging to hear that it would not necessarily have to go on the open bulletin when you are laying off such a large number of civil servants. In fact, it might be better to be able to give one of them back an opportunity of employment.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item 3.(a) Advertising Services: (1) Salaries.

Ms. Marianne Cerilli (Radisson): Again, this is not one of my critic areas, but I am just curious to ask the minister. There seems to have been a change in this government's attitude towards centralized communication. In the last administration, there was some criticism of having centralized communication, and now what we have seen is the government has moved to centralizing communication officers. I would think there was an advantage of the previous system of having a communications officer who developed a relationship and understanding of the issues in that department, but you have moved away from that. I

am wondering, what is the change of attitude from opposing previous government's development of a large number of communications officers to the centralized approach you have now.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I guess, it was after being in government a few years and recognizing and realizing that we could run a very effective system throughout government and reduce duplication and save the taxpayers of Manitoba \$1.8 million within government that could be put towards needed programs and services, whether it be in Health, Family Services, Education, the areas that we have indicated are high priorities.

* (1620)

In fact, we took a look at it and have determined that this is the direction we can be going, where we have people with certain areas of specialty or expertise, who can work within a communications system in government, that is going to reduce duplication, make the system more flexible and reduce cost to the taxpayers.

Ms. Cerilli: There is the perception out there that what is happening is that the Civil Service, who know the issues, who are familiar with the departments, are going to have less input, and what might be said to be for advantages of saving money really is going to allow more political control of communication with the public. I saw on the TV even this weekend, with the HydroBonds, that there was a minister's name on an ad advertising the HydroBonds. I know, previously, the previous government was moving away from having things like photographs of ministers on annual reports and having names of ministers on ads. Does this government have a policy related to that?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there is no change in that over the last three years. It has been something that Hydro has done for the last three years, so it is no change this year.

Ms. Cerilli: Can the minister clarify, though, prior to three years, that there was a move away from having politicians' names and photographs advertised with government publications?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is my understanding, on short-term campaign materials, that there have, in the past, been ministers associated with those short-term campaigns, if it is a departmental initiative or a ministerial initiative, and that continues to be.

Ms. Cerilli: Just to clarify. So there has been no change in policy within the last four years?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Not to my knowledge.

Ms. Cerilli: Another issue I would like to clarify policy on is with respect to CKY and the strike that they have had. What is the government's policy with respect to having the communications staff dealing with CKY during the strike?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is business as usual as far as providing information to the general public through all media sources.

Ms. Cerilli: Does that mean that the minister has not sent any kind of correspondence to the departments about dealing with the striking station?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There has been no correspondence. No.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Item (a) Advertising Services: (1) Salaries, \$485,800—pass; (2) Other Expenditures, \$78,700—pass; (3) Public Sector Advertising, \$2,509,600—pass; (4) Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations, \$2,528,700—pass.

Item (b) Information Services: (1) Salaries \$507,700.

Mr. Lamoureux: I have a few questions on this particular line. Just first start right into the supplements—very brief questions regarding the Communication decrease from \$96,700 to \$88,300 and also the Supplies and Services \$101,100 to \$80,300. Page 51 in the Estimates.

Mrs. Mitchelson: In the Communications line, there is a reduction of one fax machine. There is going to be a little bit of reduction also in the number of media releases that we send out in the province because of streamlining.

If I can indicate, you know, somebody may apply to get a news release, and they will be kept on a mailing list forever and a day or, in fact, there is some duplication even within government departments whereby there are several copies of the whole bunch of news releases that are sent out, and, in fact, we are going to streamline that situation, cut back on duplication and save money on postage, faxes and handling.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it is encouraging to hear that there is going to be a reduced number of government news releases going out. I wanted to ask some questions regarding the videotaping of the news conferences

and so forth that are done by the government and ask what happens to those tapes.

Mrs. Mitchelson: They are distributed, Mr. Deputy Chairperson, throughout rural Manitoba and to cable TV networks and such.

Mr. Lamoureux: So the government does not keep these tapes in an archive? They are just circulated to whomever requests them, is that it—or if the minister gives a news conference, for example, he sends it to their local station.

Mrs. Mitchelson: That is right.

Mr. Lamoureux: In terms of the Question Period tapes, what happens to those?

Mrs. Mitchelson: They are kept in the Archives.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, there have been different Legislatures in Canada, including the House of Commons, Saskatchewan, next door to us, that actually televise—and even our own City Hall—the proceedings that go on during the day.

Has there been any discussions at all from within your own department or even possibly in caucus—and I do not want you to tell me any caucus secrets, of course—but maybe if the minister can give some type of an update in terms of what direction the government is, or what opinion the government has on televising of debates?

* (1630)

Mrs. Mitchelson: I guess I have never heard a major public demand or public outcry for that kind of service to be provided at this point. I cannot recall even one piece of correspondence that I have received from the general public that has requested that.

Mr. Lamoureux: That is probably encouraging to hear, but—

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think that after the general public has an opportunity to watch Question Period, they probably feel that is quite enough.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the costs that are involved in the producing of these tapes, I know Videon airs them, but is there a charge? For example, if any of the news media want to pick up what has been recorded during Question Periods, is there any income that comes as a direct result of the airing of these tapes?

Mrs. Mitchelson: No.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I also want to get some comments in regard to the information line that is offered to the citizens that is put up through this particular line. Does the government keep track in terms of what type of inquiries we are receiving from the public?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, yes. We do track it, and we get monthly updates on that.

Mr. Lamoureux: Okay. Last year we had 120,000 calls?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes, we did last year.

Mr. Lamoureux: Can the minister tell me, are we receiving a larger number of calls over the past number of years? In particular, maybe if we can go back to let us say '86 and get the actual numbers of calls from '86 to this year or whatever they might have at hand right now?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we do know there has been an increase, but we can get that kind of detail pulled together.

Mr. Lamoureux: I would imagine a number of the calls would be in terms of the information or for things such as, where can I get HydroBonds or where can I get this type of thing? Does the government keep a record in terms of what people are phoning for?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes. That kind of information is available. It is put into major categories as to what types of questions or requests are being made.

Mr. Lamoureux: Again, I do not believe it would be that much work, but if I could get a copy of what people are asking about or possibly complaining about, I would appreciate that. Do we have a number in terms of the last month of calls coming in since the budget has been brought down?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We do not have it right here at the table, but we will get that information for you.

Mr. Lamoureux: I know we are going to be passing this line likely fairly shortly, but I am interested in knowing if we can even maybe get some type of a recess for 10 minutes. Maybe we might be able to get some type of estimate for the last few weeks. What I am looking for is, have we had a large number of calls since the budget has been brought down? Then we could take a 10-minute recess here.

Mrs. Mitchelson: If I can just indicate that it will have to be subject to staff still being in the office and

it is 4:35. We will try and if there is staff there, we can get that information quickly.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: Recess five minutes.

* * *

The committee took recess at 4:35 p.m.

After Recess

The committee resumed at 4:42 p.m.

(Mr. Jack Reimer, Acting Chairman, in the Chair)

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Reimer): We are dealing with Information Services 3.(b)(1) Salaries, \$507,700.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Acting Chairperson, if the minister could take it upon herself to get me a copy of the results when they do become available, maybe I can save them for the ministerial salary to give a few comments on.

I did want to ask the minister, however, a couple questions regarding the amount of newsprint that we put out, newsprint, news releases, and so forth. What is the government doing in terms of using recyclable paper? I know in some areas they have gone to recyclable paper.

(Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

Mrs. Mitchelson: The paper is 50 percent recycled at no additional cost to the government. Of course, we are trying to cut down on the amount of paper that is used so that in fact we are helping to contribute to a healthier environment.

Mr. Lamoureux: Does that apply for all of the print material that is going out, or is that more so just for the news releases?

Mrs. Mitchelson: At this point, it is just the news releases.

Mr. Lamoureux: Are there any efforts ongoing right now to broaden that out to other sectors?

Mrs. Mitchelson: The statutes, the regulations, the Gazette are all done on recycled paper now. I have a copy of initiatives, through the Queen's Printer, of information on what we were moving. We are very conscious and trying to work towards making our printing and our paper usage throughout government being recycled. If you would like just a copy of this, I could provide it.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would encourage the government to move in the direction of recyclable paper. I will tell you, in part, the reason why is that, right now, if you want to purchase or

acquire recyclable paper, it costs more than to buy the normal paper. Many people will not purchase recycled paper for the simple reason, it costs more in many cases than normal paper. The government can and should play a role. By purchasing its recyclable paper, it increases the demand for it and it once again lowers the price so more people can start recycling. I just want to end on that note, and we can pass the line.

Ms. Cerilli: I have a question related to the issue of airing Question Period. I am wondering if there has been any research done by the government on people's response since—maybe I will start off by asking a question. How long has Question Period been aired?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, that is a good question, and I do not have the answer. It has been at least four or five years, maybe up to 10, but I would have to get—before my time, and I have been elected since 1986.

Ms. Cerilli: What was the initial intention of beginning to air Question Period?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That would have been an LAMC decision, so it would have been an all-party decision through LAMC. I cannot answer that question. I could try to get some background information from those of my colleagues that have been around for a longer period of time, but that kind of decision would be made through that process.

Ms. Cerilli: I am under the understanding it had to do with public accountability or public education, so that people would—do you think it was along those lines?

Mrs. Mitchelson: I cannot answer that with any sense of authority because I do not know. I was not here when the decision was made. If it was an LAMC decision, it would have been something that was done with the agreement of all parties for whatever reason. I can attempt to get that information.

Ms. Cerilli: I would be curious. I think there is a lot of cynicism about the process that we spend our days in here, and I think people's perception of what they see from Question Period is not favourable. I am wondering if there is any interest or curiosity in the department to do some research to see what—if you get calls from the public regarding Question Period?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, it would not be our departmental responsibility to make the

decision on what was aired and what was not as far as the proceedings within the Legislature. That is a legislative decision, an all-party decision, so I could not answer any questions, and our department would not be about to undertake any research. I would imagine it would have to be something that came under the direction of LAMC.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: (b) Information Services: (1) Salaries, \$507,700—pass; (2) Other Expenditures, \$188,000—pass.

Item (c) Queen's Printer: (1) Salaries, \$1,931,700.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, we have a number of people that we send out legislation to who have copies of Manitoba's acts. My question to the minister is: Is that fully cost—do we get our full costs back in terms of cost recovery when we send them out?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: Who is eligible for the statutes, anyone that requests? I would imagine you get a fair number from lawyers. Are the MLAs entitled to copies of the statutes, or is it a certain number?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Everyone has to subscribe if they want, and if they are willing to pay the cost of acquiring a set of statutes, then they receive them.

Mr. Lamoureux: Does the minister have at hand a cost in terms of producing Hansard for—and I will give two days because I notice there is a big difference in days—Hansard on a Monday when we are in the Estimates process and we sit until, let us say, ten o'clock in the evening, and then a cost for a Wednesday where there is debate on bills?

* (1650)

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, the Queen's Printer just prints Hansard, but the responsibility for Hansard, I believe, lies with the Clerk of the Legislature and the Speaker's Office.

Mr. Lamoureux: Yes, I know the discussion has come up in LAMC in the past, and I just could not recall hearing any concrete figures. What I will do is, if I cannot get any from the Speaker's or the Clerk's Office, I will come back to the minister and see if she can provide me with some type of cost for it.

Mrs. Mitchelson: We could provide costs for printing of Hansard, but we cannot provide the overall total cost of the staff time that is used.

Mr. Lamoureux: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I would be interested in terms of the cost of the Hansard if she does not mind.

The other thing is, in terms of the Supplementary Estimates on page 53, we had a reduction of Capital from \$50,000 to nothing. I am wondering why?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That is systems development that took place last year that will not be this year.

Mr. Lamoureux: What type of systems did we get?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Management Information Systems and Accounting.

Mr. Lamoureux: Are those computer programs?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: That was \$50,000 for the computer program?

Mrs. Mitchelson: \$50,000 last year that will not be expended this year. Yes.

Mr. Lamoureux: Okay. In terms of the Supplies and Services, there was an increase. Can the minister explain why we had an increase in that line?

Mrs. Mitchelson: There has been an increased service to Crown corporations which were not receiving services in the past, and that will be cost recoverable.

Mr. Lamoureux: What type of services are we looking at?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Desktop publishing, audio-visual, photography, that kind of service.

Mr. Lamoureux: Would those be services then that the larger corporations do not have, I take it?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We have specialized photography in AV services within the Queen's Printer which might be required, and if, in fact, they require it, we are able to provide it on a cost-recovery basis.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Yes, I just have some questions on some information on this program under the federal government called Special Operating Agencies. We understand that there have been some exchanges between officials in the minister's department and Ottawa officials about this program, and I am wondering if the minister can tell us what her involvement is, what her department's role is in terms of this initiative on the part of the federal government by Robert de Cotret, and if these discussions have resulted in something, and where it is all going?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Over the next period of several months, there will be a detailed implementation plan put in place for the possibility of establishing the Queen's Printer as a Special Operating Agency as a pilot project. So, over the next period of time, yes, we will be moving in that direction by looking at an implementation plan. I might say that, yes, the federal government does have this sort of an agency. It is not unlike what is happening in governments throughout the world. In England, in New Zealand, in Finland, in Sweden and in Denmark, these are the ways that government provides services through a Queen's Printer-type operation. So it is not just the federal government. It is working in many different countries throughout the world.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: The minister is saying, then, that this is more than just at the discussion stage, that in fact this government is moving close to a decision involving the establishment of Queen's Printer as a Special Operating Agency?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We are still, at this point, investigating the feasibility of that.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister tell us what her studies to date have demonstrated in terms of impact on operation, in terms of impact on service, impact on budget, and so on?

Mrs. Mitchelson: That is exactly what the study will do over the next period of months while we are looking at an implementation plan. All of those things will be taken into consideration.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: We are obviously very concerned about this whole development since it could very well be a forerunner to layoffs in terms of Queen's Printer, in terms of privatization down the road. I would like to know why the minister is even looking at this as an option and what her long-term intentions are.

Mrs. Mitchelson: Quite to the contrary, I think the federal experiences indicated that there are actually more jobs rather than less because of the Special Operating Agency. You know there always are going to be things that government needs to do through a Queen's Printer-type service, and we will just ensure that. As I said, no decisions have been made because we are looking at the feasibility of it right now. We will be taking into account all of the questions that have been asked here today in our final determination on what direction we are going to go. As I said, the federal experience is that there

are more jobs within the Queen's Printer than there were before it became a Special Operating Agency.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: I still do not know why the government is looking at this as an option. What is the reason for moving towards an SOA, as they are known? Is there a problem now in terms of Queen's Printer? Is this part of the government's move to move away from certain areas of responsibility and move it towards the private sector and away from government?

Mrs. Mitchelson: Mr. Deputy Chairperson, I think over the last couple of years we have experienced some changes, and I think we have to look at more delegation of management authority in the Queen's Printer so that it can be more businesslike and so that it can compete with the private sector. It gives, I guess, the Queen's Printer the ability to make management decisions to hire people in times of peak workloads and ensure that we can be flexible and provide a good service and a better service to those within government who need the service and to those outside government.

Ms. Wasylycia-Lels: Could the minister give us a time frame for the feasibility study and an approximate time for establishment of the Queen's Printer as a Special Operating Agency?

Mrs. Mitchelson: We will be looking at this over the next several months. I suppose the target maybe for the completion of the feasibility study will be some time in October.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The hour now being 5 p.m., I am interrupting the proceedings for private members' hour. The Committee of Supply will resume sitting at 8 p.m.

SUPPLY—EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Madam Chairman (Louise Dacquay): Order, please. The Committee of Supply will please come to order.

This section of the Committee of Supply is dealing with Education and Training, page 37, 1.(c) Planning, Research and Policy Co-ordination. Would the minister's staff please enter the Chamber.

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Madam Chairperson, on Thursday the minister tabled a number of projects that had been undertaken or were now in process with Planning, Research and Policy Co-ordination, one of which was the background paper on school

division boundary review, which is listed as an internal document.

First of all, can this minister tell us if this paper is, in fact, completed and will it be shared, not only with opposition members, but with the other interested parties, such as The Manitoba Teachers' Society, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees and the municipalities of the province?

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Madam Chair, the study was put together for us to be able to better prepare the background work for a potential review of school division boundaries and the establishment of an external commission to deal with the boundaries. As I have indicated to the opposition members, we will be coming forth with enabling legislation to allow us to establish a boundaries review commission.

Madam Chair, the background work that was done was for internal use, however, portions of that will be shared with the interest groups so that, indeed, the process that we are going to embark on is going to be a complete one, and so that the mandate that is given to the commission will be one that is representative of the various interest groups, be it the Teachers' Society, the trustees, also the municipal organizations as well, who are going to be very key players in terms of how we look at school division boundaries throughout the province.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, the one group that he left out was, of course, the critics in the opposition parties.

Mr. Derkach: That too. I am sorry.

Mrs. Carstairs: All right. We presume that is going to be available, and I presume that what he is talking about here is mostly the statistical data, which of course makes sense.

Can the minister tell us when that kind of statistical information will be available for distribution?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, as we move closer to the time when government decides to initiate the boundaries review, we will be in a position then to meet with the various interest groups, and with the critics, of course, to share with them the background that will make up the mandate, if you like, of the commission.

Madam Chair, I cannot speculate as to when that is going to be at this point in time. We are simply doing some of the background work to prepare for that kind of a review. As I indicated, we are going

to be going forth with enabling legislation, but there needs to be a considerable amount of work that is going to be done between now and the time that review is initiated.

Let me assure the member that a reasonable amount of time before we actually announce the review will be given for interest groups to make representation, and in order for us to dialogue with all the various parties, so that, indeed, the review process will be a complete one.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chair, I would hope that the minister would at least read again some of the comments I made about the structure of the last review panel, and I hope very much that there will be some parents who are not educated about education finding their way on this particular review panel.

* (1520)

The other policy paper which I found to be of particular interest was the one on sustainable development which, of course, is public. It goes on to say that initiatives have been implemented with, specifically, curriculum revisions and science and social studies and college programs.

Can the minister share with us the curriculum revisions that have taken place in science and social studies, as well as college programs, as a result of this particular initiative?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, what has happened is, in the review and the reform of curriculum that is listed in this particular short section, segments on sustainable development were incorporated as portions of the curriculum. There was no specific curriculum written on sustainable development. It was simply incorporated into the rewriting of existing curriculum so that sections in science and social studies and in some college programs would, indeed, incorporate the concept of sustainable development and the protection of the environment.

If the member would like, I will certainly endeavour to obtain the sections of each of the curricula that were changed to identify the areas of sustainable development and environmental protection. It is fairly comprehensive, I might say.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, yes, I would very much appreciate that. I can see some obvious places like the Spaceship Earth program in Grade 7 which would see a natural curriculum implant in there since it is dealing with world geography and also the Grade 10 geography program which does

North American geography and some of the science programs, particularly in the biology courses. So I would appreciate very much receiving some information with respect to how it has, indeed, been implemented.

Perhaps the minister, however, could give me some specific information now with regard to what college programs have been implemented on this. I assume he is referring to community colleges because the Department of Education does not have anything to do with curriculum at the universities.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, with the member's indulgence I would like to perhaps deal with that when we get to the community college programs. At that point in time, we will have the specific information available. I do not have it at my fingertips at this moment.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, the critic for the official opposition has given me leave to continue on into some other sections, if that is agreeable with the minister at this point in time, and then he will go back, staying within (XVI) 1. but some of the other sections. If that is not convenient to the minister, then I will defer to the member for Kildonan.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I have no difficulty with that. It is just that if we get going too far, I may not have the appropriate staff available. So if it is all right with the member at that point, we could come back and perhaps complete some of these sections.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, essentially I would like to know why, when we move into Personnel Services, we again see that there has been no cut in staff. To some degree, this is a philosophical question because we saw cuts to Planning, Research and Policy Co-ordination by some two staff persons. That to me should, indeed, provide the impetus for making sure that our research with respect to education prepares us for the 21st Century. I express my concern about cutting two of those staff persons. The minister indicated, of course, that he felt that there would be no cut to the quality offered by this particular department, but when we go into Personnel Services we see no cut. I would like to know why the minister felt that this department could not function without any cuts, whereas Research could.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, this is the branch of the department that deals with all the personnel and all the payroll services within the department. When

you have a department the size of the Department of Education and Training where we have some 1,700 or 2,000 staff in the department, this is an area where we found that over the last number of years staff were really shortchanged in terms of the complement they had within the branch to do the work that was required. We did look at this area to see whether or not there was any possibility of our taking one or two staff from this particular area but, because of the magnitude of the workload ahead of them, it was impossible to do that.

I might indicate that because of the layoffs in the Department of Education and Training it has put more pressure on this particular department to deal with all of the changes that have to be made in all of the areas of the department.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, the expected results of this department, one of them is listed as the objectives of the government personnel programs including the affirmative action program. As the minister is aware, there has been rather massive condemnation of the affirmative action program not only under this government, but under the previous government as well, that quite frankly it is not working. I would like to know what new initiatives are going to be taken in this specific section to ensure that the affirmative action program is working with respect to the upward mobility of women within this department and also members of visible minorities and the handicapped.

Mr. Derkach: Over the last three years, Madam Chair, we have paid particular attention to the whole concept of affirmative action within the Department of Education and Training. I think we have tried to reach out in terms of recruiting vacant positions in the department to ensure that this particular area, the affirmative action area, was one that was highlighted in each and every hiring.

Madam Chair, I could indicate some of the positive things that have happened. In the area of the ADM of Admin and Finance we have a female there now, a woman. We have also in the director of communications a woman now, and if you go through the entire department, I would have to say in the management areas we have paid particular attention to the whole concept of affirmative action. I would not be one to say that we have done everything that has been necessary. We have to continue to strive towards opening the department even to a greater extent to allow affirmative action candidates to apply for positions in the department.

When you look at, for example, Keewatin Community College, and look at the number of people we have of Native origin working in that college now as compared to what we had three years ago, we have increased the percentage there quite dramatically. This is the kind of action that is required, the kind of action that we have to continue to strive for to ensure that we have the proper kind of mix, if you like, within the department as we have within government and to ensure that every opportunity is given for those within the department who fit the affirmative action category to advance from their level to the managerial levels.

Within my own office, I might tell you that we have promoted the whole concept of people moving up the ladder, if you like. My personal secretary has moved into an administrative position now, Madam Chair, and indeed every bit of encouragement that I can offer to my staff within my office, especially to the secretarial staff, to take advantage of programs that will allow them to advance, they will be given every opportunity to do that.

* (1530)

I could also indicate that in the whole area of the department we have now six female directors. We have Brenda Cooke, who is the director of Workforce 2000; we have Carolyn Loeppky, who is the director of the Inner-City Initiative Branch; Carol Sigurdson, the student financial assistance branch; Heather Wood of Regional Services; Gail Bagnall, Curriculum Development and Implementation; and Juliette Sabot, Native Education. We also have a vice-president at Red River Community College, Myrtle Nichols and, as I indicated, the ADM of Admin and Finance is Denise Lovatt.

Mrs. Carstairs: This is one of the easiest areas, of course, in which women can be promoted because we are, in fact, the largest component of the educationally trained people in terms of having Education degrees. We outstrip men in this particular issue. I would like to know from the minister how many of the layoffs, and I think there were 161 in total, were women? How many were members of the visible minorities? How many were men?

Mr. Derkach: Of the number of employees laid off, 89 were female and 104 were male. Those are the total people who were affected for a total of 193. As the member knows, there were 162 layoffs. Total positions cut were 162 within the department.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the minister also tell us how many visible minorities, and I am particularly interested in Natives in this particular issue?

Mr. Derkach: In the whole area of declared affirmative action target-group members, we had eight who were Native, eight who were visible minorities and two were disabled or handicapped.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the minister now give me the proportion of people who were hired, who are still employed with respect to those same categories?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, of the total employment component as of December, in the female category, 55.32 percent, 3.9 percent were Native, 1.59 percent were disabled and 2.3 percent were visible minority.

Mrs. Carstairs: I think the only figure that the minister has not given me is men, which I assume is about 40 percent on the basis of this breakdown.

Mr. Derkach: Well, 45 percent.

Just for clarification, may I also say that of the Native and the visible minority, these were self-declared numbers that we have. There are those who do not declare.

Mrs. Carstairs: I recognize that, and that not all members of the visible minority like to declare themselves to be a member of the visible minority.

Can the minister tell the House just what type of training initiatives are available to members of his staff generally, with regard to upward mobility, particularly for the target groups?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the staff within my department are given opportunities to participate first of all in the CAMEO Program. I am not sure if the member is familiar with it. Do you want me to elaborate on the CAMEO Program? No? Okay, so they do participate in the CAMEO Program, and they also participate in the Career Options Program. Those are two of the basic programs that they would participate in.

Additionally, I might add that staff are also given the opportunities to participate in workshops and programs that might be put on by external organizations or external groups, and even outside of the province, for that matter, to allow them to enhance their skills and allow them to advance within their positions.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, of the approximately 990 women employed through the Department of Education and Training, can the

minister tell me how many of them are considered to be in a managerial position, and how many of the men, which would amount to some 800 positions—and rough numbers are fine—would be considered to possess managerial jobs?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I guess we look at our staff component, and a large number of our staff are, in fact, instructors, especially at the college level. Therefore, if you take that component out, of course, it gives an entirely different picture than when you include them, because many of the instructor positions are not necessarily ones that would lead to managerial positions.

Within the colleges themselves we have had some difficulty in attracting women into the areas of management. As a matter of fact, we have advertised on two occasions now for management positions at the colleges, and we are having difficulty attracting women to even apply for those positions. We do have a challenge there.

Let me indicate that in the total department, in terms of the top-level managerial positions, we have, as I indicated, one ADM, one executive director in the Program Analysis Co-ordination and Support Services Branch at PACE. We have an executive director of Distance Education and Technology. We have the Public Schools Finance Board chairperson. We have the acting director of Native Education Branch and the director of the Curriculum Development and Implementation Branch who are female as well. We have also an acting chairperson of regular programs who is a female at the Thompson campus with Keewatin Community College. We have also the Vice-President of Red River Community College, Myrtle Nichols. Those are the top-level female positions in the administration side of the department.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chair, as the minister knows, there are lots of administrative positions, and the numbers are still relatively low for the number of women possessing those positions on staff. The question obviously is, what specifically is the minister doing to encourage women?

* (1540)

I am somewhat dismayed, I have to say, by his statement that instructors would not necessarily lead to administration. Almost everyone who is finding themselves eventually in administration has at some point or time been an instructor or a teacher.

To say that they cannot move from that into administration, quite frankly, is hogwash. I mean the entire school system is filled with administrators who were at one point instructors.

I want to know what kind of encouragement is being given at the community college level and with his own department so that people can move up the administrative hierarchy. With the greatest respect to the deputy minister, when are we going to see our first female Deputy Minister of Education?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I guess I should not paint as bleak a picture as I was painting for the honourable member because, in the senior office category, eight out of 20 senior officer positions are in fact female. When you compare that with what we had when we started, we have come a long way. It does not mean we are all the way there to matching a fair representation, but it is a long way from where we have come. I do not intend to send my deputy minister out to greener pastures. I like very much the job he is doing and intend to keep him where he is as long as I possibly can keep him there. When we advertise for positions within the community colleges, within the department, we continually emphasize the fact that we are going to be considering affirmative action candidates for those positions.

Let me just perhaps by way of information read to the members what the department is planning to do over the next while to try and allow more female candidates, more affirmative action candidates to move up the ladder of success, if you like, the ladder for management. First of all, we need to promote awareness and the education of department staff regarding affirmative action to ensure that everybody is indeed aware of the kinds of positions that might be available within the department for people to aspire to.

To do this, we have to organize a series of workshops for managers and staff to help them better understand the objectives of the government in terms of implementing these strategies of affirmative action. We have some time lines in terms of when we would like to do this. Indeed they range from the beginning of 1991 through 1992. We will be going out not only to our departmental staff but to the colleges as well.

We are going to attempt to encourage self-declarations from all target group members so that indeed we will know when we have a better

representation of people from the affirmative action categories within the department. We will embark on providing information to managers and employees on the benefits of such things as job sharing to recognize that this is a vehicle which will enable members of the two target groups, women with outside responsibilities and disabled persons whose disabilities affect their level of endurance, opportunities to enter and to stay in the work force.

We will be meeting with representatives of target groups to hear their concerns about some of the difficulties that they have perhaps experienced in trying to gain access to these areas of work. Indeed, to ensure that there is a better distribution of women and affirmative action candidates within the department, we will be placing particular emphasis on women in management and supervisory positions in areas where there is underrepresentation.

Additionally, when we talk about people on our boards whom we have within the department, and we have a large number of boards, we will ensure, every time, we select members to these boards who we will have proper representation from the affirmative action groups. We have done this over the last three years.

As a matter of fact, every time I write a letter asking for candidates, whether it is from the MTS or from MAST or any of the other organizations, I ask for four names because when we put the complement of the board together, we want to ensure that we have a balance there of affirmative action candidates so that, indeed, there is a fair balance. We are having some difficulty in that area because for one reason or other we are only receiving, at times, two names. Both, for example, may be male from the MTS, and the same may occur from the MAST organization or the MASS organization. Then we have a real difficulty in trying to get a good distribution of people on a board.

We are working at that continually, and hopefully we will get the organizations that supply the names to understand the need for making sure that affirmative action candidates are well represented, not only within the department, but also on the boards that serve the department as well.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, so I can assume that the fourth appointment that is to be made to the legislation review is not only going to be Francophone and a teacher, but is also going to

be a female since we now are running at a ratio of one to two males? I would suggest to the minister that if he is going to be on target for that particular commission and group he should be looking at yet another female.

I want, however, to talk briefly about, and to ask the minister some questions with regard to, the attitudes and the growth of self-awareness among his own female staff persons. I think that the minister is quite aware of the fact that different age groups have different attitudes about whether, in fact, they have the stuff to make it into administration, which I think is quite tragic.

Independent studies will show us that the 20-year-olds, the early 30-year-olds, have quite good self-images and are quite prepared to push themselves forward, apply for positions, take on the new instruction necessary, the mid-thirties less willing to do so, the over-forty-fives, because they grew up in a whole different society, very unwilling often to push themselves ahead in terms of saying, I do have the ability, I do have the skills to make it in an administrative position.

I want to know if the minister has particularly targeted the plus-35 group for special attention in terms of rebuilding their image of themselves so that they will reach out to positions that perhaps they never considered before.

Mr. Derkach: No, Madam Chair, we have not really discriminated in terms of age groups in that way, and I am not sure we would want to. Indeed, we have sponsored a workshop to bring more awareness to the women within the department, of the need for them, for us, to have them advance within the department.

Through the Civil Service Commission, there is a group, if you like, or an organization which is organized for the purpose of allowing an opportunity for women, who are already in management and those who may be aspiring into the management positions, to have an opportunity to share with one another and also to perhaps develop their skills for enhancement within government.

* (1550)

With regard to boards and commissions, once again, indeed when we had the board set for the legislative reform we did have, we thought, a fairly good representation—two men, two women. Unfortunately, one of the women, in administration herself now, could not find the time to act. Indeed,

we will do everything we can to attract that kind of a candidate again, but that is not always possible. Sometimes you end up with an imbalance because it is not always possible to find that exact mix. We will endeavour to do what we can to ensure that we have a fairly even split on that particular board or panel.

Mrs. Carstairs: I would like to give the minister the opportunity to withdraw the word "discriminated." That is exactly what affirmative action is about. It is that you take specific groups who have not had opportunities and you encourage them. You do not discriminate against them. I think if the minister thinks about that, he would like to withdraw the use of that word, because it is a direct contradiction to what an Affirmative Action program is supposed to be all about.

I think the minister should be aware that many in my age group found themselves being discriminated against simply because they were women and not for any other reason. I mean, I applied for my first vice-principleship back in 1966, was told at the interview that I had better qualifications than anybody else applying, and that I was the only one with a Masters degree in education. But because I was 24 and because I had not had children yet, I could not possibly be considered for the job.

So, you know, it obviously did not affect me, but other people are very much affected by that kind of an experience in their life, and unless specific attention is paid to those individuals to give them the self-image that quite frankly was removed from them at an earlier time, then I think that the minister indeed might find himself working in a way which did discriminate against those individuals.

Mr. Derkach: We do not classify the in-servicing or the opportunities in terms of age groups of people. Indeed, it does not matter about the age group of an individual. If that individual has the capability and has the skills required to do a particular task, that individual should be given every opportunity to enhance. When these sessions are held, every possible opportunity is given to ensure that people are made to feel comfortable and are encouraged to take every possible opportunity to advance. To this point in time, I have to be very honest with the member, we have not set our goals or our targets of in-servicing at particular age levels. Rather it has been to the target groups themselves in a general sense.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, I would just ask the minister to review with his staff some of the things that I have said to him today with respect to the fact that even within these target groups there are some who, because of their educational experiences and because of their age, will be more aggressive in their desire to achieve, because they have been told, fortunately, in the school system that they should achieve. They have been told through their community college or academic preparation that indeed they should be considered 50-50.

It is one thing to have been educated in an academic discipline when you are one female out of 50 males. It is another thing to be educated in a discipline, which is happening more and more frequently now, in which the ratio is 50-50. Therefore, the attitudes of the young women, fortunately, today, and even members of the visible minorities, are quite different from sometimes even their older brothers and sisters, certainly their parents and their aunts and their uncles.

So age is indeed a factor in relationship for these people with respect to their own self-image, and I would just ask him to look at that with a little bit more care and consideration.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, indeed some of the excerpts that I read this afternoon with regard to what the potential, or what the future plans of the department are, these can be expanded of course. Indeed the member's suggestion will certainly be discussed with staff to ensure that if that is a need, that in fact will be done.

Mrs. Carstairs: I would like to now move into (1)(e) Financial Services if that is acceptable to the minister.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I did not table at the beginning of our session this afternoon the request that was made last session. That was for out-of-province travel by the minister and deputy minister or the Executive Support. I would like to table that at this time.

Madam Chair, if I might for the record, indicate that of the list that I am tabling this afternoon, all but three of the out-of-province trips—cost for those trips were recovered through the Council of Ministers of Canada. There were three out-of-province travel expenditures that were not recoverable from the Council of Ministers of Canada.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, we have seen the deletion of one staff person from Administration and Finance. That staff person has been transferred to the Schools Finance Board, but we have seen a decrease of some \$320,000 in the total salary allotment. Can the minister explain how they can do that?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the variance in this particular branch is a result of the transfer of eight Capital Facilities staff to the employees of the Public Schools Finance Board. So indeed that is the only reason for the variance.

I think there was a question about the auditor. In terms of the Internal Audit position, Madam Chair, that position was not transferred. Rather, it was one that will not be filled again.

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, perhaps I have a nonupdated page, but my page shows a change of 49.26 to 48.26. It only shows one Internal Audit position. It says responsibility for staffing the Capital Facilities unit to the Schools Finance Board. Has the minister at the same time picked up staff and also deleted staff, since there is only one staff person?

* (1600)

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the one position, from 49 to 48, was a reduction in positions of one position. The individual who was filling that position moved into a vacant position within the Finance branch.

In terms of the transfer of the 8 staff in Capital Facilities from the Finance branch to the Public Schools Finance Board, although they are shown here, it will not be until next year that we will see the line adjusted in its proper form to reflect that they are then going to become the true staff of the Public Schools Finance Board.

Mrs. Carstairs: Just so that I am absolutely clear here, there will in fact be 40.26 positions working in this department. The others have been sent over to the Finance Board, but they are going to be paid under this appropriation for the fiscal year '91-92. Okay. Can the minister tell—

Mr. Derkach: End of the school year.

Mrs. Carstairs: What?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, we will continue the salaries in this particular fashion until the end of the school year, so that is really the three months. Then beginning July they will be transferred over to the Public Schools Finance Board.

Mrs. Carstairs: So, in fact, as of the end of the school year there will be 40.26 people in this department?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, that is correct, Madam Chair.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chair, is this the section that will be providing advice, professional/ technical and administrative support to a school finance review, and are they doing that now? Will they also be the ones asked to do it when it takes on a broader component than just within the ministerial department?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, this is the branch of the department that is co-ordinating the entire Ed Finance Review.

As I indicated before, we do have a Finance Advisory Committee that this branch is working with. Indeed, once we develop the formula or the approach that is going to be used, it will be up to this particular branch to administer it and to co-ordinate the implementation of the new model.

Mrs. Carstairs: That of course leads to the question, if you are, in fact, going to have fewer staff, how is that kind of major finance review to be undertaken, particularly if, as one assumes the minister is going to do it, it is going to have to be broadened to public hearings involving a great number of groups?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the staff reduction is not in the Finance branch, it is in the internal audit, which will not have any impact on the development of the model and on the implementation of the new model. Secondly, the Capital Facilities branch, where our staff are going to be transferred to, will still continue to have responsibility over capital facilities. So they are not going to change their job descriptions, if you like. They will just be recorded in the appropriation for Estimates' sake and also for general accounting purposes.

Mrs. Carstairs: I am to assume from that, I guess, that the internal audit function will now be conducted entirely by the school finance board and the expected results that are listed here for '91-92 will now be conducted by the school finance board.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the internal auditors fall under this whole umbrella, if you like, of the Finance branch. We had, up until the budget, three auditors. We will now be functioning with two auditors, but they are not part of the Capital Facilities group that is being transferred over to the Public

Schools Finance Board. It is just that the auditors are under this particular appropriation or this branch.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, it is my understanding that the audit on St. James-Assiniboia will be coming down this Wednesday and that many of the recommendations have already been implemented in St. James-Assiniboia. Can the minister tell the House if, in fact, recommendations made by the auditor will also be made available to all of the other school divisions, and will they be expected to reach the same level of expectation?

Mr. Derkach: I do not know where the member got her date, but we will be tabling the auditor's report as soon as I have had an adequate opportunity to go through it with staff. The auditor's report will be public and will contain comments made by the school division and also comments made by the officials of the Department of Education and Training, in terms of what recommendations they are making on procedures and that sort of thing, to ensure that a situation like that does not occur again. Indeed, we will make sure that report is available to school divisions throughout the province, in terms of the procedures that will be followed, to try and keep a situation like this from occurring again.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the minister explain just what the process is when the government decides to do a comprehensive audit of a particular branch, and how does that differ from the ongoing auditing of every single branch of a particular department? What special positions, what special rules and regulations have to be put into effect when an internal audit is done on a particular branch such as the Inner-City Initiative or the Universities Grants Commission?

Mr. Derkach: In terms of the regular internal audits that occur, we do follow a fairly comprehensive set of criteria, if you like, for the audits that occur on a regular and rotational basis throughout the department. Indeed, I would say that they are the same as any audit for any other department.

However, from time to time, there may be a need to do a special audit on a particular area of the department or particular branch of the department. At that point in time, we will initiate the special audit through either a request from myself as minister or from a request by the deputy minister as well. These are fairly comprehensive audits, and they will only be done if requested by the management of the

department. On a regular basis, we have a rotational system that is followed for internal audits throughout the department on a continual basis.

Mrs. Carstairs: According to the statement on page 34, it says: "Contributes to the improvement of management practices resulting in greater efficiencies and effectiveness." Does that also examine the program delivery by these particular branches, and if so, for example, why would he order, and I presume it is the minister in this case, a comprehensive audit of the Inner-City Initiative when this year we see rather large cuts to the Inner-City Initiative?

* (1610)

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, when we talk about the internal audit process, we really talk about the audit of management of a particular branch. When we do an audit, whether it is the Inner-City branch or any other branch of the department, a comprehensive audit would look at such things as reviewing the management procedures and practices of that particular branch, the planning, the monitoring, and ensuring that indeed it does follow the criteria that have been set up as the mandate of that department.

When we talk about programs, Madam Chair, I would have to say that those are separate and different from the internal audits. If we wanted to do a program audit on a particular branch, that would be quite different from the internal management audits that we do on a rotational basis. We would order those as a special audit perhaps to do an audit of a program within a particular branch.

Mrs. Carstairs: If that was done—and I find it difficult to be able to take an initiative like Inner-City Education and not to look at programming at the same time that you are looking at managers trying to carry out that programming—how would you, in fact, go about, and what section of his department would indeed look after the programming audit?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the internal audit process would not involve itself with the audit of programs within any branch. That is something that would be done through the manager of that particular branch or through the manager of the department, the deputy minister or assistant deputy minister, or it might be asked for by the minister.

If we go back a year or so ago, the member will recall when we did the program audit on the Winnipeg Education Centre. At that point in time,

we did two different audits: one on the management; and one on the specific programs that were being delivered, the effectiveness of those programs, the enrollments in those programs, whether or not the programs were meeting the mandate that was established for that program. That is a separate kind of audit and would be done by someone outside of the internal audit group. It has nothing to do with the internal audit aspect of the department at all.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chair, obviously somebody does it. Where exactly is this done in the minister's Education Estimates?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, let me try to elaborate on the difference between the process of the internal audit that is done for management purposes and program audits. When you look at internal audit, what we have are groups of people who are specialized in reviewing management practices, processes, how branches might be administering their particular mandates.

When we look at program audits, that is something that needs to be done by the managers of the department themselves, whether it is the ADM who does the analysis of a program, or whether it is the deputy minister or the directors, for that matter. Indeed, it could be someone who has a specialty in that area who has been asked to do a program audit by the minister. It varies. It depends on the situation.

If we go back to the Winnipeg Education Centre, for example, we asked for someone outside of the department to do an audit of the programs that were delivered by the Winnipeg Education Centre. On a continuous basis, if you like, our management staff consisting of the directors, the ADMs, the deputy minister himself would do the audits of programs for various branches to determine whether or not they are meeting the criteria that have been established, the mandate that has been established, and to ensure they are results oriented so that the proper, if you like, results are being realized that the programs have been established for. That is the responsibility of the department managers as a whole.

Indeed, if we get to a situation where we think we need an external audit, we will ask for that kind of expertise to be hired and to be contracted to do that kind of process.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chair, I do not feel particularly comfortable with those kinds of explanations, because I have to say that just auditing somebody's management activities without knowing what the activities are and having a comprehensive knowledge of what is going on within that academic environment indicates to me that you are auditing in a vacuum in terms of the programming being offered to that school.

If you take the Manitoba School for the Deaf, which is one of the groups that is going to have this internal audit, in fact, there is not a great deal of management over there. There is a principal; there is a vice-principal; there are the kitchen facilities; there is the residence component; but the fundamental issue is how are they training youngsters who have a speech and hearing impediment? How does the audit completely separate the ministerial or managerial function from program delivery?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the manager of every department has to file with his or her supervisor, be it the ADM or the deputy minister, a plan for how they are conducting their affairs within that particular branch, how well the branch or that area is meeting its targets, whether in fact it meets the goals and the broad objectives that have been set for that particular area.

You cannot say that the internal audit team has the expertise to deal with every branch within the Department of Education and Training and to be able to ascertain whether the programs in fact are meeting the criteria that have been established for them. That has to be something that is done by the managers of the department, whether it is the ADM of Administration or the ADM of Program Development or the ADM of PACE or whoever that manager may be. These are the people who have to set the broad goals, the broad parameters, and ensure that those who are working under them adhere to those goals and file with them their operational plans and their achievements of goals, if you like.

Indeed, when we get into a situation where we think that for one reason or another that we have to go beyond the people who have been hired to do those things, we indeed will hire an outside individual or group to do that audit, as we did in the case of the Winnipeg Education Centre.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, can the minister tell the House why Supplies and Services, specifically with regard to professional services, this seems to be the big, big chunk here, has gone up by some \$68,500?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, in the area of Supplies and Services, the increase of the \$62,000 of course relates to, first of all, the transfer that we spoke about earlier from the Finance branch to the Capital Facilities branch. More importantly, the steering committee that has been established for the establishment of the new formula is going to be costing something in the neighbourhood of \$40,000. Also, on a cyclical basis, there is an audit fee assigned for auditing the Public Schools Finance Board. That amount is \$22.3 thousand.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, can the minister outline for me the steering committee, which he says is now going to cost some \$40,000?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, this is a steering committee for people transportation, I believe it is. For some time we have been operating a transportation system for people in this province without really taking an in-depth look at how effective the transportation system is within the province, how well we are meeting our objectives and how safe the regulations and so forth are meeting the mark and whether or not in fact we are delivering transportation of students to schools in the most cost-effective manner.

* (1620)

The steering committee has been established to look at all of the issues as they relate to the transportation of students in our province. They look at such things as safety, control, flexibility, contracting options, definition of service requirements, determination of current cost, projecting future costs, review of existing agreements, review of existing facilities, comparison of owned, contracted and provincial costs, and longevity of school buses.

Each of these areas, Madam Chair, will be looked at thoroughly by the committee that has been established. That committee will report back to the department some time in the new year, and I would suggest it would be February or March of the new year when this committee will be in a position to report back to the minister. At that point in time, we will have examined all of the very important areas of pupil transportation, and we will be in a position to

move with some new or perhaps better procedures with regards to transporting students in the province.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the minister tell us who is on this steering committee?

Mr. Derkach: Yes, Madam Chair. The committee is chaired by Mr. John Harrison. On the committee we have representation from all of the organizations. From MAST we have Mr. Ed Levandoski; from MASBO we have Ms. Lorraine Chenier; Transportation Supervisor Mr. Murray Cunningham; Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Murray Bradshaw; business sector representative Mr. David Rudy; business sector representative Mr. Dennis Kostick; Manitoba Safety Council representative Ms. Rita Roeland; private contractor Mr. John Langdon; Home and School Parent Teacher Federation, Ms. Niki Partridge; MASS representative Mr. Wendell Sparkes. The secretary to the committee is Mr. Laurent Bisson. The acting co-ordinator for pupil transportation, Education and Training, is Mr. Chuck Beaudry, and the ex-officio is Miss Denise Lovatt.

Mrs. Carstairs: It is a very large steering committee, and it seems to have very broad-based representation which makes me wonder why, if we are reviewing legislation, the minister has said that he has limited himself to four people who are going to conduct province-wide hearings on an issue as important as the legislation to take us into the 21st Century with respect to education. He seems to have listed, according to my calculations here, some 12 people. Why can we have 12 on this kind of a steering committee to look at one very narrow aspect of education, and yet he has limited himself to four to study the entire legislative structure of education in the province.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, let us look at the mandate of the two groups. First of all, the committee on pupil transportation is looking at every aspect of transportation that I have just mentioned in my previous answer, to establish recommendations to the department and to the minister on the changes that are going to be required to make our transportation system more effective and more efficient in the province.

The panel that is co-ordinating the hearings on The Public Schools Act is doing a different task altogether. They are going throughout the province and listening to Manitobans with regard to their input into the potential, if you like, changes that will be made to The Public Schools Act.

It will not be the panel that will be making the changes to The Public Schools Act. The panel will simply report on what they have heard from the field, from the various organizations, from the various presenters on The Public Schools Act. Indeed, it will be the department that will then take all of the results of the hearings and will formulate them into legislation with a new Public Schools Act after the panel has made their report to the department.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, surely the minister is not suggesting that the steering committee is going to make all of the decisions for pupil transportation in the province, and there is going to be no input from the Department of Education whatsoever.

Mr. Derkach: If you look at the structure of that committee and the people who are on that committee, they are people who have some expertise in the whole area of transportation and safety, have some experience in that area as well both from a management perspective and also from a hands-on approach, and have some practical experience in the whole business of transporting people and students.

Madam Chair, we are looking to them to provide us with the guidance on how we can better improve our transportation system. They are going to be examining what the transportation system is like today in Education. They are going to be dealing with a much more hands-on approach in terms of examining every issue and developing, if you like, ways in which we can improve in each of those areas.

With regard to the panel, they are not going to be doing anything of that nature. They are simply going out there to listen to Manitobans, to encourage them to participate in the process of input into the development, if you like, of a new Public Schools Act, but they will not be doing the development of The Public Schools Act per se.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, I become more and more disturbed, not because of the steering committee report which I think is heading in the right direction, but from the group that the minister has just established to review The Public Schools Act. He seems already to be distancing himself from potentially the recommendations that are going to be made by this group.

Now, surely, he is not telling us in the House that they are to go out and solicit opinion, but they are to

make no recommendations to the minister. They are just to report to the minister on what they have heard. I mean, that sounds like Brian Mulroney and Meech Lake.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I thought that it was spelled out very clearly in terms of the mandate of the panel that is going to do the hearing. They are not going to be trying to influence the public in any way, shape or form in the way that the presentations are made before the panel. Indeed, Manitobans are going to be guided by the booklet that has been put out, if you like, the guidelines that have been put out on legislative reform, Creating a Framework for the Future.

Within that document you have a series of issues, a series of questions which the public can follow in terms of making representation to the panel. The panel's responsibility will be to co-ordinate or, if you like, to synthesize all of the responses that they receive from the field into a report and then present that report to the minister and to the department.

* (1630)

At that point in time it will be the responsibility of the department to take the responses and to develop a new Public Schools Act based on the responses that have come from the field, and based on the report that comes from the panel, but it is not the panel that is going to be sitting down to write the new Public Schools Act.

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, just a note of caution. I think that as politicians, if we are going to legitimately involve the public, we are going to go out and say to the public: Participate in a review. We are here to listen to you. We want to get your points of view. You are going to have input into a new act. Then we dismiss what they have said because the Department of Education is going to draw up that new act and they are going to listen to this group or not listen, as their mood may take them, then I think we are in a very dangerous situation. I would like to have some commitment from the minister that the committee that dialogues with Manitobans about education legislation for the 1990s will, in fact, be credible and will have their positions, when they make those recommendations, treated with a great deal of sensitivity by the Department of Education, and not run roughshod over, so that once again we basically turn our back on the electorate.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, if we were going to turn our back on the electorate, it would be pointless

in establishing the process that we have just done. We would have just simply gone ahead and rewritten The Public Schools Act without any public consultation. It is our intent to listen to what Manitobans have to say with regard to the many issues that are outlined in the consultation paper, and then to base the new Public Schools Act on what Manitobans have to say.

Indeed, the people who are leading the consultation process have some expertise in dealing with The Public Schools Act and in dealing with people, if you like. We tried to structure the panel in such a way that there would be a mix of people who are going to be on the panel so that indeed when citizens come to make their representation and participate, they will not only be listened to, but will have someone on that panel that they perhaps can relate to if, in fact, they get into a situation where they have some difficulty expressing their views, for that matter. But I think it is important to note that we will listen to the process, we will listen to Manitobans, and the group that has been put together, the panel, will probably have some comment that they will want to make to us and give us some advice as well, and we are not objecting to that either.

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, thank you, but rather than objecting to it, I hope they would be encouraging it. I have a letter, and I know the Minister does because it was originally addressed to him, from Mary Kay Hudyma, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dauphin/Ochre School Area No. 1, and she questions the one time grant which has been given with respect to pupil transportation. Can the Minister tell the House why a decision was made to change that this year in light of the work that is being done by the steering committee?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, one of the reasons why that grant was given was that when we went around the province with our fiscal plan, and after we had allocated the funding for this year, one of the major complaints we heard from rural divisions was the fact that transportation costs were becoming so horrendous that they were eating up such major portions of their budgets that it was very difficult for them to cope with the realities that were out there, especially in those cases where the transportation budget was eating up in excess of 6 and 7 per cent and in many cases up to 12 per cent of their budgets.

So to try and respond to the needs of school boards who are having this kind of desperate

situation before them, we instituted the one time transportation grant to alleviate the situation for this year. Next year, we will have the new funding formula in place and, indeed, at that point in time, we will hope that school divisions are going to be treated much more equitably in terms of the sharing of resources of the province and of the department for their educational needs.

That, I think, will be a time when we can address that on a longer-term basis, but this year is a transition year, if you like, between the old formula and the new formula. For that reason, we did implement the one time transportation grant for this year only.

Mrs. Carstairs: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, but the Minister of Highways indicates, of course, we have to have fairness, and that is exactly what the trustees of Dauphin/Ochre School Area No. 1 are complaining about. They, in fact, say that their transportation budget increased the same percentage as did divisions whose total transportation budget is more than 7 per cent. They want to know why they had been penalized, and they seem to be taking the position that school divisions with smaller transportation budgets, regardless of the way in which the division has maintained its small transportation budget, have been discriminated against.

I would like to know how the minister replies to this school division that feels that they have been unfairly treated, to use the Minister of Highways' words.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, for three years I have been saying that the GSE formula discriminated against low-spending school divisions, indeed, school divisions that practise effectiveness and efficiency, and we can not correct all of those ills, given that we have to work with that base formula, if you like.

We have to venture into a new funding approach. That is what we have been working on now for two solid years, to try and come up with a funding approach that is going to be more fair. I am not going to stand here and say that every one is being treated fairly, even by the distribution of this one-time grant. We tried to give the money and it was \$1.492 million that we were able to allocate. We gave it to the most needy, and it had to be based on some type of approach that would make some sense, and so we looked at the percentage of

money that was allocated to transportation within a given division, based on the overall budget, so that anybody whose expenses increased by, I believe it was 7 percent over and above, or if their expenditures were 7 percent of their total budget, then they were eligible for the grant. Anybody whose expenses were below the 7 percent were not eligible. I am not going to stand up here and say it was absolutely fair, but indeed it was as fair as we could get.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, the question remains, why was it decided to do it this year? Why was the formula changed this year when he knew that there was a major restructuring going to take place presumably for the '92-93 fiscal year?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, when we went out with our meetings to the various regions this was one of the concerns that was raised by most divisions, especially those who were hit hardest by transportation costs. We tried to address the biggest, if you like, concern that was out there. If the Leader of the third party remembers that fuel costs were escalating at that time, which was really throwing a problem at the whole area of transportation, for that reason we decided that to help divisions along this year that we would implement that \$1.4 million grant to the school divisions based on an equalization formula to allow the most needy to access the money so that they could indeed find it a little easier to live with their costs this year.

Mrs. Carstairs: I would like to move into XVI 1.(f) if that is possible—Communications. I just have a very general question, and if the specific staff is not here I do not think it is a particular problem.

Can the minister tell the House why they have removed five of the seven positions but they will still have a Communications department with presumably two professional and technical people? Why, if for example there was to be this wholesale merger of communications, was it necessary to maintain these two as a special section within the ministry of Education?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the two positions that were retained were as follows. One was for the work that needs to be done in putting out the Ed Man publication throughout the year. That position will be retained within the central Communications area but will be charged to the department. The other one has been retained by the department to do such

things as the annual reports and also the bilingual formats of the documents that have to be put out by the Department of Education and Training. So those are the two positions that were retained.

* (1640)

Mrs. Carstairs: Yes, I would just like a little clarity. The Ed Manitoba position will now be seconded, if you will, to the central communications group, but will, in fact, still be paid for by the Department of Education? Okay.

In terms of the annual reports and the bilingual format, I thought all of the translation services were, in fact, centralized and worked out of the French Language Services Secretariat in the Premier's Office. Is the minister now telling me that there is a separate component of that secretariat in his department?

Mr. Derkach: No, Madam Chair, but because of the volume of bilingual material that we put out as a department, it is important for someone to co-ordinate. We do not do the translation services within the department, but it is important for an individual within the department to co-ordinate all of these activities.

For example, when we come out with a document like *Creating a Framework for the Future*, the consultation paper on legislative reform, or, for that matter, the Strategic Plan, someone needs to do the co-ordination and the formatting of that material and to make sure that it is translated on a timely basis, and that is what this individual would be doing.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, as I said, I only had a couple of questions that I wanted to ask on that particular area.

I would like to move, however, into Administration and Professional Certification. Can the minister tell the House today, what is the status of the transfer of this particular department to the community of Russell?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, the projected date for the moving of this branch to Russell would be sometime in the fall of this year. The specific date has not, I do not think, been established, but I would imagine it will be September or October of this year.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, has the minister had any greater success than he had in the fall when he was examined about persuading members of this department to move, since, of

course, none of them had agreed to move at that particular point in time?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, in serious terms, I guess I would have to say that many of the people who work in this department have spouses who are working elsewhere, either in the private business or perhaps even in other areas of government, and therefore it is difficult for them to make the move.

I know that if they were to ever venture out to that area, they would all want to move there, but the reality is such that there are jobs in the city their spouses may be engaged in and it prevents them from moving. So we will be looking probably at hiring a majority of the people as new staff people in that branch.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, the indication from the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Downey) is that they are not going to move the Vital Statistics branch into Dauphin. One of the reasons why they are not, according to the minister, is that they have not been able to find the staff to move them to Dauphin.

Can he give us his reasons why he feels that there is absolutely no difficulty getting these professional and technical people who will not move from here, but he is going to be able to hire them all by the fall of 1991, which is some four months away?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I guess we would be somewhat naive if we thought that there are not people capable on the western side of this province to handle tasks of this kind. I would have to say that we will be advertising throughout the Civil Service and throughout the province to attract people to those positions, and I am quite confident that we will be able to find them. However, I guess, time will tell. Indeed, staff from my department will be working very hard to ensure that we have adequate numbers, but capable individuals, to be able to manage the affairs of that branch when it does move.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, the question is in fact a very serious one. There have been a great number of positions that have been laid off by this government as a result of their budget, many of whom lived in rural Manitoba. This is an initiative where people are being asked to accept jobs in rural Manitoba. Can the minister tell this House if they have in fact found space in terms of an office building suitable, if they have rented that space, and when the lease begins?

Mr. Derkach: That is a matter that is within the purview of the Department of Government Services for finding the location and the building for the department, but indeed we have been assured that a building will be available for us in September or in the fall of the year.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the minister tell the House, of the 32.03 positions in this particular section, which ones will remain in Winnipeg and which ones are slated to move to Russell?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, of the 32 positions that are listed, 11 will be moving. Of the 11, two are professional/technical, and nine will be administrative support staff.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, I do not have my Estimates from last year, but it seems to me that is a decline in the number that we were given in the last year's Estimates. Can the minister tell us why they have moved and if they are primarily in the professional and technical staff?

* (1650)

Mr. Derkach: Last year, I think there were 14 designated to move. We have, again, reduced staffing levels in this branch and there will be three fewer people moving from the admin support area to the Russell branch.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, according to the Estimates there is, in fact, not a reduction in staff, there is an increase in staff of .03 positions. So while there may be three fewer going to Russell, that is not a reasonable explanation according to page 43 of the supplementary Estimates.

Mr. Derkach: What has happened is the department has moved staff into an area where we feel there is a need to improve our information systems. If the Leader of the third party would note, in the Management Information Services area we are going to be putting three additional staff into that area to help us with getting our Management Information Services updated so that we are not so far behind with putting in student records on our computers, and that our computer system can handle the information that is required by teachers across the province and by many other individuals connected with education in a better way.

Mrs. Carstairs: Then I am assuming that Management Information systems will be maintained here in Winnipeg and that the positions that are technically dealing with the professional

certification of teachers will, in fact, be the one that is moved to Russell.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, I guess I would say that for the time being, that is the scenario, but Management Information does serve the entire department. Whether or not there will be an expansion of the people who are moving to the Russell branch has yet to be seen. That is still not determined completely.

Mrs. Carstairs: I only have one question on Section 2, and it is a very quick one. At that, I am prepared, when I am not here this evening, if everything in Sections 1 and 2 is passed and we do not have to go back at any point in time so that the staff do not have to reappear, just for the minister's information—the only question that I have, quite frankly, on Section 2 is why was there such a large increase required for teacher retirement allowances in this fiscal year? It was some \$6 million and there, presumably, was a reason for it. I would just like to know what that reason was?

Mr. Derkach: I guess we are moving into an area where we have more teachers retiring now. Many teachers are reaching the age of retirement and are taking their retirement perhaps a little earlier, but it really is just the actual cost of providing the pensions and the retirement for teachers who are getting out of the business.

Mrs. Carstairs: Can the minister tell me if they found themselves with a bit of a shortfall last year, because obviously you do not just have that many teachers retiring in this fiscal year, '91-92, who would require an increase which is almost 20 percent of the entire budget?

Mr. Derkach: The projections were made on, I guess, the number of teachers who we see out in the field and who we think are going to be retiring. Last year, we did not project accurately enough, and there were more teachers who retired than we had anticipated. This is why we have that \$6 million increase in teacher retirements. Indeed, there was a significant number of teachers who retired who were not anticipated by the department.

Mrs. Carstairs: Madam Chairperson, I think that, of course, is one of the evidences that points to the fact that we may, indeed, have a teacher shortage beginning in 1994, because we have more and more of our teaching profession reaching 55, and many of them are eligible for retirement at that particular point in time because of changes made to the

legislation. I think we have to be watchful for the fact that we could indeed find ourselves in a teacher shortage situation.

So I will defer to the member for Kildonan, or we can all take a few minutes break before we have to be back in here for private members' hour.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, just to respond to the last comment made by the Leader of the third party, may I say that it was for this reason there was some talk about the potential shortage of teachers by 1995, in that time frame anyway. We put together a committee to examine the whole issue of teacher supply and teacher shortages in the future. Indeed, once I have looked at that report completely, I will be happy to share it with members of this Legislature.

Mr. Dave Chomlak (Kildonan): I think I would like to turn back into some of the portions of the Estimates that the Leader of the third party had dealt with. I would like to flip back to Section 1.(e). I notice under Internal Audit that the Internal Audit now is carrying out its identification of activities every four years. This is a change from previous years, is it not?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, it is not necessarily a significant change. We are changing from the three-year cycle to the four-year cycle, but that is a result of the decrease in the number of auditors from three to two within the department.

Mr. Chomlak: I am sorry. I missed the last one.

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, it is because of the reduction in the number of internal auditors that we have in the department. We had three. We have only two now.

Mr. Chomlak: Madam Chairman, last session when we dealt with the Estimates for '90-91, we discussed the question of the individuals in the Financial Services Branch who were handling the review of separate schools.

Madam Chairman: Order, please. Excuse me. Just for clarification, we have not finalized (c) Planning, Research and Policy Co-ordination or Personnel Services. If it is the will of the member for Kildonan that questioning has been completed in that area, because I recognize we digress from the usual questioning sequence, then it would be appreciated if we could deal with that and move into Financial Services.

Mr. Chomlak: I am certainly prepared to pass (c), but then I would like to discuss (d).

Madam Chairman: Okay. 1.(c) Planning, Research and Policy Co-ordination: 1.(c)(1) Salaries, \$352,300—pass; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures, \$198,900—pass.

Item 1.(d) Personnel Services.

Mr. Chomlak: Madam Chairman, I noted in the announcement of the personnel in the recent budget that there was a discrepancy in some figures, and I am wondering if the minister could clear up for me those particular discrepancies.

Specifically, the documentation released in conjunction with the budget indicated 176.32 staff years were to be eliminated from the Department of Education. In the supplementary news release, 134 positions were identified in relation to the Education sector. That leaves a difference of 42.32 staff years by my calculations. I am wondering if the minister could identify for me where those particular staff positions are?

Mr. Derkach: Madam Chair, first of all, within that announcement there were some 35 vacant positions that were affected. Additionally, there were some other adjustments that had to be made, something like 5.29 other adjustments. Then, the positions and the number of staff did vary somewhat because, as I said, there were some vacancies. Also, through the bumping process, we found that there were something like 10 other positions that had to be adjusted for. So in the end, although the announcement said 176, I think there were 162 people who were affected or were terminated.

Madam Chairman: Order, please. The hour being 5 p.m. and time for private members' hour, I am interrupting the proceedings. We will reconvene this section at 8 p.m. this evening.

Call in the Speaker.

* (1700)

IN SESSION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker: The hour being 5 p.m., time for private members' hour.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Res. 8—Thumbs Down

Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Second Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I move, (seconded by

the honourable member for Crescentwood (Mr. Carr)):

WHEREAS the abuse of women cuts across socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural groups; and

WHEREAS the elimination of violence against women requires a response entailing prevention and public education; and

WHEREAS often spousal abuse is witnessed by children who learn this violent method of dealing with anger and relationships; and

WHEREAS children growing up in an abusive environment are at greater risk of becoming abusers or abused as they mature; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that 20 percent of all school children live in homes where the mother is beaten by her partner; and

WHEREAS these children need opportunities to consider alternative means of conflict resolution; and

WHEREAS the Lake Louise Declaration on Violence against Women signed by federal, provincial and territorial ministers, responsible for the Status of Women states "Every individual, community, and government in Canada must do everything possible to help the women, children and families affected by violence; we must all work together to achieve a society free from violence"; and

WHEREAS the Thumbs Down program, developed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, provides a broadly based starting point for addressing violence against society within the classroom; and

WHEREAS the Thumbs Down program is not a mandatory component of the Manitoba curriculum and therefore not all children in Manitoba are able to benefit from the program.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Minister of Education to mandate the use of the Thumbs Down program in all Manitoba schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly urge the Minister of Education to consider making available the necessary technical resources to ensure teachers are able to effectively deliver this program.

Motion presented.

Mrs. Carstairs: Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I attended a seminar on teacher abuse. One of the statistics that was developed was the idea of the amount of violence in our society. An example was given a 1950s Dragnet program in which they said that in the 60 episodes that made up the first two years of the programming there were 15 violent incidents and only three murders. Now our children see death and mayhem on a fairly regular basis as soon as they turn on their television sets.

The other interesting bit of evidence, and one which I had never seen before, was the presentation of some data which indicated that when violent actions are undertaken by comic characters, the children are able to distinguish. So, for example, the old Roadrunner shows showing the violent actions of the Roadrunner versus the rabbit, the children recognized very quickly that these were in fact cartoon characters and they did not take it seriously.

Mr. Edward Connery (Portage la Prairie): I felt sorry for the Roadrunner.

Mrs. Carstairs: Well, the member for Portage (Mr. Connery) says, he felt sorry for the Roadrunner. I think many of them did, but in addition they were able to, in their minds, separate the fact that these were comic characters and that those violent actions that they saw on the screen were in fact make-believe.

What has also, however, become more and more apparent is that is not the case when they see violent action taking place between adults, when they see, on television, murders, one human being by another human being, they do not think it is let us pretend. They do not believe it is let us pretend if they see a rape on television, and more and more of our young children are seeing that. More importantly, they certainly do not think it is a let us pretend situation when they experience it in their own homes.

As a result of the December 6, 1989, massacre of 14 women in Montreal, the Canadian public as a whole became more aware and more responsive to the pleas that many had been making for a number of years about the amount of violence specifically directed towards women in our society. It is tragic that it took an incident of this magnitude to point the way to work that needed to be done, to call attention, if you will, to the plight of many women in our society. It did turn attention of all of us towards that.

Unfortunately that attention seems to be waning and we watch that at the federal level with the pressures on Justice Minister Kim Campbell with respect to more strict gun control legislation.

Immediately following the massacre there was widespread public support for much tighter gun control legislation. Unfortunately, the pressure groups have been allowed to take on a larger prominence in the debate, and unfortunately it would appear that Ms. Campbell seems to be weakening in her own resolve to ensure that tough gun legislation will be passed.

* (1710)

In addition, we have not been prepared to carry some of the ideas that were generated as a result of the massacre all the way down to where they can touch children in a very specific way.

As a direct result of the massacre in Montreal, the Canadian Teachers' Federation wrote a curriculum called Thumbs Down. That curriculum crosses a number of school areas. For example, in a junior, kindergarten to Grade 3, the curriculum is entitled, People Aren't for Hitting. The objectives that they try to generate within that curriculum are that they want to reinforce the value of nonviolence in human relationships. They want to teach that those who hit others or otherwise abuse them are responsible for their own actions and to emphasize that the person hit is not responsible for the other's behaviour.

They do a number of things geared to a level appropriate for a Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2 or 3 child. They use, for example, the magic circle so that the issue of conflict can be discussed with the children. They also generate examples within the student's experience, and they try to focus on the school age itself, so the violence on the playground, for example, is debated and discussed within the classroom session. They also, of course, talk about the presence of adult bullies, because we know that they are recognized by children themselves, the presence of adult bullies, although frequently at this age level, an adult bully can, in fact, be a senior high school student. But to the child looking up from a height of three or four feet, that is an adult in their minds.

The program moves on, and in Grades 4, 5 and 6 the emphasis is placed on sometimes we hurt the ones we love. The dialogue now taking place actually deals with conflict specifically within the families. Violence between brothers and sisters,

brothers and brothers, sisters and sisters, is discussed within the curriculum. They are asked questions like, does saying that you are sorry erase the event? Does it erase the hurt that has occurred to the individual who has been perhaps hit by an older sibling or, indeed, even a younger sibling?

They move on into the junior high curriculum with a curriculum geared to Grades 7, 8 and 9, which is called Bridging the Gap. Here they introduce the whole concept of gender stereotyping and its influence on interpersonal behaviour. For example, the concept of is it okay to hurt a girl, to hit a girl, or is it not okay to hit a girl? Is it okay for a girl to hit a boy, which quite frankly in my own teaching experience I used to watch on occasion, and the girls seemed to think that they could get away with it, that it was perfectly acceptable for them to walk down the hall and slug a little boy, but it was never, of course, acceptable for the boy to do it towards the girl. Obviously, neither is acceptable and that type of discussion must take place within a classroom.

It is important also for young men at that particular age because, particularly by the ninth grade, not so much by seventh grade, there has been a decided lean towards the taller boy in the class as opposed to the taller girl. I was always fascinated when I taught junior high to watch them in Grade 7 where the girls frequently towered over the boys, sometimes to the intimidation, I might say, of some of the younger and smaller boys. By Grade 9 the changes had taken -(interjection)- the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Enns) says he does not want to bring back those unpopular memories. I can relate to that. I come from a family in which being five-foot-three made me positively tall, and my brother Dennis, who was all of five-foot-six—we do not think he reached that by the time he graduated from senior high and probably weighs 122 pounds when he is wet—always felt himself a little bit subjected to bullying from both females and males within the school structure.

The situation, however, is that it becomes a critical time in the education program for our young men and women to understand that violence expressed as they are beginning to date, as they are beginning to understand that the relationships between male and female are frequently tenuous at this age, but that respect must be a component of that relationship. Respect does not mean never having to say you are sorry; respect means that you do not

act in a way in which the other person can take offence.

The curriculum, however, does not stop there; it moves all the way into Grades 10, 11 and 12. At this point in time, it is clearly defined that violence towards one another is a crime, that any violent act—pushing, shoving, sexual abuse, physical abuse—is a crime.

This is where they are exposed to the situation where we have battered women living in shelters as a direct result of their partner's abuse. Here, too, students are encouraged to acquire more information about the kind of violence that is perpetrated against women in their community. They are also given the opportunity, if it is possible, to speak with men who do batter, so that a counsellor can provide them with that kind of first-hand information. They also use the case-study method to generate from them discussions of their own personal experience and also the experience of others with whom they have spoken.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a difficult curriculum to mandate because it is already written. It is not a costly mandate because it is readily available and in-servicing may be required. It is also not a time-consuming curriculum.

We are talking about a number of days in a school year, a number of hours, which, in fact, can be spotted throughout the academic school year, in which students can be made aware of a problem which deeply affects the lives of so many women in our community.

Statistics vary, but we know that many children going to school—numbers have been as high as 20 percent of the children found in any classroom—have been physically and/or sexually abused. We know that the statistics are as high as four out of 10 women have been sexually abused.

It is always difficult to use these statistics, to indicate whether they are accurate at any one given time. Suffice it to say, there is sufficient violence in our society, specifically directed towards women, that we must do what we can to change the attitudes prevalent among the population.

At no time is this curriculum more relevant than right now because, tragically, during recessionary times, during tough economic times, the statistics for violence towards women escalates. As the pressures and tensions grow within families

because of their inability to pay bills, as pressures and tensions grow within families because of unemployment, we find that the incidents of abuse rise dramatically.

So now is the time, Mr. Speaker, to mandate this curriculum in our schools, to get it up and functioning by the fall of 1991, so that children can begin to change the behavioural patterns that, tragically, adults have taught them in the past, an aggressive behavioural pattern specifically directed toward violent actions against women, which can result in the statistics that none of us want to continue.

So I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak in favour of this resolution and I recommend to each and every member of the House their support for the mandating of Thumbs Down, a classroom response to violence toward women.

Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education and Training): Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the honourable member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) for presenting this resolution today, and it is indeed a pleasure for me to rise and to be able to respond to it.

As the honourable member has indicated, the abuse of women in our society is a very serious problem. It is a problem that knows no socioeconomic, no ethnic or cultural bounds. With increasing media coverage and political debate on the issue, society is beginning to come to grips with this issue.

But, before speaking on the initiatives, Mr. Speaker, that Manitoba Education and Training has undertaken in an effort to combat the abuse of women, I would like to congratulate the honourable Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) for the role that he has taken in aiding programs that help abused women.

* (1720)

I understand that the Minister of Family Services has increased funding to the province-wide shelter system for women by 80 percent over the last two budgets. This includes 10 shelters, with an additional one to be opened in the Parkland Region later this year. In addition, two crisis lines are funded at a cost of approximately \$400,000 per year, four women's resource centres, as well as 12 other wife abuse agencies, are funded by this government; 1990-91 saw also first-time funding to six rural second-stage housing projects aimed at

providing counselling and support services to abused women re-entering the community. I believe all members will agree that this government has gone a long way to help women in our society who suffer from abuse.

Prevention, however, is the key to this issue. The problem of violence against women is one that this government takes very seriously, Mr. Speaker, and that my department has undertaken to deal with throughout the school years.

In the health curriculum, from kindergarten through Grade 9, we find provision of various lessons on healthy family living. I should also add that this year an assessment is being done on the health curriculum in Grades 4 and 5 and in Senior 2 to ensure that our students are receiving the education they need in this area.

The Family Life Education program, which is presently in use at approximately 85 percent of our schools in the province, also contains specific lessons in this area. At the Senior 1 or Grade 9 level there is a section entitled Family Problems which deals with the incidence of abuse in the home.

(Mr. Edward Connery, Acting Speaker, in the Chair)

Mr. Acting Speaker, this in-service program provided to support the Family Life Education curriculum contains a module devoted specifically to the problem of violence against women and the family. By training our teachers in our education system and indeed those who are going through the process of becoming teachers, we can certainly enhance the training of the people who work with our children in the area. I know that we can make progress.

The family studies courses at the high school level contain some lessons which deal extensively with the topics of healthy family relationships, positive parenting practices and the prevention of family violence. Since 1986, a package of optional learning materials, entitled Violence Begins at Home, has been available for school use from the Curriculum Services Branch. This kit is currently being updated and will be available in the new school year or in the fall of 1991.

This curriculum is intended for the high school level and will provide resources for a complete unit on violence against women. Schools will be able to use this resource as they see fit to educate their children about this issue and the prevention of it.

Mr. Acting Speaker, may I just say, with regard to the Family Life program, although in the beginning we found some reluctance in some of our schools and some of our divisions to offer the program, I am happy to report that today we see almost all of the schools in this province, some 85 percent or 90 percent, are offering the program. Indeed, it is our estimation that if we tried to force this as a mandatory program in our school system, we may even see fewer school divisions than and schools offering it.

I think school personnel are becoming more comfortable with the program. They are becoming more familiar with that. Indeed, families are becoming more familiar and more comfortable with having this program available to their children in the school system.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I also might indicate that consultants from the Curriculum Branch of my department are available to all the schools in this province to assist them with all of the aspects of education as they relate to the rights of women.

Agencies other than government such as The Manitoba Teachers' Society are also involved in providing materials on this topic. MTS, through its equality in education leadership team, also offers teachers' workshops related to the themes of equality and human rights of women including freedom from violence.

The Thumbs Down program, which the leader of the third party spoke about, is only one of the resources available for the education of our young people on this important issue. Indeed, the Thumbs Down kit has been distributed to all schools in Manitoba by the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

Schools may use the material or other material on the topic as a matter of local discretion. I think it is important to allow school divisions to be able to choose the materials that are appropriate for their area, and indeed that parents need to have some involvement in choosing the types of materials that are appropriate for the children within their particular regions.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I have to indicate that I promote the whole concept of allowing school divisions, of allowing schools and allowing parents to have some input into the types of programs that are available to the children within their jurisdictions. On the whole, I would have to say that government and community organizations are developing and

have developed programs on this topic which are effective. At this point, I think it would be premature to mandate the use of one program for our schools.

As I just mentioned, community groups are involved as they should be in developing and implementing programs which deal with violence against women. Our government has always advocated community participation and, as I indicated a moment ago, parental participation in the education of children, and we will continue to do so. As the Leader of the third party knows—being a schoolteacher, she would understand that there is a need for community involvement in the education system.

We have found, and I think all of us who have had anything to do with education have found that through the voluntary participation in programs such as the Family Life curriculum we have had more participants than if we had forced it onto the schools. I mentioned this a few moments ago. It is our view that if we tried to force schools to offer the program, we would probably have fewer schools participating in the program than we have now.

It is important that we have public participation; it is important that we have community support; and it is especially important that we have parental support when we offer programs of this nature.

Through the curriculum presently offered in our schools, positive and proactive concepts such as dignity and rights of all persons are advocated. The development of children's abilities to solve problems and resolve conflicts through nonviolent means is an essential part of the curriculum that we are offering in our schools at the present time. All teachers are expected to stress such values, skills and behaviour as part of their normal teaching duties in all subject areas.

In the five-year Strategic Plan that I recently unveiled for my department the idea of respect is fundamental to carrying out our mission. On page 10 of the document we state, increased student understanding and demonstration of fundamental values such as fairness, honesty, respect, aesthetic appreciation and social responsibilities as one of the priorities in implementing our mission.

I know that the Leader of the third party has publicly stated that she does not like our plan, and I find it a little difficult to understand how she could advocate a resolution which she believes would promote the respect of women and yet, at the same

time, come out against a statement that I made with regard to this five-year Strategic Plan.

Mr. Acting Speaker, I would have to indicate that we do not in any way disagree with the fact that the Thumbs Down program should be available to schools, but I have some concern if we are going to make it the only program that is available to our students, because I think then we would becoming very narrow focused, very narrow minded. Indeed, we need to expand the broad spectrum of programs such as this that are available in our schools. As I indicated, it is available in our schools.

I have to indicate also that when we came into government there was one program that was called the Lions Quest Program which had not been authorized for use at our schools, and yet the Lions Clubs throughout this country were promoting it very avidly as a program that was important for not only family values, but for the kind of fundamental areas that this particular resolution speaks to.

* (1730)

The program is now authorized and can be offered as an optional program in our schools, and it joins the many programs such as the Target program, such as the TADD program, which are important social programs, if you like, in the school system, which teach children the values of a community and to respect one another and the need for co-operation, not only within the school system but outside the school system as well.

So, Mr. Acting Speaker, I have outlined some of the initiatives that we as a department, and we as government, have undertaken and, indeed, there are many more. I can spend a great deal of time going through them, but I have outlined some of the key ones that I think are important. The Department of Education and Training is now working on enhancing some of our programs that deal with family issues to ensure that we stay current and that our in-servicing is current to allow teachers to be able to deliver programs in the most updated fashion.

With that, Mr. Acting Speaker, I would like to propose an amendment to the resolution that was put forth by the Leader of the third party (Mrs. Carstairs), and the House Leader for the third party (Mr. Lamoureux) is very perceptive when he says we should congratulate the government.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

I move, seconded by the honourable Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Downey),

THAT the resolution be amended by striking all the words after "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" and replacing them with the following:

"... that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba do congratulate the Government of Manitoba for its foresight in dealing with the issue of violence against women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly do congratulate this government for advocating such fundamental values as fairness, honesty, respect, aesthetic appreciation and social responsibility in education as outlined in the strategic plan for the Department of Education and Training."

Motion presented.

Mr. Steve Ashton (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate right from the start that in looking at this amendment that it is obvious to me that the minister and the government caucus has missed the point of what I thought was a well-thought-out resolution. While it may be in a general sense in order, and I certainly concur with your ruling, in terms of the intent of this subamendment, it could not be further from the original intent of the motion as I read it. They could not have developed an amendment that would have been in order and been more in contravention of the general intent.

The intent of this resolution was not to praise or to criticize the government. God knows, Mr. Speaker, there are enough times when opposition members, particularly with this government, have had the opportunity to question the policy of government and indeed to criticize government for its actions.

This original motion was intended to point to a specific declaration, the Lake Louise Declaration on Violence against Women, a specific program, the Thumbs Down program, and was specifically referenced in both the WHEREASes and the RESOLVED. As I said, this amendment may be in order in a technical sense, but I believe it has nothing to do with the original intent.

It is evidence to my mind of a government that is growing increasingly distant and arrogant in terms of dealing with issues of concern to Manitobans. This government could have on the original motion said, yes, it is a good point. It could have listened to the debate. It could have supported some or all

of the motion but instead it now proposes to delete everything after "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" and substitute a rather meaningless piece of, I would suggest, drivel that essentially, Mr. Speaker, is self-congratulation. It reminds me of the nursery rhyme, "He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum and said what a good boy am I." That is what this government has stooped to. They have an area that has been pinpointed, that was agreed upon in terms of general intent by ministers across the country, as I said at the Lake Louise Declaration, signed and agreed to by Ministers responsible for the Status of Women from across Canada.

I believe, of course, this government was part of that principle, that declaration. It deals with the Thumbs Down program that has been developed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation and instead attempts to turn this resolution into something that says, that this Assembly should congratulate the government for advocating such fundamental values as fairness, honesty, respect, aesthetic appreciation and social responsibility in Education as outlined in the Strategic Plan for the Department of Education and Training, and talks about the government's foresight in dealing with the issue of violence against women.

These statements are not only drivel, they are also wrong. We will not support any such amendment because they are dead wrong. I mean, if we are talking about fairness and honesty and respect and aesthetic appreciation and social responsibility, well, first of all, I note that they made it specific in terms of Education. I know why they have done that, Mr. Speaker, because if they did not make it specific we obviously would be standing here talking about what kind of fairness, honesty and respect and aesthetic appreciation and social responsibility they have shown in their other actions.

* (1740)

The Rotary Pines Development, Mr. Speaker, we know that that is why they have thrown this in Education. Because, if they wanted to talk about general government policies we could prove, time after time, how this government has not been fair, has not been honest, has not been respectful, has not shown aesthetic appreciation or social responsibility. Let us deal with this statement here in Education. Mr. Speaker, once again how arrogant can you get?

I heard the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) stand in his place and criticize the Leader of the Liberal Party (Mrs. Carstairs) for suggesting there be movement in this area, the Thumbs Down program, and I remember exactly what he said, Mr. Speaker. He said, how could she criticize this paper, the Strategic Plan for the Department of Education and Training, and at the same time expect support for this program, the Thumbs Down program?

Well, first of all, she got no support from the minister, but besides that point, Mr. Speaker, does the minister really expect opposition members who have seen this minister in the space of a few months set back education years in this province through his budgetary decisions, bring in increases in funding of zero to many school boards, well below inflation to others? Can this minister who has presided over massive cutbacks to community colleges, can this minister who has presided over cuts to the ACCESS programs, expect to deal with the needs of northern aboriginal people?

Can this minister, who in the space of a few months has cut off his working relationship in effect with MAST and MTS on issues such as compulsory exams, honestly and fairly, to use some of the words that are in here, respectfully, aesthetically, socially, responsibly, whatever words, Mr. Speaker, expect to stand here in this Legislature and have any one outside of his own caucus believe the statements that are included in this amendment?

Can he expect us, Mr. Speaker, after what he has done to Education in the last few months alone, to stand here and say, oh, yes, we will support this tremendous government policy? Tremendous government policy, Mr. Speaker, what tremendous government policy?

As for the Strategic Plan, I look to the statements made by our own Education critic, who said that essentially, it is fine to have a plan, but what about the resources? What about the resources, Mr. Speaker? I mean, you can draw all the road maps in the world that you want, but if you do not build the roads and you do not build the cars, you can not travel on those roads. That is what is happening, Mr. Speaker.

To take that analogy a step further, this minister is not only not building the roads and building the cars, he is dismantling the cars, he is tearing up the roads and now he is putting out a road map that says

in five years we want to be there. We want to be where that road heads.

Mr. Speaker, you know, you travel the provincial highways. To take this analogy one step further again—and I know, do I ever know that if you want to get from point A to B you need the roads and you need the vehicle to do it. What this minister has done is destroyed those roads, in an educational sense, and destroyed the vehicles for doing it.

That is why this resolution is so disturbing, in terms of this amendment, because it shows such a categorical misunderstanding not only of the intent of this rather straightforward and basic resolution but of what is facing this government as a whole. You cannot, in the times we are dealing with, after the budget we have seen, after what we have seen on education, and I say this to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), you cannot go to a mirror and say, what a great sight I see, when it is only your eyes that see it. That is what is happening. This is a narcissistic government.

Mr. Speaker, the only people in this province who think the government is doing a good job right now are the members of the government itself. There are some indications, certainly with the Minister of Highways and Transportation (Mr. Driedger) on the Rotary Pines, but not even all members of this government agree with its policies on many issues. We are seeing from other members, such as the member for Portage (Mr. Connery), for example, the member for Emerson (Mr. Penner), once again there is some severe questioning of the policies of this government, Mr. Speaker.

Here we see once again this government congratulating itself, according to this resolution—

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

Point of Order

Hon. James Downey (Minister of Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, is there any area of relevance that we should be dealing with on this particular resolution or is the member allowed to travel all over the spectrum?

I heard a lot about Rotary Pines. I heard a lot about things. I never heard a lot about the issue, which the honourable member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs), as amended by the government—Mr. Speaker, I would wonder if he would keep it relevant.

Mr. Ashton: On the same point of order, if the minister had been listening correctly, I was quoting directly from the amendment that his minister introduced, Mr. Speaker. I realize they are sensitive on issues such as the Rotary Pines. I only referenced that in terms of the specific statements that were here in terms of fairness, honesty, respect, aesthetic appreciation and social responsiveness—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable minister did not have a point of order. The honourable member for Thompson to continue his remarks.

* * *

Mr. Ashton: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your ruling. I would indicate once again to the minister that this resolution attempts to congratulate the government. This is the government congratulating itself once again—narcissism, Mr. Speaker. It is, putting in the thumb and pulling out the plum.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, this is the only group of people in Manitoba that is doing that right now. This is the only group of people that is doing this, and particularly in terms of education.

If the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Downey) has any questions about this he should talk to MAST, he should talk to MTS, he should talk to teachers and students across the province, because they will comment on the Strategic Plan for the Department of Education and Training, and they will comment on fairness, honesty, respect and aesthetic appreciation and social responsibility in education, and do you know what the comment will be, Mr. Speaker? That this government shows none of these statements that it is assigning to itself.

I realize that in this Chamber sometimes we get into statements and debate. Perhaps there is an attempt at times, certainly from this government, to build itself up. I know it is encouraged to do that on a regular basis by its spinners, its image handlers, but this is the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. We are dealing with private members' resolutions. If the government wants to pass a resolution from its own caucus saying what a great job it is doing, let it do so; but let us not have anyone on that side expect us in the opposition to try to support this government in building up its own image in an area where it is fundamentally weak, where it is not living up to what it says here. It is not living up to its responsibilities as a government.

There was another analogy I used in the budget speech, another nursery rhyme, and I use this again on this occasion. It reminds me of the emperor with no clothes. You may remember the story, Mr. Speaker. The emperor was told by a rather mischievous tailor that he had a new garment when, in fact, there was no such garment. What we are seeing from this government is that same sort of psychology. It has no educational policy, but it keeps telling itself in this Chamber and its caucus that it has a policy.

Yet the only people who believe that are those members. That is what is so unfortunate about this resolution, because the resolution is one that we will support—the resolution, not the amendment. We will not support that self-serving amendment.

Anyone who has children in the school system currently, and I certainly have two children of my own in the school system, must recognize directly, any teacher must recognize directly, exactly what is being addressed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the fact that we have an almost systemic development of attitudes towards women and attitudes towards violence that is not being broken in society. That is what the member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs) pointed to, I thought, very accurately.

We have to start at an early age and, to the minister, it should not be up to the discretion of school boards. If this is an important enough area, it should be mandated by the provincial government as curricula for school boards. This is the same minister who will impose compulsory exams on school districts across this province but will not impose a compulsory curriculum dealing with abuse and violence, dealing with violence against women, dealing with societal attitudes. I do not understand the mentality of the minister.

If he reads this through, if he reads the Thumbs Down program, in what way, shape or form can there be any objection to the basic principles outlined in this document? Mr. Speaker, it deals with some of the fundamental problems.

I have seen this with my own children who are in Grade 3 and Grade 1. Relating it, certainly to when I was in school, I see some improvement, some changes in attitudes, but I still see a significant amount of violence in the school, a significant number of attitudes that, if not violent in the initial phase, certainly can lead to it. I see children in

Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3, my son's and daughter's classes, who will be the problem children of future years, perhaps because of home environment, perhaps because of exposure to the media, societal pressures.

What I see, Mr. Speaker, is if it is not dealt with at that stage, and this curriculum includes kindergarten to Grade 3 and has different segments for other parts of the school, it will lead to greater problems.

So, in concluding, Mr. Speaker, this amendment is so far from the intent of the original resolution while still being in order, I would say it is insulting to the intent. I believe it is a piece of drivel. I really cannot use terms that are contemptuous enough of this particular amendment.

* (1750)

We should vote this amendment down, and I look to the Conservative members as well, because in good conscience I do not believe that they can support this, as well. Vote this amendment down, move to the main resolution, and I would suggest that all members of the House support what was a very well-thought-out resolution introduced by the member for River Heights (Mrs. Carstairs).

Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and put comments on the record about the resolution before us. It is not the same pleasure to rise and speak about the subamendment, and let me start with the latter.

The subamendment is an incredibly arrogant self-serving amendment which totally eradicates the spirit, not just the words, but the spirit of the resolution. Mr. Speaker, it is nothing less than an insult to all members of this House to have before us the subamendment which does only one thing, and that is to ratify and praise this minister's inaction in this area, as in many areas of the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, let me key in on what the minister said in his response to the resolution before he proposed the amendment. His chief criticism, as I heard it, his only criticism in real terms, was that, and he said I think, that it would be improper, it would be wrong if this was the only program that was offered to Manitoba students. He totally missed the point of the resolution, which is not to say that this should exclusively be the program which is put forward for Manitoba students. In fact, I would hazard a guess that the proponents of the resolution would not reject a further activity, further programs in this area.

What they have said is that this program, at the very least, should be mandatory for all students.

No one has ever said that it should be, or had to be, the only program in this area in the schools. The point is that it must be mandatory in order to deal fairly and equally with all Manitoba students. And let us be clear, and we see from the WHEREASes in the resolution, which have not been objected to by the government, we know that this is a problem which crosses socioeconomic boundaries, it crosses geographical boundaries, it is in all corners of this province, in houses of all income levels and of all description. It is not an issue that we would want to limit to only one set of schools, only one set of students, or only one part of the province.

On the contrary, we have an obligation to make sure that this type of program speaks to all students because we do not know which students come from an abusive household and which do not. We do not know which students are going to end up in their future lives facing abusive situations and be in need of this type of program. We have to provide this for all students, that is the point, and we do the same thing with other essential parts of the curriculum. This should be no exception. The minister has totally missed the point of this resolution when he says that we should not make it the only thing available to students. That is not what this is about and that was the minister's only criticism. Instead of dealing substantively with this and in the good faith that it was put forward in, the minister sees fit to insult every member of this House, not just the proponent and the seconder of this resolution but every member of this House, by putting forward in abject arrogance an amendment which praises himself and aggrandizes himself and his government. That is particularly offensive and particularly disappointing on this issue, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, you would think that the minister would have the decency to deal seriously with this issue, of any issue, and in good faith and in the spirit in which it was put forward. Instead, we are all demeaned and debased by this type of amendment which makes a farce out of the resolution process. It is nothing less than that. We come to this House in good faith putting forward ideas and all we get is this garbage from the other side of the House. They refuse to see the good faith efforts to improve their agenda.

Yet, they say to us, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Manness) says and other members of this government stand up and say, we never hear good ideas. All we hear is criticism. Well, Mr. Speaker, read this resolution. This resolution is about good ideas. This resolution is about a good idea endorsed by their federal cousins in Ottawa.

I want to take a minute and quote the Minister for the Status of Women, Ms. Mary Collins, who says here in her summation about the Thumbs Down program: I encourage you to participate in Thumbs Down and to use the lesson plans and the teaching notes included.

That is the federal minister responsible. That is their federal Tory cousin, Mr. Speaker, who is instructing them to make use of this program.

What kind of pitiful, pitiful subamendment do we get from the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), but a specific statement that he and he only has all the answers. Well, far from it. Not only has he missed the specific words, he has missed the spirit, the spirit with which we come to this House and put forward honest resolutions intended to help this province move forward, be progressive in our educational system, teach people about the problems which we are learning more about every day, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it has shown blatantly again to the detriment of all members of this province, all citizens of this province and all of their children in all the schools, it has shown again what this government is about. It demeans and debases the purpose of this House and the purpose for electing 57 members, not just the government. We are all elected to bring forward ideas. What do we get when we get here? We get the arrogance of a minister who has the audacity to come forward with this type of amendment which does only one thing and that is to demean himself and his own government.

Mr. Speaker, the Thumbs Down program is truly something which we should make mandatory in all of our schools. We know now of the problems which have been in our homes for decades. Spousal abuse and violence against women I do not believe is a new problem. Learning about it, knowing about it is a new problem, but it has been around for decades.

We have just started to know the level and the extent of the problem in our society, and it goes to the core. It is in all households of all income levels.

It defies definition in terms of a specific urban society. It is in all communities in this province. We have an obligation to deal with it, not just the critical problems today with the facilities available for those caught in an abusive relationship, Mr. Speaker, but to be preventative.

If this minister knew anything about the prevention of violence, about crime prevention, he would not be doing what he is doing. His colleagues, the Minister of Family Services (Mr. Gilleshammer) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. McCrae) would not be totally ignoring prevention. They look only to today's problem and even then, they do not meet the needs. They sure do not look to the future, Mr. Speaker, and that is why this government will be doomed and is dooming all Manitobans to repeat the errors of the past. That is the problem, and that is where we are going with this government. They believe in plans, fiscal plans. When it comes to money, yes, we are going to have a five-year plan, we are going to prepare for the future, for future generations not to be laden with debt.

What about preparing future generations not to be laden with a violent, desperate society? What about preparing future generations for a life without violence, in trusting, loving relationships? What

about taking on that responsibility for the future? Why are they only willing to have foresight when it comes to money?

I am not saying that is not an appropriate approach, but surely to heavens, we can take the same approach when it comes to the social virtues which we espouse, like nonviolent relationships. It troubles me deeply to see the arrogance of this government illustrated again in this type of amendment which does nothing but insult all of us in this House and show the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) to be a shallow person, only capable of inflating his own ego at the expense of all of us here who come in good faith to put forward suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, we know, for instance, that every year there are more than 100 women in Canada who are murdered in their homes by their spouses—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. When this matter is again before the House, the honourable member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) will have six minutes remaining.

The hour being 6 p.m., this House is now recessed, with the understanding that the House will reconvene at 8 p.m. in Committee of Supply.

Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

Monday, May 6, 1991

CONTENTS

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS			
Ministerial Statements		Child Care Programs Barrett; Gilleshammer	1603
National Forest Week		CFB Shilo L. Evans; Stefanson	1604
Enns	1595	Simplot Plant - Brandon L. Evans; Stefanson	1604
C. Evans	1595		
Edwards	1595		
Introduction of Bills		Matter of Urgent Public Importance	
Bill 36, Legal Aid Services Society of Manitoba Amendment Act Manness	1596	Rotary Pines Project Martindale	1605
		Lamoureux	1606
		Manness	1606
Oral Questions			
Pines Project Doer; Ernst; Filmon; Martindale; Carstairs	1596	ORDERS OF THE DAY	
RentalStart Program Carstairs; Filmon	1599	Concurrent Committees of Supply	
Free Trade Agreement Plohman; Findlay; Storie; Stefanson	1599	Culture, Heritage and Citizenship	1608
Free Trade Agreement - Mexico Storie; Stefanson	1602	Education and Training	1622
Family Services of Winnipeg Inc. Alcock; Gilleshammer	1602	Private Members' Business	
		Proposed Resolutions	
		Res. 8, Thumbs Down	
		Carstairs	1638
		Derkach	1641
		Ashton	1643
		Edwards	1646