

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

ESTIMATES - RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a quorum gentlemen, the will come to order.

I would refer honourable members to Page 57 in their Estimates books, Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. Resolution 105(e), Marine Transportation and Construction, (1) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, at 4:30 the Minister was quoting the prices of these barges, I believe it was \$375,000 or \$380,000 in that figure: does that include the power?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister . . .

MR. BOSTROM: No, Mr. Chairman, that doesn't include the power, power units are extra to that.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, were the power units tendered?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes.

MR. McKENZIE: . . . the Minister advise the committee the price at which these power units were purchased and from whom?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the prices are approximately \$52,000 each and they were purchased from Maritime Marine Industries Limited. They are what they call Harbour Master Unit which straps on very much like an outboard motor, like a huge outboard motor and it has a capability of being changed easily if a breakdown occurs, you can put a spare unit on very easily, or repair.

MR. McKENZIE: I have no further questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well Mr. Chairman, at \$52,000 a unit, how many spares would we be carrying around?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, there will be one spare for the two ferries, and each ferry would have at least two units on it, two engines.

MR. GRAHAM: What size are these units?

MR. BOSTROM: They are 120 horsepower each, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: What is the draft on the screw on that?

MR. BOSTROM: I believe Mr. Chairman, I believe it's about 42 inches, 48, something like that.

MR. GRAHAM: It's quite shallow?

MR. BOSTROM: It would be a shallow draft.

MR. GRAHAM: And that's a direct line drive for a 120 horsepower unit?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, it's powered by a 471 horsepower I'm sorry, 4-71 General Motors diesel engine, and it is a direct drive.

MR. GRAHAM: Is this a complete integrated unit? Is the motor separate from the rest of it or . . . ?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: And that \$52,000 is the complete unit the drive plus the motor?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 105. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Just one other question, Mr. Chairman, Did we establish how many barges there were.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, there are two that are being constructed, two major ferries that are being constructed at the two ferry yards which I mentioned, Purvis Navcon in Selkirk is constructing one, and Riverton Boat Works is constructing the other. We have a small unit under construction which is a cable ferry unit, much smaller in size, does not have direct power source as such but rather a cable drive on it. That is under construction at Riverton. It is one which will be used on the road which is being built in to Norway House, rather than a bridge on the Nelson River. There will be a cable ferry there which is quite a saving over a bridge I might add. The estimate for a bridge was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$4 million for that crossing and the cable ferry would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$175,000 in total.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 105. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: On the cable ferry, there will be an operator there twenty-four hours a day, will there be?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, a decision hasn't been taken on that yet. We expect there will be an operator on the ferry at least during daylight hours. However the final decision on hours of

operation has not been arrived at yet. The ferry is not in place, it's just under construction now.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, will there be a co-ordination between the Department of Highways and the Department of Renewable Resources, so that people using the road will know that it will only be during the daylight hours.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, on the road there will be signs posted as to the hours of operation of the ferry so no one will get any surprises, as they say in one of the advertisements, the best surprise is no surprise, I suppose.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, that's all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 105(e)(1)—pass; (e)(2) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Could we have a breakdown of that item, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, this would be expenditures associated with the operation of the three ferries that I mentioned, and the staff expenses, associated expenses with various projects that we will be undertaking during the year, and will include such items as fuel for the ferries, various engineering studies that may be carried out during the year for other proposed projects.

MR. MCKENZIE: The staff, Mr. Chairman, are included in (a), not (b) to operate the ferries?

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MCKENZIE: That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 105(e)(2)—pass, (e)—pass. Resolution 105: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,442,900 for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services—pass.

I would refer honourable members now back to Page 103,) Resolution 103(a)(1), Minister's Compensation and Representation Allowance. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I apologize for not being here this afternoon to ask questions on the air operations. I was concerned with the other committee that's in progress at the present time dealing with health and I would like to know in the past year what the cost to the Manitoba Government Air Service was for the patient air transport? Or what the billing to the department was by the Government Air Service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I could take that question as notice and get the information for the honourable member. I pointed out during my estimates, however, that the actual budget for the patient air transportation cost itself is not included within my Estimates. It is within the Estimates of the Minister of Health and Social Development. The item which was before us earlier today which relates to this is the Patient Air Transportation section under the administration of my department, and there are people who work in there who work on the actual billings and flight co-ordination related to the delivery of the Patient Air Transportation Program and the Air Operation section of my department carries out the emergency flying activity which is related to the Patient Air Transportation Program, but the actual budget, the actual amount which is budgeted each year for the service to be provided with respect to the Patient Air Transportation Program is contained within the Estimates of the Department of Health and Social Development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well Mr. Chairman, I'm quite aware of that, and that's why I spent most of the afternoon in the Department of Health, but I was told by the Department of Health that they couldn't give me the breakdown on what the actual cost and the operation of the Government Air Service in that respect was; at the same time as the Minister's promised to give me that information, I would like to know how the breakdown on the total Patient Air Transport was, what percentage of it was done by Government Air Service, how much by commercial carrier, how much by charter.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member could be patient and read the answer which I read into the record earlier today with respect to the complete breakdown of the commercial charters, that is private charters, MGAD charters, scheduled flights and other transportation for the calendar year 75 and for the calendar year 76. It is in Hansard and the honourable member could read it there. If he has further questions, I'd be happy to provide further information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you very much then' Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry that I didn't get in under the last item. If the Minister might give us a little leeway, there's one or two questions that I would like to direct to the Minister under Marine Transport and Construction. I wonder if he could tell us how many boats, provincial boats or boats that are under the responsibility of his department, had to be converted from gas to electricity following the explosion that occurred on Lake Winnipegosis and what the cost of the conversion was and who did the conversion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, there are approximately four patrol boats which are being converted. These are being converted at an approximate cost of \$25,000 per boat.

MR. BLAKE: Per unit?

MR. BOSTROM: Per unit.

MR. BLAKE: Could he tell us who is doing the conversion, the company?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, most of it is being done on a work order basis. Departmental forces are doing that aspect of the work which can be done by departmental people and those aspects of the job that need to be done by professionals, are hired for that purpose.

MR. BLAKE: So there were no tenders put out on the . . .

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we did tender initially but again, as in the case with the larger ferries, we did not accept those tenders and are undertaking to do the work with a combination departmental forces and jobbing out certain sections, which is resulting in a less cost to government.

MR. BLAKE: Could the Minister tell us what the lowest tender was and could he give us an indication what the cost was going to be when they complete the job?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, that is a detailed question which I would have to take notice of and provide the honourable member with the information.

MR. BLAKE: Are there any other boats in this category that are having superstructure changes? I mean new decking, new housing.

MR. BOSTROM: There's one that is being proposed at the present time. The actual work on it hasn't been done yet. It is the one which we operated on Lake Winnipeg last year at Bloodvein and also at Hecla Island. It's called the Hecla II and we're doing some conversion work on that, moving the wheelhouse and changing it so that it can be a drive on, drive off either end sort of configuration and we're just now finalizing some of the costs of doing that conversion. The actual work has not started.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would this be a tender job or will this be a work order job as the other ones have been?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, we would probably do it as I indicated earlier, along the same lines as the others. Given it is late in the year, we would do it with a combination of our own forces and with jobbing out to people that could do the specialized work that would be required.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us on road construction, are there any other roads that they plan to construct in the coming term, such as the one that was constructed on Black Island, or where is it located?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, my department is responsible for the road which is being constructed into Norway House, which is an all-weather road. The contracts have been let for the major construction of that road. It is expected to be completed, that is the grade work is expected to be completed sometime late this summer or early fall. The only other work activity in that area that is being proposed that is likely to be considered by the staff that would be part of the Estimates here, is the completion of that road and possibly one or two minor other resource road type projects that have yet to be identified and decided on.

MR. BLAKE: How many miles would the Norway House road be?

MR. BOSTROM: It is approximately 45 miles, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLAKE: Yes. I wonder, could the Minister indicate to us what warehousing facilities are going to be required at the various ends of the water transportation system or the water road transportation system that's proposed using the barges?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the ones that will be required as a result of the ferry runs which we are proposing to institute in the next fiscal year, would be the Split Lake ferry run which will be running from the end of the road construction up to the community of Split Lake and possibly over to York Landing and Ilford. There would be need for a waiting room, storage facility at either end of the run, which we propose to construct. Crew quarters possibly at one or the other location, or both. In the case of the other ferry run, we expect to have the ferry in operation by fall, running either from Jenpeg, directly from Jenpeg or from Whiskey Jack which is somewhat closer to the community, into the community of Cross Lake, hooking the community of Cross Lake up to the road system of Manitoba. There would be need for a waiting room, crew quarters, storage facility at either end of that run and toilet facilities and so on.

MR. BLAKE: I wonder, could the Minister tell me, Mr. Chairman, in connection with the conversion of the boat to electricity, is this the Department of Transport requirement or is this an undertaking that was decided by the department?

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, it is a decision taken as a result of discussions with the Canadian Transport Commission and it is consistent with their regulations with respect to boats of this nature.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I have any more questions there. I just would like to say that I trust the Minister will take into consideration the concerns expressed by members of the committee, particularly in connection with the night lighting of deer and, or the jacklighting of deer and also the various concerns of the fishermen, particularly in Winnipegosis, that have been

expressed by the committee members, of the Winnipegosis area particularly. I know there is great concern there with the fishermen in that fishery and the decision has obviously been made and is irreversible and I know the Minister will continue to monitor that situation very very closely to ensure that the direction he has chosen to go is the right one and hopefully that this will be borne out if the fishery does improve. So with that, Mr. Chairman, I have no further remarks unless some of the members of the committee have further questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: I just have one big question. I apologize, I was called out the other night and I was going to ask the Minister about the offer that was made by the Grandview Game and Fish Association or the Wildlife Association, related to the possibility of a bird sanctuary, a wildlife sanctuary at Pleasant Valley. Is that being proceeded with or is it just still being studied?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, it's not one that I'm that familiar with. I assume if it is a proposal that has been put forward formally to the department, that departmental officials would be reviewing it with a view to coming forward with a recommendation. I will undertake to investigate it and see what the status of their proposal is.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, then reading the Annual Report last summer there, somebody talking with Ducks Unlimited mentioned that there was room for additional sanctuaries in the province and that's why I suggested, and they did make a formal application, I think to your office. That will be fine, then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 103(a)(1)—pass; (a)—pass. Resolution 103, Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$786,300 for Renewable Resources and Transportation Services—pass.

That concludes the discussion of the Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services. The Committee will recess for two minutes while the Minister of Municipal Affairs moves into position.

ESTIMATES - MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I refer honourable members to page 47 in their Estimates books, the Department of Municipal Affairs. Resolution 87(a) Minister's Compensation. The Honourable Minister.

HONOURABLE BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I go into some brief comments about the department, I think it's been customary that I introduce members of the staff of the Department of Municipal Affairs who are here and I would like to first start with my Deputy Minister, Jack McNairnay, whom you all know; and Ken Cameron, who is the Director of Administration; next is Jack Richmond, who is the Assistant Deputy Minister; and John Whiting, who is the Director of Municipal Planning; Jake Reimer; who is the Director of the Assessment Branch; Al Srutwa, who is with the Municipal Services Branch, our Director is out-of town at the present time; Roger Dennis, who is the Director of Budget and Finance; and David Jones' who is the Director of the Provincial Planning Branch.

Firstly, I would like to express my appreciation for all those persons involved in local government, both municipal councils and municipal employees who have worked so conscientiously and so effectively during the past year in serving the residents of Manitoba in municipal government. In the brief period since assuming the responsibilities of the Department of Municipal Affairs portfolio, I had occasion to attend the annual meeting of the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, the annual meeting of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, meetings of the Additional Zone Municipalities around the City of Winnipeg, and numerous meetings with councils and groups of councils to discuss areas of municipal government which are of mutual concern.

This rather intense exposure during the past few months has, I feel, begun to give me a fair appreciation of some of the current problems which local councils are encountering.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff of my department for their dedication and service to local government. The Department of Municipal Affairs has historically tried to maintain a close relationship and understanding with municipal councils and the staff of municipalities and I intend to see that this very close and harmonious relationship is maintained.

As the members are aware, there is an unofficial Municipal Advisory Committee to the Minister of Municipal Affairs with representation from the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, and the Secretary-Treasurers Association. It has been the policy in the past for the Minister to meet with the Advisory Committee three or four times a year to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Since becoming Minister, I have not had an opportunity to meet with the Advisory Committee although I have met with the executives of both the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, and the

Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities, in the past few months and intend to try and establish a regular basis for meeting with the Advisory Committee.

In January of '75, we started a new program of holding two-day seminars for Councillors at the Gimli Industrial Base, for newly-elected councillors. These were well-attended in '75 following the October elections in '74. The course has been extremely well-received by municipal councillors. We did not hold seminars in January of '76 but would anticipate after the October elections in 1977, when all councils for the first time will be on a three-year term, that there will be a real need to hold such seminars later in the year or early in '78 to try and assist newly-elected councillors to have a better understanding of municipal affairs so that they can make a participation on their councils at an early date.

The target date for the commencement of the Municipal Employees Pension Fund was January 1st, 1977 and this has been met. To date, 177 municipalities are participating in the plan which represents approximately 90 percent of our municipalities. There are approximately 960 municipal employees enrolled in the plan, which represents about 65 percent of the total estimated number of municipal employees eligible. The actuary who is an adviser to the Municipal Employees Benefits Board, advises the Board that from his experience with new pension plans, this participation is excellent.

Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the Estimates as they are presented in the book, I would like to indicate that in the Department of Municipal Affairs, you will note an increase of approximately \$1.6 million or \$1.7 million increase over the 1976-77 Estimates. Two-thirds of this increase, almost an even \$1 million, is attributable to grants in lieu of taxes and is shown under the heading of Municipal Budget and Finance. As you are aware, the payment of grants in lieu of taxes to municipalities is in fact the province's Real Property Tax Bill.

Most of the balance of the increase in the department's Estimates, approximately \$667,000, is attributable firstly to an increase of \$401,000 in the Municipal Planning Service, and secondly, to a new program, the Provincial Planning Branch with a budget of \$89,000.00.

With respect to the Municipal Planning Service, over one-half of the increase is attributable to incremental increases in salaries. On January 1st, 1976, the Municipal Planning Branch assumed additional administrative responsibilities under the new Planning Act which came into effect on that date. While a considerable increase in the workload was anticipated, there was no accurate way of forecasting what the workload would be and there is therefore no increase in staff man years. There was no increase in the staff man years during the year 1976.

After the experience for one year, we are now aware that our regional offices are understaffed to handle the administrative workload resulting from handling subdivisions, and we'll be adding 14 additional staff in the regional offices located in Dauphin, Brandon, Beausejour and Winnipeg where there is a regional office handling the Interlake and the South-Central Manitoba area.

The additional staff will not be planners but persons who can be trained on the job as planning technicians. These new employees will be transferred from other departments so there will be no net increase in staff.

The senior staff of the Municipal Planning Branch have spent a great deal of time in 1976 discussing with municipalities the formation of planning districts. In July of 1976, the province made known to the municipalities the funding arrangements for the new planning districts and since that time we have had 31 municipalities involved in discussions, usually in groups of three or four on the average, and two of the groups have forwarded resolutions from each council asking to enter into a planning district with its neighbours and in accordance with the legislation, the Municipal Board will be conducting hearings in the very near future and making recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council with respect to the formation of two planning districts. I would expect that by late spring we will have these two planning districts in operation.

The funding arrangement proposed to the municipalities involves three parts. The operation costs of the planning district, that is the cost of office space, lights, fuel, etc. This cost is the full responsibility of the planning district board. It is felt that the planning district boards can set the standard of accommodation and operational costs which they are prepared to fund and are in complete control of the level of service with which they wish to supply the area which they represent.

The second aspect is the ongoing technical planning advice supplied by the Municipal Planning Branch and this will be supplied to the municipalities at full provincial cost.

The third aspect is the preparation of a development plan and the province will share with the planning districts the cost of preparing a development plan on a 50-50 basis with the municipality's contribution not to exceed \$1.00 per \$1,000 of equalized assessment.

The funding arrangement was discussed at a number of hearings throughout the province and seems to have been well-received by the municipalities and considered to be a fair and equitable arrangement. The funding as between the municipalities which form the planning district, is the responsibility of the municipalities to decide amongst themselves.

The workload will vary from district to district and municipality to municipality and the Director of

Municipal Planning, John Whiting, has been working with municipalities, assisting them in preparing budgets and estimating costs of operation.

All in all I am pleased with the way the municipalities have responded in this area and with the steady progress which was made through 1976 toward the formation of planning districts. I would be quite satisfied if by the end of 1977, three or four districts were formed and operational.

I would like to now deal specifically with each category of the Department of Municipal Affairs but likely, Mr. Chairman, we could go into that with the specific budgets as are presented. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 87(b) Administrative Salaries. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: I thank the Honourable Minister for his explanation, Mr. Chairman, and also would like at this time to congratulate him on his appointment as the Minister of Municipal Affairs. He has a rural background and he is not altogether inexperienced in the business of being a Cabinet Minister. He had a very tough portfolio with Autopac and I think handled it as well as anyone could.

Now, getting back to the duties as the Minister of Municipal Affairs, I think he will find that he's dealing with the grassroots. The problems that are affecting the local people in the rural areas are very complex, as they are in all levels of government. The Reeves and councillors are one of the most dedicated groups of people that you'll find. Many times they are working for nothing and they do answer away and above the call of duty many times.

They also are running into very complex problems with financing and with free zoning planning, etc. and the forming of a Planning Board is going to alleviate — or with changing the Board, I guess there was one formed in 1916 but I guess it had to be upgraded a bit since that time. But the fact that there is such a movement of the population now from urban to rural areas is necessitating the fact that we do have to re-zone, we do have to have some long-range planning, and hopefully the department and the municipalities can arrive at mutually-understanding plans whereby this can be done with as little uprooting and alarm as possible.

With those few words, Mr. Chairman, I would let the Minister take over again and start into his Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 87(b) Administrative Salaries— pass. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Could we have a breakdown of the salaries, Mr. Chairman, please.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the detail of the salaries are noted in the Estimates, there is no change in the number of staff. Did you want the specific names of the people on . . . ?

MR. FERGUSON: Just their numbers. There's very little discrepancy from last year, \$12,000.00? We approved the budget of \$443,000 and it's \$455,000.00.

MR. URUSKI: Right. There are 16 staff, Mr. Chairman, and that includes my office staff, the Deputy's office staff, in the Director of Administration, an accountant, personnel officer, and administrative secretaries and clerk-typists.

MR. FERGUSON: That's okay then, Mr. Chairman. We'll carry on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 87(b)—pass; Resolution 87(c) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Could we also have a breakdown here, it's much the same as last year, but . . .

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, from last year's expenditure, it's virtually the same, Mr. Chairman. That deals with furniture, furnishings, printing, stationery supplies, telephones, auto and travelling, advertising publications, I could give the member a breakdown but the bulk of the costs are dealing with printing and stationery, with a figure of approximately \$27,000 in travelling expenses; dealing with 12,000 and other items. There's a grand figure of \$20,000 and that would be to the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, the Urban and the Secretary-Treasurer's Association.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 87(c)—pass; 87(d) Nil appropriation. Resolution 88 Municipal Board. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Before we get off that 87(d), I see we have a nil appropriation here but does this mean that the department has finally decided to do without consultants or have you just transferred them to various sections throughout the Estimates?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we don't anticipate the use of consultants until the planning districts are formed later on this year and it is likely that we will then fund them out of the Municipal Planning Service.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 88 Municipal Board (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: I was going to ask, how many hearings have been held in the past year by the Municipal Board and what are the nature of those hearings?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the detail right here but the copy of the Municipal Board report was filed and information is contained there. I haven't got the details right handy. I'm sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes. Could we have just a breakdown there of how many people are involved with the Municipal Board and basically what the breakdown of salaries are.

MR. URUSKI: Primarily, Mr. Chairman, there is no change in staff numbers. I'll have the numbers for you shortly and the increase in the board expenditures in the area of salaries, with a minor increase in Other Expenditures. The Municipal Board has a staff of 14 and six of those part-time are part time board members.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, that's okay then, Mr. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON: Does the make-up of a Municipal Board, does it have a make-up or does it use people for advice in the area that they are working in? Let's say, if they are in Brandon, do they have people that are familiar with that area either on the board or do they have consulting people regarding that area?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the representation on the board, I would say, has regional representation and as this member made a specific comment about Brandon, there is a member on the Municipal Board from the Brandon area. That is true. We try and have regional representation on the board and if there are hearings in, shall we say in the Brandon area, that that member be utilized in that area. There are two former Reeves on the board and a former councillor on the board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister a rather general question dealing with the activities of the Municipal Board. I would like to know if over the past several years the Municipal Board has had an increasing number or an increasing degree of activity regarding assessment appeals?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that there is no significant increase from years gone by directly dealing with assessments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Could we have the names of the six man Municipal Board?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the chairman is John Achtim who is the chairman of the board. A member is Harold H. Weitman, Dr. Isadore Wolch, Nick Penner, Zeph Audet, Maurice Feuer and Gordon Stewart. Mr. Richmond is a part-time member on the board.

MR. FERGUSON: That's fine, Mr. Chairman. Move on to the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 88(a). The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if there is a change in the terms of reference for the board in approving legal subdivisions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the Municipal Board, they are not an approving authority so they wouldn't be involved in the approving mechanism at all. They are an appellent body with respect to approval of subdivisions and I would say that we could deal quite fully in this matter about the approval mechanism when we go under the Municipal Planning Services portion of the budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 88(a)—pass. Resolution 88(b) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, I expect that this again is just a matter of office supplies, etc., but would the Minister give us this?

MR. URUSKI: The bulk of the increase, Mr. Chairman, is primarily travelling expenses for the board. That is, the bulk of the increase from last year. To be specific, last year's budget was approximately \$12,500 and this year it is \$16,000 and that's the bulk of the increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 88(b)—pass. Resolution 88: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$178,000 to Municipal Affairs—pass. Resolution 89 Municipal Budget and Finance (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, I guess, we would ask again to have a breakdown of the number involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there is no change in staff. There are 10 employees in the department including the director and the bulk of the change in the expenditure there is salaries. There are no other major increases there and, of course, as we go down the grants . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89(a). The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, dealing with salaries here, I notice we have four fewer employees

than we had with the Municipal Board but we have about a \$35,000 increase in salaries. I imagine that the employees here are probably higher qualified and I was wondering how many of these would have Chartered Accountancy degrees of that nature.

MR. URUSKI: The Director has a Chartered Accountancy but, Mr. Chairman, I mentioned the numbers in the Municipal Board, six of those members that I mentioned for a total staff, I included the part-time members of the board as staff members in the numbers that I quoted under the Municipal Board, so that the part-time members, I believe, are paid an annual per meeting fee and so that their stipend would be much less than the full-time employee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at the accounts, which is the latest we have. Local government districts for 1975-76 at \$279,000 and we've got a drop in '77 and a slight increase or a drop in . . . what changes did we make?

MR. URUSKI: I'm not following you.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: The last accounts we have.

MR. URUSKI: Public Accounts.

MR. F. JOHNSTON: . . . your public accounts, year ending 1976 and the salaries are \$279,000 under local government districts and we seem to have taken . . .

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If I can direct the honourable member to Municipal Services Branch, the local government districts fall under that branch of the department. Item 5.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89(a)—pass. Resolution 89(b) Other Expenditures. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: . . . Other Expenditures. Could we have them?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there is a drop in the expenditures and the major change — I'm just looking through here — is in printing of stationery and postage and telephones and a slight decrease in travelling. There is a reduction of approximately \$10,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89(b)—pass. Resolution 89(c) Grants to Municipalities. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us a breakdown of the acreage involved here, the considerable amount of money involved.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we are budgeting that amount of \$7,300,000.00. However, as in past years, we are not quite sure at this point in time what the actual tax bill will be and, as an example, last year's actual vote I believe, or the actual of 1975, well, 1976-77 the vote was \$6,300,000 and we have an adjusted projected increase in cost in this program as a combination of approximately 13 percent allowance for price increases, additional three percent beyond the new applications or enrollments and we are projecting an amount of approximately \$7,300,000 as a tax bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if there is any Crown Lands within any given municipality where there are no grants received by the municipality in lieu of taxes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Yes there would be and I believe, under the Department of Renewable Resources, under their jurisdiction the Crown Lands are exempt by legislation, I believe, from taxes. The Parks Branch, the Wildlife Management areas and the Provincial Parks would not pay any grants in lieu of taxes.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask then, land that is actually purchased from private owners for the purpose of preservation of wildlife, is that an area in which the Minister is talking about. I can think of many quarter sections of land in the last year or two years have been bought from farmers for the preservation of wildlife and the municipality receives no taxes from the Crown on that. They used to receive taxes, they don't receive taxes now?

MR. URUSKI: That is correct. That would be a change in the revenue . . . to that municipality if the land was put under a management program with the Department of Mines and Renewable Resources.

MR. EINARSON: Well, then the municipalities used to receive revenue in the way of taxes when it is privately owned. So have the municipalities where this is affected, have they made any submissions to the department insofar as this matter is concerned?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I've had recent discussions with municipalities. It hasn't really been a great point of contention with the municipalities. There have been concerns raised in other areas where land for other purposes than management areas and the like that was purchased, for example, by MHRC and for a period of time was not developed. Those concerns have been raised to myself. But specifically in those areas of management areas, there hasn't been a great concern.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, if I just may, I'd like to make a comment. I don't think that it's hardly in fairness to the municipalities to have to, because of the policy by the government when

buying up private farm land for the purpose of preservation of wildlife, when in many areas farmers have been providing that service to our wildlife for the last 75 to 100 years.

MR. URUSKI: I don't want to argue the resource policy of the Department of Renewable Resources but I would say that most of that land is very marginal and low assessed property and it has been, in many instances, in fact, all cases, it has been a voluntary agreement between the farmer and the department before sale is made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the policy of the department with respect to wildlife management areas is following my instructions to only purchase those lands within the municipality that they can obtain agreement on from the municipality. They are to check with the municipality, have a resolution from the municipal council that it is, that they are in agreement that these lands should be purchased for wildlife management areas.

MR. EINARSON: Well then, Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister that has just spoken, do I understand him to say that a farmer who owns land himself cannot sell to the Department of Renewable Resources without the consent of the municipality?

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I have instructed the department to consult with the municipalities in question before they purchase lands for purposes of wildlife management areas. So that, in effect, it means that the municipality has to be in agreement before the province will go ahead and purchase the land for one of these wildlife programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, just a comment on that point. It would certainly mean that the municipality would be aware of the impact that such a sale would have on their rolls.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I believe it is fundamentally the responsibility of the Minister of Municipal Affairs to protect the overall rights of the municipalities and to do everything he can to cooperate with the municipalities in that respect. I raise the issue because I know in a municipality in my constituency a few years ago, the Department of Natural Resources at that time was attempting to purchase, I believe, 61 quarters of land within one municipality, and at that time the municipality was successful in preventing the purchase of most of that land, although some of it was purchased. And I believe at that time the Department of Natural Resources was purchasing without consulting the municipalities and it is indeed gratifying to see that that policy is now being changed, although it is only by directive I understand.

But the argument that was given to me by the municipality at that time was the one that was expressed by the Member for Rock Lake, was the impact that it would have on the tax rolls of the municipality, where they would be still expected to provide all the municipal services for that land and yet they would not be receiving the tax revenue that would be commensurate with the services that they were providing.

I was wondering if the Minister would give serious consideration to raising with his colleagues the potential that this can have in the municipal field if land is steadily siphoned off out of the tax paying rolls and protected under some other department of government and is immune from grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that when concerns are raised and during meetings that I have had with municipal councils and at district meetings if concerns are raised we certainly have no difficulty in liaising with the relevant departments. But I would point out in the specifics that he is talking about I believe that exemption or that leaving out is by legislation specifically and has been long standing.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, whether it has been long standing or not the fact remains that the practice of any significant purchases by the Crown is of very recent nature. But I also have to express some concern as indicated by the Minister that while he may listen to the municipalities, he is somewhat reluctant to listen to any suggestions brought forward by MLAs.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we're certainly not mindful of the comments made by the Member for Birtle-Russell at all and we certainly are cognizant of the fact if a great proportion of lands in a municipal district are removed off the tax rolls the impact that it will have, and we certainly view that with concern and we make sure that we are aware of what is happening in the areas.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, that may be quite all right. But I notice, and I would like to get down to rather specifics here, I notice there is about a fifteen percent increase in the budget here and while we know it is only projected, I would like to know if there has been any significant increase in property that has been transferred to the Crown where grants to municipalities are paid. Has there been a fifteen percent increase?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we'd have no knowledge of that. I presume that the Department of Public Works would have the, in Building Sites, would be involved in that and there's the Agricultural Credit Corporation, MHRC and those other bodies.

Mr. Chairman, I will say to the Member from Birtle-Russell that I would undertake to raise the

matter that he earlier raised about lands at Liaison Committee with the associations concerned and we'll certainly discuss it with them as well, the points that you have raised. I'll undertake to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for giving that undertaking.

I would like the Minister just in general terms, when he is talking about a fifteen percent increase here, would half of that be — I'm just asking questions — what percentage of that would be a normal increase in taxation as compared to an increase in property or assessment of Crown land? Would it be half and half or is there any way you would know?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that there is just no way of computing that because the mill rates change every year. There's almost no way of determining that.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, then the figure of 7.3 million is purely a ballpark figure and could vary significantly before the end of the year?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned before that the estimate, and it is an estimate, of approximately thirteen percent in mill rate increases and approximately three percent for a new acquisition as I have quoted earlier.

MR. GRAHAM: Well then, Mr. Chairman, I have to ask the Minister the other question then. If we are facing an annual thirteen percent increase in, and I understand that grants in lieu of taxes more or less keep pace with the taxes that are paid by private land owners, does a thirteen percent annual increase in taxation every year concern the Minister at all?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there is just no doubt that any increase in expenditures in whichever area it is is of great concern to myself and to the government as a whole. And I'm sure that the member if well aware that councils themselves, municipal councils, are and have been historically very concerned with increased costs and they have made representations. So there is no doubt it's a concern.

MR. GRAHAM: No, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to wait for the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to the question I posed earlier and I have just finished talking to a secretary of a municipality in my constituency, in the Municipality of Louise, and the secretary informed me that the Wildlife Federation have bought eleven — he wasn't certain — eleven or thirteen quarter sections of land and at no time had the Department of Renewable Resources consulted with the office before the land was purchased. I want to inform the Minister of this and also other than that, a letter was sent to the municipal office indicating that such land was purchased and the municipality were not aware really of what this land was being bought for, whether it was under the program of the Minister of Agriculture or whether it was under the program of the Department of Renewable Resources. And so I can appreciate the Minister for Renewable Resources making his comments, but I am here informing him that this has not happened in the Municipality of Louise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would remind honourable members that we have concluded the Estimates of the Department of Renewable Resources and members should restrict their remarks to those areas under the jurisdiction of this Minister. The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can . . . any municipalities on what is a strictly optional basis indicated they're going to put a tax on liquor or a tax on hotel beds or did some indicate they're going to take advantage of some of the growth taxes as been offered to them by the government?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there has been indication that municipalities are looking at it but there has been no firm commitment by any that I'm aware of at this point in time, that they are prepared to move on it.

MR. MCKENZIE: I wonder would the Minister advise the Committee what procedure would a municipality have to follow if they were to say indicating that they were putting a tax on in their jurisdiction on liquor or hotel rooms. Would they have to do it through an Order-in-Council and then with the Minister's approval or what vehicle would they use to make it legal?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that I believe under that special Act that was passed that the municipal councils would have to pass a by-law, which would come to the Minister, I believe of Municipal Affairs or Urban Affairs as the case may be, and an Order-in-Council and an instrument would have to be prepared and passed.

MR. MCKENZIE: Then the sharing of the collection of the tax, like liquor as an example, would be shared jointly by the province and the municipality so there would be additional.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the sharing or the administrative setup of how those taxes would be collected would have to be discussed as per the application of each I believe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: I was away from the Committee for a few minutes. Are we on 89(c)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. EINARSON: Well, Mr. Chairman, my comments earlier were quite in order. If you were checking on them, Mr. Chairman, about not being in order as far as the Estimates are concerned. I was relating my comments back to the questions I posed earlier and so I would like an explanation why ruled Mr. Chairman me out of order on the comments I made earlier.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reason the Chair made that remark was that the Honourable Member's remarks were verging in the area of the Honourable Minister of Renewable Resources, who had entered the Debate on that topic when we had already concluded his Estimates.

The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, well then I relate my comments through you to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and I did that earlier only to find that the Minister of Renewable Resources came into the debate and gave an answer to a question that I was posing. So is it not in order for him to do the same thing again?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89(c)—pass. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: I expect this would be where we would discuss Manitoba's special Municipal Loan Fund, is that correct?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, there are no expenditures under the Department of Municipal Affairs. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 89(c)—pass. Resolution 89: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$7,520,600 for Municipal Affairs—pass.

Resolution 90 Municipal Assessments, (a) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like a breakdown from the Minister as to how many assessors are working throughout the province, with the exception of Winnipeg of course, and basically how many years are between assessments?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the number of assessors at the present time in the department is 82 with a supervisory staff of 11 and a support staff of clerical and the like of 27, for a total of 120.

And I might add that's dealing with all the areas within the province that have regional offices - Steinbach, Dauphin, Selkirk, Souris, Minnedosa, Thompson and Morden, and Portage.

MR. FERGUSON: Well just for general information then, could the Minister indicate basically how many years are between equalized assessments?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the equalization of assessments are done annually. But if you are talking about the rate of updating assessments per municipality, I frankly could provide the list. It is a lengthy list. I could go through all the municipalities. If the members like I will provide them the list in the year in which the assessment was first brought in and where they are at the present time. It's a long list. There's no sense reading that out. Unless you want me to read it, so we can put it on the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I would like to have it on the record in Hansard; whether or not you read it into the record or we could arrange to have it inserted into the record, it doesn't really matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would that be agreeable to the Committee? (Agreed)

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, we'll file that then and let it be printed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: That's all the questions I have on that particular item, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that several years ago under a previous Minister, who I note is here, I believe there was a policy that was being promoted or there was an attempt being made to carry out a reassessment on a regular basis which I believe at that time would have a maximum of five years between reassessments I was wondering if the Minister could indicate if we have approached or nearly approached a reassessment every five years in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I believe historically the attempt has been made. However, we are averaging approximately seven years. There are some municipalities who have not had reassessments longer than that and there are some that are, of course, newer than that, but the average would be about seven years. So the department is continually striving to that. No additional staff was added to the Assessment Branch in 1976, but we hope to commence the training of 14 new assessors in 1977. So there is a staff increase of 14.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am going to then ask the Minister if he is meeting with the requirements of the Municipal Act on the assessment with that respect?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman, historically I think the department is doing as well as it can in terms of what has occurred and what is occurring and likely what will occur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I hate to jump around but dealing in the field of assessment, there are many aspects to it, I think I would like to first start with the general attempt to elicit some information and I would now ask the Minister if there have been negotiations with the City of Winnipeg to bring the city under the assessment practices of the Province of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, there have been no specific negotiations, but there have been informational meetings and liaison meetings between the two branches.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I raised that issue because I'm sure the minister is aware, as many other members of the Legislature are, that the assessment increases that are occurring throughout the province, for instance in farmland in the last few years, farmland assessment has increased approximately seventy percent where in the same period of time property in the City of Winnipeg has increased at the rate of about twenty percent. Now, I'm sure the department if they are not aware of that, should be aware of it and should be concerned because it does have a significant fact, especially in the field of education when you are dealing with a constant mill rate and a foundation program. What it does is place a steadily increasing larger proportion of the foundation program on the farm land assessment. I also notice that the assessment of properties within the villages and towns has not increased at the same rate as farm land has.

Now if this Government is sincere in their policy of collecting taxes on the ability to pay principal, then I would suggest that that policy be fairly consistent throughout, and I would say that that should probably include the field of municipalities and assessment in that respect too, because the land doesn't increase in productivity, it's the same field, in fact, I would say that as time goes on the probability of increased productivity diminishes, and everyone knows that the ability to pay of any farmer depends on the productivity of his farm. So here we are finding the farm population of Manitoba who are facing a rate of assessment increase that is not consistent with that that exists in other segments of society, and the result is that they are facing an increase in taxation which is not consistent with other segments of society, and for a government which prides itself on its taxation program which is based on an ability-to-pay principal, I would say that there seems to be a rather strange inconsistency in this respect. It's certainly a concern of mine and I would hope that it would become a concern of the Ministers as well.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I had a bit of a problem understanding you but I think what the honourable member is getting at, I would try and respond this way: that as long as the values of property within a municipality are relatively the same as valued property . . . two properties are relatively of the same type, relatively the same, then the equalization program would take care of any discrepancies that may result in changes in assessment anywhere else in the province as I understand it. I am informed that the equalized assessment throughout the Province last year increased by only approximately seven percent, and the equalized assessment provisions this year are estimated to increase by approximately five percent for the forthcoming year. So when the honourable member says programs on ability to pay, the area of property taxation always has been and will be on the basis of value of land within a given area and it will be related to other municipal areas in the Province by the equalization process.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I was very much afraid that would be the answer I would get from the Minister, and the disturbing part that I got from his answer when he said "and it always will be" because I feel that the assessment practices of the Province of Manitoba have been wrong in the past, are wrong today, and they will probably be wrong tomorrow if the Minister continues in that respect.

We have had municipal committees of this Legislature and I have been members of them, that have heard representation on the inequalities that exist in the assessment practices in this Province. I well recall the former Minister talking about rollbacks, various other methods, to relieve the inequities that exist in the assessment practices of this province, but Mr. Chairman, I have to note that in the past eight years, while there's been talk of changes, we have had committees that have listened to briefs from various parts of the community, we find that no change has occurred in the assessment practices of this province, and I have to say that I am at the very least dismayed that there seems to be no change from the practice of assessing on the basis of the market value of the property. I think in the green belt that surrounds the City of Winnipeg, the effect that it has had on the agricultural land that was used for the market garden operations has been basically that prime agricultural land has been taken out of production, prime agriculture land has gone under asphalt, because the assessment that was placed on that land, not for its productivity — and we have to be concerned about productivity, but the assessment that was placed on it was for its potential commercial value. And yet we have had committees touring this province, talking about the need to retain agricultural land for agricultural use and I suggest to the Minister that until we start to assess agricultural land on the basis of its agricultural use, until we do that, we will not be able to retain agricultural land for agricultural use, nor will we begin to get a proper assessment of agricultural land in this province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, the member has made really two statements in this area, and I just want to make sure that I follow him right. He mentioned the area of assessment to value and he dealt with the area of assessing agricultural land on the basis of agriculture. The honourable member, no doubt, well remembers the representations dealing with the legislation that was proposed dealing with the land in the periphery of Winnipeg which because of the use of that land, and of the surrounding land, it was deemed to have a commercial value and as a result the assessments reflected the value of the land in the area, and it was proposed at that time by the Legislature to give the opportunity to market gardeners who had agricultural land who wanted to farm, who indicated that they were being forced to farm, a proposal was made as to whether or not they would wish to keep their land agricultural and retain it for agricultural purposes, and if they turned it to another use, other than agriculture for other development which reflected the higher value, there would be a pay-back of the taxes based on the real value of the land, I believe that was a term of the legislation, and in fact, representations I believe to the municipal affairs committee were of the nature that farmers did not want that kind of a provision.

Now if the honourable member is suggesting that there should be in areas where land prices have escalated as a result of rural residential development in the periphery of urban areas, that there be a government look at the area of possibly an agreement between the land holder and the municipality to retain his land in agriculture, that's something that possibly should be looked at, I'd be sympathetic to it, but a similar provision was presented to the House in 1971 and in fact was rejected by farmers who lived along . . . was primarily the concerns raised along the Red River in the market garden areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm very glad that the member has a memory that goes back to the debates that were held in 1971 by that municipal committee, but again I have to say that at that time the feeling that was prevalent was that the land should be taxed for agricultural use. The assessment branch though felt that they couldn't wait, they couldn't wait until it was turned over to commercial use in order to assess it; they were going to assess it now, they wanted to get their greedy little hands on it now, they weren't willing to wait until the land was taken out of agricultural use, and for that reason, that was turned down. If land was assessed on the base of its use rather than its potential value, then there would be no trouble. The government doesn't have to worry because once it is sold for commercial value, government is going to get their hands on the money anyway in capital gains. They're going to get their tax dollar when the value of the land does increase for the commercial use and the commercial base that is built on that property will sustain the taxation. For that reason, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that was the reason why the proposals put forward in 1971 were rejected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. WARNER H. JORGENSEN: I would just add a comment to that. What was really offered to the farmers at that time was, ask them whether they wanted to be hung with a nylon rope or just plain hemp, it didn't make any suggestion that they would have to pay back taxes on property that has been used for farming over a period of years was not an alternative, not an alternative at all. If the Minister had given them a proper offer — I don't blame the present Minister because he wasn't there at that time — of suggesting that when the land was ceased to be used for agriculture and was turned over to commercial reasons, then at that point it would be taxed for commercial reasons. — (Interjection) — No, it was retroactive, you had to go back.

MR. GRAHAM: Don't say taxed, say assessed.

MR. JORGENSEN: It's no wonder the farmers — (Interjection) — Pardon?

MR. URUSKI: That's exactly what it was, a deferral.

MR. GRAHAM: Tax deferral, but not an assessment deferral.

MR. JORGENSEN: That's just an aside, I thought I should draw that to the Minister's attention. What I wanted to ask the Minister was: How many municipalities does the assessment branch tax or assess in one year? You take a number of them I understand, what municipalities were assessed last year?

MR. URUSKI: On the average, about 35 municipalities annually — approximately.

MR. JORGENSEN: Annually? An assessment was made in MacDonald Municipality last year, was there not?

MR. URUSKI: Yes it is, MacDonald was done last year.

MR. JORGENSEN: Morris as well?

MR. URUSKI: No, last year there was approximately 30 . . .

MR. JORGENSEN: Thirty, out of a total number of hundred . . .

MR. URUSKI: Morris, we can give you Morris, is proposed for this year, 1977.

MR. JORGENSEN: What was the average increase in the assessment on farm property in

Macdonald municipality?

MR. URUSKI: I would have to take that question as notice and provide the member with that information.

MR. JORGENSON: While the Minister is at it, then I wonder if he could tell me what the average increase in the assessment on private homes in Macdonald municipality in villages such as Sanford, La Salle, etc., what the rate of increase in their assessment was, for the same period.

MR. URUSKI: That's fine, we'll take that as notice.

MR. JORGENSON: You don't have that information now?

MR. URUSKI: We wouldn't have it here, no.

MR. JORGENSON: I should give it to the Minister, but I'll wait until he presents it to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, last year when we were discussing the question of assessments, I asked the then Minister of Municipal Affairs if he was . . . at all interested in revising the municipal assessment system to bring about provincial-wide assessment on an annual basis, similar to the major reform brought in by that Liberal-minded province of P.E.I. which has now been considered certainly to be probably the most up-to-date and contemporary municipal assessment system in the country. The Minister at that time indicated how it was a good idea but politically unacceptable. I wonder if the new Minister who is now in place thinks it is still a good idea and also politically acceptable at some stage to basically start revising the municipal assessment system based upon current market value, done as it's being now applied in three of the four Maritime Provinces, I believe it's three out of the four now.

The reason being, Mr. Chairman, aside from some of the complaints that are often heard, it's probably one of the most effective ways of determining a proper allocation of municipal finance. There's a great deal of bleating, and I use the word in its full context, from municipalities about their financial squeeze. The fact of the matter is that much of their property is under-valued and continues to be, so that there are a lot of free rides going on. I know that there are not that many free rides left in society, but I don't see why there should be any ones necessarily there when it isn't anywhere else and that the assessment system really is pretty archaic. —(Interjection)—

Well, it may or may not be. I think, Mr. Chairman, to be adequate about it, that, having looked at the P.E.I. system, there are formulas built in to take into account different conditions, but the fact of the matter is that one of real problems dealing with municipal finance goes back to the antiquated nature of the assessment system and the fact that really we haven't been prepared to be kind of gutsy about it and do something significant and change.

I first will ask the Minister if he has had an opportunity to review that kind of system, if there's anything being done to at least prepare what might be necessary to introduce such a system into this province, aside from the political pain it might cause, and what, in fact, it might make in the way of changes to the whole municipal finance arrangements in the province?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the department has reviewed the P.E.I. system and in fact the province, I would say, would like nothing better than to have a current, up-to-date system of assessments, then one would not have to rely on the equalized assessment process, so that if it could be done on an annual basis it would be much more equitable.

However, the branch now is annually, as they are reassessing new areas, computerizing base data on the buildings and land and whatever is in the area so that when all the base data over the next number of years is collected, a system of that nature as the member is talking about could be implemented.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to note that some progress is being made in the technical side of things. I think I'm equally as interested in whether there has been any initiative taken to prepare the political side of things. Again, my reading of the history of the implementation of that program in the Maritimes area was that it seemed to be a much more drastic measure than it eventually turned out to be, and that in many cases the rural municipalities are much happier with the present system than with the old one.

It would seem to me that perhaps some discussion with the Union of Manitoba Municipalities or representatives of the municipalities in some form, would be necessary to open this thing up for discussion and perhaps to work on a joint basis in the preparation of a system so that we could be moving into the development of those in a fairly orderly, progressive way rather than kind of waiting to pop it on a waiting public at some point when they're unprepared or everyone is off at a convention somewhere.

I really would like to know if the Minister has developed any plan in mind, any schedule in mind as to bringing up-to-date the acceptance of such a system as he's beginning to move towards it on the technical side.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the technical side is mainly the data base, the collection of data. The other side of the picture, there have been discussions going over the last three or four years with the associations and with municipal officials about looking at the assessment area. There has been some

interest expressed on the urban side, less so on the rural side and there's no doubt that a better understanding of the process . . . to look at what alternatives may be available, we have broached the subject and in fact the Union of Manitoba Municipalities has indicated at their recent convention that they will be in contact with us to start a process of information. We are trying to internally sit down with them and look at possible ways of looking at the whole area of the assessment field.

However, I might say that although discussions have taken place over the last number of years, there has not been a great inclination to look at some reforms in this area.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, if I might be so bold as to offer a suggestion or two, I would think that one of the ways to move that particular reform along, because I think it is a reform that is going to have to come eventually, would be for the Department of Municipal Affairs, rather than waiting in a responsive way for the initiative of the municipalities to find information, may be to begin preparing information on their side so that there is a certain educated process along the way and that they can begin seeing what the pros and the cons of the particular scheme might be and therefore have something fairly meaty to get their teeth into and then chew it around and see if in fact they are prepared to digest it.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, that's exactly what has been proposed in the past and the detailed — we've analyzed the problem areas and the department, because of their availability of the technical data to them, were prepared and in fact prepared discussion papers with a committee which unfortunately did not materialize that far. But we are certainly open and are prepared to pursue this area. In fact, the department has gone out in the recent district meetings of the Urban Association and sat down and threw out some areas where problems do exist. In fact, we're as bold as that, to go out and sort of lay the cards on the table.

MR. CHAIAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions. I was wondering if the Minister or the Assessment Branch have been looking at any possibility of a credit of assessment for farmers who would keep waterholes on their land, or keep forest trees, groves of trees on their land. I see all kinds of cases now where farmers, their land is taxed so high that they say they no longer can leave the waterholes there for ducks, or the treed area. So what they are doing, they are bulldozing these areas and making it right into strictly a quarter section of nothing but soil. It's well-known, anybody who has lived in these areas, that maybe in the next four or five years, those potholes will be back full of water again. But I was just wondering if the Minister or the department has looked at some kind of a credit system through assessment, if possible, to encourage people to look after the habitat and the farmland and leave it in as much of its natural state as possible.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, in effect the assessment process reflects those very points that the member raises. I understand that in areas where a pothole is within a cultivated piece of land, that the pothole or the acreage of the pothole is assessed at approximately \$1.00 an acre. So that that reflection of credit, so-speaking, is there, that the assessment reflects the value of that land and of course it can be much more valuable, thereby the assessment doesn't pick it up, on that basis.

Similarly, with forests, the forested treed land of course would, generally speaking, take a much lower assessment based on its potential value which would likely be less than the cultivated acreage.

MR. MCKENZIE: Apparently, Mr. Chairman, the message can't be getting through because I have talked to many farmers and they come back with the same class answer every time, "With the taxes we have to pay on that property, it has to produce." So they are not prepared to leave it in that state, the ones that I . . . spoke with. Maybe the municipality or your branch is not getting the message back to them that they are receiving credit, because in all cases that have been drawn to my attention, this is the answer I get.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that while there is an awareness of how the assessment works, I'm not sure whether . . . and I get it in fact myself. Before I really understood the process, as soon as the assessment values change in a municipal district, there is the great uproar and fear that because the assessment maybe, let's say, has doubled in an area, that everyone's tax bill doubles. But that in effect doesn't occur if the average increase of the assessment in the area is the same throughout. What happens is of course the mill rate drops.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I have sent a note to the Minister today regarding a problem I have at Ethelbert and it's an assessment problem and I'm snowed under with letters and likely he is too. I wonder if it's possible, if he could meet with these people . . . I wouldn't raise it in the committee.

MR. URUSKI: There is no problem there and what the member raises is the issue of long-standing exemptions from the assessment rolls and in the Act these exemptions have been in effect for years but once the net income of the individual changes from a source other than farming, then his residence is put on the tax rolls and that's where the problem arises. And that, frankly, is a problem because in any exemption that you get, you have pros and cons as to why this fellow gets an exemption and he's doing so many other things and I, I've lost my income from my farm and I've had to take employment elsewhere and all of a sudden my income criteria changes.

I have to recognize the honourable member. It's been a historical thing and it is a historical

problem, that when you do have an exemption of that nature, it tends to place people in an awkward position when they least expect it. I have to admit that because of the points that the member has raised.

MR. MCKENZIE: The problem that they keep putting across to me all the time is that there was no crop in the area, basically speaking, last year. It was being flooded so bad so a lot of them had to go to work and now the assessment just happened to come at a most inopportune time.

The other thing of course, some of the charges that are being raised by several of these people I think deserve that the Minister sit down and sort it all out, so I'll just leave it at that and hopefully we can arrange for that.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, that problem isn't picked up just on reassessment time. If the municipality is aware of changes, these matters are picked up at any time of the year. But when you have an exemption of that nature, it tends to, as I said, apply itself at the most awkward time in the incomes of many people in the rural areas.

MR. MCKENZIE: But with that understanding, I won't deal with it in the committee and the Minister can deal with those people when they come in. That's all I have to ask there, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 90(a). The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: I had asked several questions on that particular item and the answers were not provided. I wonder if we could hold that item over and perhaps those answers will be provided tomorrow and we could pursue it. Based on the answers, I may have some more questions to ask.

MR. URUSKI: That's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed by the committee we hold this item over? The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two brief questions. When the assessment of a municipality takes place, the whole municipality is done, not just one particular segment? For instance, the farm land as well as the buildings would be done, is that right?

MR. URUSKI: That is correct.

MR. BANMAN: Has the Rural Municipality of La Broquerie been reassessed this past year?

MR. URUSKI: La Broquerie Municipality was done in 1972 and it's scheduled to be reassessed in 1977. Mr. Chairman, there was an isolated case in the R.M. of La Broquerie and Hanover, I'm informed, that the buildings were revalued in relationship to the land in the last year, just the buildings, to bring them into line with the land values of that area. So there was a reassessment of the buildings in those two municipalities. Just of the buildings.

MR. BANMAN: That has caused a certain amount of problems because some of them have really sky-rocketed. I realize that the people are out doing their job, but some of the houses that were built, for instance, are now facing a \$2,000 touch as far as taxes are concerned with really not that many services being provided. So that's the answer I was after, so I'll pursue that later.

MR. URUSKI: Are you saying a \$2,000 increase in assessment?

MR. BANMAN: About a 100 percent increase in assessment on some buildings that were built not too long ago and you've got taxes jumping from \$1,000 to \$2,000 on a home and I'll be looking into the matter and getting some more details, so I'll get back to the Minister on it.

MR. URUSKI: Yeah, I think you'd better.

MR. CHAIAN: Any further questions on Resolution 90? The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I believe under the Canada Land Inventory that the inventory was done through the Assessment Branch of the Province of Manitoba for the Federal Government, was it not?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe it was done through the department, I believe the Department of Mines and Resources, I think the Minister of Renewable Resources, the Canada Land Inventory Program came under his department, I believe. Or else the Minister of Mines and Resources, either of those two departments, and that dealt with a number of years back, I believe, of what the member refers to. But it wasn't handled through the Department of Municipal Affairs.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, the land classification, I believe the assessment branch has done a complete land classification through soil sampling, of all the arable land of Manitoba, has it not?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm informed that the University of Manitoba Soils Department provides the basic data to the department on the soil classifications of the Province of Manitoba. The university provides us with that data.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, is it not true that the actual soil sampling is done by the Assessment Branch of the Province of Manitoba?

MR. URUSKI: ? There may be individual samplings done in areas to determine that the classifications that have been provided are in effect the same as we have gotten, so there are checks made.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I raise this issue because . . .

MR. URUSKI: I might add that's done to rate the soils on its productivity scale.

MR. GRAHAM: And all the analysis is done by the Soils Branch at the university for the Municipal Branch, is it not? The actual soil analysis is done by the Soils Branch of the university.

MR. URUSKI: That is correct.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I raise the issue because I know in my own personal case several years ago I had had my land appraised through a program of the Department of Agriculture where we did an analysis of the land on the basis of 40 soil samples per quarter section. We did a complete analysis and got very detailed maps on the soil classification which was very useful in productivity and the program that was being promoted by the Department of Agriculture at that time.

A MEMBER: Determining fertilizer levels?

MR. GRAHAM: At the same time, a few years later, under reassessment, the Assessment Branch did their soil sampling which they submitted to the university for analysis and I have to state, Mr. Chairman, that the assessment that was based on the sampling that was done by the Assessment Branch, where they only did four samples per quarter section, can in many cases produce vastly different evaluations of the property. That's roughly taking one sample per forty acres and anyone that knows, especially in the western part of Manitoba, soil varieties change rapidly and you can have sand on one knoll and gumbo in another and this is not reflected.

I appealed the assessment that was handed to me on the basis of the analysis that they had done, and produced my own charts and the forty samples per quarter that had been done by the Soil Analysis Branch of the university, and on that basis, I was successful in getting a significant change in the assessment of that particular property.

So I was wondering if the Assessment Branch was considering a more detailed soil sampling than the present practice of just four samples per quarter section?

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure whether there is a set rule of four samples or the like, but I would think that if there is a drastic change in the soil types within a particular quarter section, even if you took, as the member says, 40 samples, you may get a vast difference from area to area and it would have to pertain to almost case-by-case analysis. I don't think the department *per se* strictly goes on four samples, they may not exceed that in many instances, but I would wonder whether it would create that great a discrepancy in the total assessment of a particular parcel of land.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, at that particular time I believe the assessment on that quarter section of land was something in the neighbourhood of \$5,600 and when I showed them the detailed analysis, I think it reduced it \$250.00, which is a significant change.

I'm citing that as one example, so, on the basis of that, I would urge that the soil sampling that is done, I would hope, would be maybe of a more extensive nature to ensure that we do get an accurate evaluation of the soil classification that exists. I know you do have a soil classification now, an assessment on that, and I think since that was done several years ago, probably through the appeal process, if the farmer himself felt that it was unjustly assessed, through the appeal process maybe some of the inequities have been eliminated.

The reason I raise it is that I know the department does have the information as far as soil classification. I think that's very important if we are to consider the advisability of changing assessment at some future date, to base assessment of agricultural land on its productivity values. You have the soil classifications, you know the topography, you have the aerial surveys, so that I don't think it would be a very difficult thing, having all this information. At some time in the future, if we do consider the advisability of changing the assessment practices, we have the information now. It's only a question of whether or not it's politically advisable to change to a different system of assessment other than the present system that is now in effect.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I would like to hear what the member proposes because the department and I as Minister, would certainly appreciate any suggestions the honourable member might have that we could look at.

But commenting specifically on the honourable member's numbers that he gave, he must realize that the department is in a mass valuation process in the assessment field. He gave figures of \$5,600, reduced by \$250.00 which in effect is approximately a four-and-a-half percent change and in a mass program of this nature, if the department is within a five percent area, they are relatively right on in values, so that the program, I would say, is right on target even though there has been that kind of a change in his particular case by doing that many samples. A four-and-a-half percent difference is, I would say, pretty well on.

MR. JORGENSEN: Mr. Chairman, I move the Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

APPENDIX "A"

SHEET 1

YEAR IN WHICH ASSESSMENT WAS FIRST USED

1977	1976	1975	1974
R.M.	R.M.	R.M.	R.M.
Argyle Ethelbert Harrison MacDonald McCreary Morris Mossey River Roblin Ste. Anne South Cypress West St. Paul Towns Beausejour Gimli Morris Virden Villages Erickson City Flin Flon	Daly Dufferin East St. Paul Ellice Lawrence Ochre River St. Laurent Ste. Rose Springfield Tache Towns Boissevain Carman Dauphin Gladstone Villages Lac du Bonnet Powerview Rossburn Ste. Anne Treherne City Portage la Prairie L.G.D. Churchill Fisher	Birtle Cartier Gilbert Plains Grandview Lorne Montcalm North Cypress Roland Rockwood Sifton Thompson Woodworth Towns Emerson Villages Hamiota Notre Dame City Brandon	Archie Dauphin Elton Louise Ritchot Siglunes Wallace Towns Morden Rapid City Steinbach Villages Cartwright St. Pierre Somerset L.G.D. Gillam Grahamdale Leaf Rapids Park Pinawa Snow Lake N. Man. Anama Bay Dallas-Red Rose Fisher Bay Hecla Island Herb Lake Herb Lake Landing Lake St. George Manigotogan Norway House Ponton Seymourville Sherridon-Cold Lake Bissett

APPENDIX "A"

SHEET 2

YEAR IN WHICH ASSESSMENT WAS FIRST USED

1973	1972	1971	1970
R.M.	R.M.	R.M.	R.M.
Albert Coldwell Glenella Ericksdale Franklin Hanover Lac du Bonnet North Norfolk Pipestone Pembina Stanley Westbourne Towns Carberry Minnedosa The Pas Villages Crystal City Pilot Mound St. Claude Teulon Wawanesa L.G.D. Alexander Armstrong Alonsa Consol Grand Rapids Lynn Lake N. Man. Fishing Lake Island Lake Pikwitonei Sasaginnigak Thicket Portage Wabowden	Arthur Brokenhead Bifrost Boulton Cameron Glenwood Hillsburg Lakeview Langford Lansdowne La Broquerie Rhineland Shell River Shellmouth Whitemouth Winchester Towns Altona Birtle Hartney Killarney Melita Neepawa Oak Lake Selkirk Stonewall Wpg. Beach Villages Dunnottar Gretna Ethelbert McCreary MacGregor Manitou Niverville Plum Coulee Winnipegosis L.G.D. Reynolds	Brenda Clanwilliam De Salaberry Edward Gimli Grey Minitonas Portage la Prairie Rosedale Rosburn Swan River Woodlands Towns Souris Swan River Winkler Villages Arborg Benito Binscarth Bowsman Gilbert Plains Minitonas Riverton Ste. Rose du Lac L.G.D. Piney Mystery Lake City Thompson N. Man. Ilford Islandview Leaside Beach Matheson Island Pine Dock	Miniota Minto Odanah Russell St. Andrews St. Clements Shoal Lake Silver Creek Strathclair Victoria Beach Towns Grandview Roblin Villages Garson Napinka St. Lazare Shoal Lake Waskada L.G.D. Stuartburn

APPENDIX "A"

SHEET 3

YEAR IN WHICH ASSESSMENT WAS FIRST USED

1969	1968	1967	1966
R.M.	R.M.	R.M.	N. Man.
Blanshard Cornwallis Hamiota Saskatchewan St. Francois-Xavier Towns Rivers Russell	Oakland Rosser Riverside South Norfolk Strathcona Turtle Mountain Victoria Whitehead Whitewater Villages Elkhorn	Morton Towns Deloraine	Berens River
1965	1964	1958	1957
	L.G.D. Mountain N. Mountain S. N.Man. Barrows Area Camperville Duck Bay	N. Man. Moose Lake Cross Lake	N. Man. Waterhen Area Crane River Area

APPENDIX "B"

SHEET 1

PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

(Year in which Assessment was First Used)

R.M.'S	Year	R.M.'S	Year
Albert	1973	North Cypress	1975
Archie	1974	North Norfolk	1973
Argyle	1977	Oakland	1968
Arthur	1972	Ochre River	1976
Bifrost	1972	Odanah	1970
Birtle	1975	Pembina	1973
Blanshard	1969	Pipestone	1973
Boulton	1972	Portage la Prairie	1971
Brenda	1971	Rhineland	1972
Brokenhead	1972	Ritchot	1974
Cameron	1972	Riverside	1968
Cartier	1975	Roblin	1977
Clanwilliam	1971	Rockwood	1975
Coldwell	1973	Roland	1975
Cornwallis	1969	Rosedale	1971
Daly	1976	Rosburn	1971
Dauphin	1974	Rosser	1968
De Salaberry	1971	Russell	1970
Dufferin	1976	Saskatchewan	1969
Edward	1971	Shell River	1972
Ellice	1976	Shellmouth	1972
Elton	1974	Shoal Lake	1970
Ericksdale	1973	Sifton	1975
E. St. Paul	1976	Siglunes	1974
Ethelbert	1977	Silver Creek	1970
Franklin	1973	South Cypress	1977
Gilbert Plains	1975	South Norfolk	1968
Gimli	1971	Springfield	1976
Glenella	1973	Stanley	1973
Glenwood	1972	St. Andrews	1970
Grandview	1975	Ste. Anne	1977
Grey	1971	St. Clements	1970
Hamiota	1969	St. Francis Xavier	1969
Hanover	1973	St. Laurent	1976
Harrison	1977	Ste. Rose	1976
Hillsburg	1972	Strathclair	1970
La Broquerie	1972	Strathcona	1968
Lac du Bonnet	1973	Swan River	1971
Lakeview	1972	Tache	1976
Langford	1972	Thompson	1975
Lansdowne	1972	Turtle Mountain	1968
Lawrence	1976	Victoria Beach	1970
Lorne	1975	Victoria	1968
Louise	1974	Wallace	1974
Macdonald	1977	Westbourne	1973
McCreary	1977	W. St. Paul	1977
Minitonas	1971	Whitehead	1968
Miniota	1970	Whitemouth	1972
Minto	1970	Whitewater	1968
Montcalm	1975	Winchester	1972
Morris	1977	Woodlands	1971
Morton	1967	Woodworth	1975
Mossey River	1977		

APPENDIX "B"

SHEET 2

PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

(Year in which Assessment was First Used)

Towns	Year	Towns	Year
Altona	1972	Morris	1977
Beausejour	1977	Neepawa	1972
Birtle	1972	Oak Lake	1972
Boissevain	1976	Rapid City	1974
Carberry	1973	Rivers	1969
Carman	1976	Roblin	1970
Dauphin	1976	Russell	1969
Deloraine	1967	Selkirk	1972
Emerson	1975	Souris	1971
Gimli	1977	Steinbach	1974
Gladstone	1976	Stonewall	1972
Grandview	1970	Swan River	1971
Hartney	1972	The Pas	1973
Killarney	1972	Virden	1977
Melita	1972	Winkler	1971
Minnedosa	1973	Winnipeg Beach	1972
Morden	1974		
Villages	Year	Villages	Year
Arborg	1971	Napinka	1970
Benito	1971	Niverville	1972
Binscarth	1971	Notre Dame	1975
Bowsman	1971	Pilot Mound	1973
Cartwright	1974	Plum Coulee	1972
Crystal City	1973	Powerview	1976
Dunnottar	1972	Riverton	1971
Elkhorn	1968	Rosburn	1976
Erickson	1977	Shoal Lake	1970
Ethelbert	1972	Somerset	1974
Garson	1970	Ste. Anne	1976
Gilbert Plains	1971	St. Claude	1973
Glenboro	1968	St. Lazare	1970
Gretna	1972	St. Pierre	1974
Hamiota	1975	St. Rose du Lac	1971
Lac du Bonnet	1976	Teulon	1973
MacGregor	1972	Treherne	1976
Manitou	1972	Waskada	1970
McCreary	1972	Wawanesa	1973
Minitonas	1971	Winnipegosis	1972
City	Year	City	Year
Brandon	1975	Portage la Prairie	1976
Flin Flon	1977	Thompson	1971

APPENDIX "B"

SHEET 3

PROVINCIAL MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

(Year in which Assessment was First Used)

L.G.D.'S	Year	L.G.D.'S	Year
Alexander	1973	Lynn Lake	1973
Alonsa	1973	Mountain	1964
Armstrong	1973	Mystery Lake	1971
Churchill	1976	Park	1974
Consol	1973	Pinawa	1974
Fisher	1976	Piney	1971
Gillam	1974	Reynolds	1972
Grahamdale	1974	Snow Lake	1974
Grand Rapids	1973	Stuartburn	1970
Leaf Rapids	1974		

N. Man.	Year	N. Man.	Year
Anama Bay	1974	Islandview	1971
Barrows Area	1964	Lake St. George	1974
Berens River	1966	Leaside Beach	1971
Bissett	1974	Manigotogan	1974
Camperville	1964	Matheson Island	1971
Crane River Area	1957	Moose Lake	1958
Cross Lake	1958	Norway House	1974
Dallas-Red Rose	1974	Pikwitonei	1973
Duck Bay	1964	Pine Dock	1971
Fisher Bay	1974	Ponton	1974
Fishing Lake	1973	Sasaginnigak	1973
Hecia Island	1974	Seymourville	1974
Herb Lake	1974	Sherridon Cold Lake	1974
Herb Lake Landing	1974	Thicket Portage	1973
Ilford	1971	Wabowden	1973
Island Lake	1973	Waterhen Area	1957

APPENDIX "C"

1977 REASSESSMENT PROGRAM

RURAL MUNICIPALITIES:

Brokenhead	Riverside
Cornwallis	St. Andrews (pt.)
Grey	St. Clements (pt.)
Hamiota	South Norfolk
Hanover	Strathcona
La Broquerie	Victoria
Miniota	Woodlands
Morton	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS:

Mountain North	Mountain South
Northern Manitoba	
<i>Crane River</i>	South Indian Lake
<i>Cross Lake</i>	Waterhen
<i>Meadow Portage</i>	

TOWNS:

Rivers	Swan River
Russell	Winkler
Souris	

VILLAGES:

Elkhorn	Niverville
Glenboro	St. Lazare

CITIES:

Thompson (half)

ESTIMATES - HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 30 of your Estimates Book, Resolution 60(k) General Purpose Grants—pass; 60(1) Research Support Funds \$275,000. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister can identify the research projects that are funded under this appropriation?

MR. DESJARDINS: There are four items under this. There is Research Support Funds, that's provision of financial assistance for unspecified research projects, such as mental health, mental retardation, probation and parole, maternal child care, obesity, venereal disease control, and so on. There's \$60,000 there.

Then the next one is Health and Welfare Research Funds. This sum is set aside to cover the costs of research being expanded from the first group that I mentioned, when there is a need. And then the Research Administration is \$25,000.00.

And something new, there's \$100,000 which is something new, that was at the time that the Federal Government cut down somewhat on research. I am happy to notice they made a statement and I think this will be reinstated. I have discussed this with the College of Physicians and Surgeons and especially with the University of Manitoba Dr. Naimark, the Dean of the University. The intention was to work with them in some kind of an umbrella group or committee that would help us assess these grants and so on for research. There is not that much in there, but there is \$100,000 more than we had previously because we had nothing for that at all. There has been a commitment of one-half of that to the St. Boniface Hospital Foundation, which is research — it's not just for St. Boniface Hospital, it's doctors in that area and people in a number of different research. And the intention was the other \$50,000 would probably go to the other teaching hospital and we would have them prioritize that with the College of Physicians in the University. So therefore, the start would be for another \$100,000 for this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 60(l)—pass; Resolution 60 Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$53,521,900 for Health and Social Development—pass. Resolution 61 Medical and Rehabilitative Services (a) Office of the Chief Medical Consultant, (1) Salaries \$95,600.00. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: I wonder Mr. Chairman, so I don't get a backlog of these questions that I couldn't answer that I took as notice, if I cannot answer now that the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge is in his place, if I can answer the question that he posed to me yesterday and that is the Interlake caseload.

In reply to the question as to why there is an increase in the Public Health Nursing caseload from 1,495 in 1975 to 2,450 in 1976, I would submit the following. I believe it is primarily a reflection on better public health nursing supervision since the appointment of a regional senior nurse in 1975. This has resulted in better monitoring of public health nursing services, greater accountability on the part of nursing staff and provision of local inservice to meet staff needs. The change in caseload figures has occurred mainly in the following services: Child Care from 551 to 717; all new births are being visited as a result of an additional staff man year. The Child Case Assessment Project was begun in 1976 and all nurses are prepared to do this developmental testing. This has resulted in more children being allowed on the active caseload. School caseload from 107 to 249. More children are being taken on caseload and school records being more accurately monitored. Adult caseload from 231 to 499. (a) Transfer from Home Care to Public Health Nursing Supervision, (b) Public Health Nursing input into Home Care reflected in Public Health Nursing caseload had not been done previously in Interlake. Elderly caseload from 392 to 758. Public Health Nursing input into Home Care reflected in Public Health Nursing caseload.

I would like to point out that caseload figures are those of ongoing nursing services only. Total services for the same period were 3,042 in 1975 and 5,141 in 1976.

Now that we have started another department I would like to try something else.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the opportunity to pursue that matter slightly further before we move on.

MR. DESJARDINS: I guess then during the Minister's Salary. I don't imagine we would want to go back back, it is up to the Chairman. I am trying to give the information, it's immaterial to me, Mr. Chairman, if we want to just....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we should try and keep onto the items that are here as much as possible. I said the other evening the Minister's Salary is open for summing up on things that members have not been able to pursue at that time.

MR. DESJARDINS: By consent, Mr. Chairman, when I bring in answers at the start of a new session, if we could deal with that particular answer and then it would be disposed of. I am willing and that might be preferable instead of starting the whole thing again under Minister's Salary, because it seems to me we're on Minister's Salary on practically every item. But it is up to you, Mr. Chairman and

the members of the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the Committee if they wish to open it up again.....

MR. AXWORTHY: In speaking to the point I would say that if that was the case then it would have been preferable to have got that information while we were still into the area of Community Services so that we might have raised it at that time before we finished and passed on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the will of the Committee that we deal with this item? (Agreed) Proceed.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I don't plan an extensive comment. As I say I just last evening noticed the oddity of the almost explosive increase in one region of Manitoba. The Minister's explanation of this I gather is that it is due primarily to a new nursing director going into that region, therefore being able to provide better service.

I guess the obvious question then is what about the other regions. If one new nursing director can make all that difference, make the major difference of 1,000 new caseloads in one year in one region, is it simply that the Interlake was so far behind that it is just being brought up to the standard of the other regions or is it that the other regions are below their standards and have to be similarly brought up?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, that is indeed the next question. That is the one I thought of when I was given this information and unfortunately I was given this only tonight and I don't want to stickhandle and give you the false information. I know there's been some changes, I don't know if that region is just catching up or if it is going ahead. But I will try to get the information at least during the Estimate of the Minister's Salary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(a)(1).

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder to try to help out. There has been some confusion and I think there has been repetitions, many of the comments have been repetitious. If I could try to look at this service and then we could decide where the questions should be asked.

Now the first one (a) is Office of the Chief Medical Consultant, that provides executive and policy direction for the division and resource for the training and development staff. The Administration and Salary is one and then the cost of operating that branch, but there is a third element there for training, that is the help to the students themselves, not running the courses, but it is mostly administration.

Office of Mental Health and Rehabilitation Services — they are the group that co-ordinates the development and delivery of community mental health services, community mental retardation services and rehabilitation services for the handicapped, and the operation of mental health and mental retardation centres. I wonder if we can not look at the staff and the operating of that shop because later on we'll have a chance to talk about all these individual problems and policies, starting at (c) Rehabilitation Services for the Disabled. Then we can discuss all the wide range under the Rehabilitation Services to the Disabled. That provides rehabilitation services and assistance to the physically and mentally disabled.

And the next one is Psychiatric Services, provides support services to the community based mental health systems, includes forensic services, community services to children, staff support, the Winnipeg Psychiatric Institute and the Eden Mental Health Centre. We can talk about policy in that area out there; that could be a wide latitude in there. And also in the Institutional Mental Health Services. Now that provides institutional care and treatment for the mentally ill in Brandon and Selkirk and Eden Mental Health Centre. But I think this would be the place if there is any question of the disservice that you are doing, to replace this by phasing out or by some of the patient..... What are you doing and what aren't you doing in the community? I think this would be the ideal place.

And then the Institutional Mental Retardation Service, well that provides institutional care for the mentally retarded at the Manitoba School in Portage la Prairie, Pelican Lake Training Centre at Ninette and the St. Amant Centre, so I hope that this will be helpful and that we'll have less confusion.

I would like to make, and I think it would be helpful if I make the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before the Honourable Minister proceeds, just so that the Chair is clear in my own mind, (a) and (b) under 61 are Administration, is that correct? Administrative and Co-ordination?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And the others, (c), (d), (e) and (f) are the delivery of the various services, is that correct?

MR. DESJARDINS: Right, Sir. It might be helpful if I give you an idea about the office of the Chief Medical Consultant which is Dr. Tavener sitting in front of me to my right. This appropriation covers the office of the Chief Medical Consultant, his administrative staff, and includes funds for the training of psychiatric nurses and community mental health personnel.

The Chief Medical Consultant reports directly to the Minister and is responsible for advice to the Minister on medical matters, liaison at the staff levels of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical College, University of Manitoba, the Manitoba Medical Association, the Manitoba Health Services Commission, the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association, and other professional organizations.

He acts as Chairman of various committees which are advisory to the Minister, that is: Psychiatric Nurses Educational Committee, the Committee on Maternal and Child Health, and is Vice-Chairman of the Minister's Policy Committee.

The funds for training in this appropriation are for the funding of students. The operational expenses of our three schools in psychiatric nursing are included in the Estimates of the parent institutions at the Brandon Mental Health Centre, the Selkirk Mental Health Centre, and the Manitoba School at Portage la Prairie. In these three schools there are 91 students in first year and 76 in second year. Intake for 1977 is anticipated to be 100 new students. Experience has shown that the curriculum of psychiatric nurses prepares a well-qualified nurse very proficient in the care and treatment of the emotionally disturbed. They are the backbone of staffing in mental health and mental retardation programs and are in demand for service in various community agencies.

We have approved funds for allocation to training of community mental health and community retardation workers who are presently in the field. These funds, about \$100,000, will provide upgrading courses, refresher courses and training in specific areas such as personal development skills, Behavioral Modification Techniques, etc. It is expected that 60 community mental health workers and 50 mental retardation workers will receive such refresher courses. In order to use staff efficiently, the courses will occur in blocks of a few days, although the total time for each complete refresher is about 25 days throughout the year.

It is also expected that training will be available for 85 persons who will staff community residences, and for 50 private persons who operate foster homes. This is an attempt to better-equip these persons for the day-to-day supervision of discharged patients. I think this was one of the areas that was covered by some Members of the Opposition that felt that we should train these people.

In Vocation Rehabilitation, we expect 50 counsellors and 150 workers in workshops to receive upgrading of their skills. This cost is sharable through the participation of Canada Manpower. An apparent reduction of funds in this training area this year is more than offset by funds available through participation of Canada Manpower in training programs for non-governmental staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed, I would just like to draw to the attention of the honourable members that we will be trying to deal with these items with relevancy to the item that we are discussing. Number 1 is Salaries and that deals with the salaries in this department, not with delivery of services. I hope that's clear to the honourable members. The Honourable Meer for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: This puts us in a bit of a difficulty right away, Mr. Chairman, because we have over here — this group is responsible for our policy direction and I'm just wondering if we couldn't have a brief statement from the Minister AS TO WHICH DIRECTION WE ARE PLANNING TO HEAD. We know that there were very many exciting things that happened in the field of mental health in the last while. We've gone a long way from shock treatments to where we're treating with drugs now, yet in the last couple of years we seem to have gone into some kind of doldrums where nothing much seems to be happening. I wonder if the Minister can just give us a brief outline of which direction they are planning to head in this regard.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, as I stated, I will be glad to do this under either Psychiatric Services, Institutional Mental Health Services or Institutional Mental Retardation Services or Rehabilitation Services. It's no use starting all over in the next issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(a)(1). The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question I would have, I think, does come under the definition of this particular Estimate item. It would be, first, in the application of the law in the province which I really would like to get a clarification of in terms of the referral of those who have psychiatric disturbances and the degree to which they can be referred by friends, relatives or those about them. Let me just relate, Mr. Chairman, a particular situation which has come to my attention in several different kinds of ways, and that is that for those who find themselves beginning to deal with major disturbances, their relatives, people around them, maybe neighbours, may observe that those changes are beginning to take place in behaviour and yet it appears that under the present law the Chief Medical Officer can only actually refer them if there's a police charge or some specific charge being laid.

It seems, Mr. Chairman, and I'm really raising it because it is a function under the Act of the Chief Medical Consultant in this area, to deal with this particular problem which is a tricky one but still does mean that at often-times you have to go through a complicated procedure of getting a charge laid through the Courts in order to ensure that someone can be referred or examined for proper medical treatment. There are issues on both sides of that coin as to the rights of the individual involved, but at the same time, the rights of the community around them to be protected. I just really would like to know if there is any examination being done of this particular problem or what guidelines we work on?

I can think of a case that came to my attention just last Friday, in fact, where someone was put into a penal institution when in fact their problem was a psychiatric and that they had to go through the rigmarole of the Courts in order to get referred. I think that it does raise to my mind a very serious

issue.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if I understand the member correctly, this is something that has concerned the Provincial Psychiatrist and myself for a number of years, even before I was the Minister responsible, and I also know of such cases. We've been trying to change this and the whole thing is in front of the Law Reform Committee. I would hope that we can change, because at times—for their own good and so on, if they were examined right away and given care right away, the same as if you would pick somebody up on the street with a broken arm, you would go ahead. Of course my honourable friend must know that there are other groups also that wish that nobody would go to a mental institution or be examined and so on. We are resisting this pressure, but I do hope that the Law Reform—this is being left between the Attorney-General and the Law Reform Committee, this is on the second year now, and I certainly would like to bring legislation to change that, that at least you wouldn't wait until it's too late.

Right now you are told, and I've been told that at times, that you had to wait until something happened, either they hurt themselves or they hurt somebody else and then it's too late. But they can't do anything about it until the police can be called; if they do something to hurt themselves or if they become violent, then they could be sent in and examined.

Now, the only other way is if they voluntarily come in and subject to an examination and then, if the psychiatrists feel that they should be detained and given care, well then he can do it, but only under those two conditions.

MR. AXWORTHY: Following on that, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could explain if any attempts are being made to intercept in some cases those individuals who come before the Courts primarily for reasons of psychiatric disturbances as opposed to direct criminal charges so that in many cases those who are there because of their disturbances, not because of criminal action but can only get there because a charge has to be laid, in fact wouldn't end up being incarcerated or going on remand in a place which I would expect only exaggerates the problems, not in any way solves them.

I don't know if there are procedures or steps worked out with the Magistrates' Courts or with the police or with the Remand Centres in order to ensure that there is proper identification of such cases and that it would be referred to the Chief Medical Officer for consideration before any allocation of placement in a penal institution would be made.

MR. DESJARDINS: This, Mr. Chairman, will be covered also under Psychiatric Services because we have Forensic Services that serve the Courts. There are three psychiatrists, two psychologists and three clerical support and our department is responsible to offer this service to the Court, to be there if there is any need.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Birtle-Russell.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, while we are dealing with that same point I would like to ask the Minister if there is any plans within his department to provide facilities for cases such as that just mentioned. We do know that in the detention facilities that we have at the present time, which are designed more or less to handle those that have been incarcerated, we have really very little in the way of facilities to handle those that are in there purely for protective measures. I was wondering if the Minister has any plans to provide a facility of that nature where people are placed for their own protection as opposed to those that have been incarcerated for some crime against society?

MR. DESJARDINS: I wonder Mr. Chairman if I can answer that under Psychiatric Services, where we cover our forensic services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(a)(1) Salaries—pass; Other Expenditures \$24,800—pass; Professional Training \$451,700. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I believe it would be under this item the issues I raised, I believe it was last evening to keep matters straight, concerning the recommendations made by the Manitoba Medical Association and the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses concerning the improvement in training of workers, professionals in the mental health services field.

The Minister in his statement indicated that there have been some arrangements made with Canada Manpower, I believe, for the training of psychiatric nurses. But at the same time he also pointed out the Estimate for Professional Training shows a net decline of \$100,000.00.

In the report submitted by the Manitoba Medical Association it was indicated that there was also serious problems in the availability of psychiatrists themselves and also in terms of the upgrading of general practitioners, particularly in rural areas, so that they could be used as first line professionals dealing with the examination of symptoms and maybe some initial assessment of problems. And thirdly, with the use of social workers, PSWs who are not trained in the school of social work in any specific way to deal with mental health problems.

So with all these kinds of recommendations I think the conclusion from these reports is that the ability to deliver the service, I'm not getting into delivery, but their ability to deliver the service is severely restricted by the lack of trained professionals and the lack of training for such professionals. I find it somewhat curious to notice that there in fact is a net decline in the actual numbers of dollars

being spent on professional training. I did hear the Minister talk about the Manpower arrangement but it didn't seem to cover those other fields, so perhaps he could enlighten us further.

MR. DESJARDINS: There is a reduction of \$100,000, but that is because now there is an amount of \$200,000 that goes directly to Canada Manpower not through this Estimate, so actually there is an increase. They will pay direct instead of going through the department.

MR. AXWORTHY: I see. Could the Minister indicate who exactly are the recipients of the new Manpower trainings. I don't assume Canada Manpower is in the field of training general practitioners or psychiatrists. I assume that they are dealing with kind of paraprofessionals or something in this area. I am wondering if the department has any programs or any intention to begin using its resources on their professional training to upgrade the ability of general practitioners in the field, to make some identity of problems in the mental health field and begin moving in on this area.

MR. DESJARDINS: As far as the professionals, Mr. Chairman, they are receiving their training at the University, there are refresher courses and there is quite a few GPs that go into this field. It's not under this item here.

Now the Manpower as in the statement that I made, it's in vocational rehabilitation and we expect fifty counsellors and 150 workers in workshops to receive upgrading in their skills and that is directly through Manpower.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, again I don't want to start hop skipping through the different parts of the Estimate Book, but I gather the Minister says that the professional training for general practitioners would come under another item. I assume — if I can finish a thought — first I'd like to know is there a concerted effort being made to recruit the general practitioners who practice in areas outside Winnipeg and I suppose for that matter in the urban areas as well to enlist them in terms of updating their own skills to deal in the area of community mental health, so that they would be assigned as professionals in this area and has a program been established, have they been informed? Is there a special training sessions offered by the University of Manitoba Medical College for that to take place? And could he tell us how many may be going through it and give us some indication in numbers and what the expectations are?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, my honourable friend is right. The training is at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba where these courses are offered. We have tried to promote recruiting of those and psychiatrists and we have advertised in different newspapers and so on. It is something that there seems to be a shortage all over. That's one of specialists that there is even a shortage right here in Winnipeg. Usually there is not too many shortages in Winnipeg. I am talking about those that are operating their own clientele also. Now, as far the number, unless the Chief Medical Consultant has that, I couldn't give you that. — (Interjection) — The suggestion is that that might be contained in the Medical Education book of the University of Manitoba and these people travel throughout the province. This is strictly the Continuous Education and I don't think we'd have the number.

MR. AXWORTHY: Just one further question, and I'm still not exactly clear as to what is taking place in this area of providing for a total program of training of professionals in the field of mental health. I am also wondering if there has been any effort to provide for professionals in those areas of especially many of the smaller rural hospitals which don't have obviously specific psychiatric units assigned to them, but which oftentimes have cases in those hospitals which are of a psychiatric or psychological nature and whether there is any effort being made to — mobile teams or whatever it may be — to ensure that those patients in those areas are given the proper care. Mainly I suppose, by a referral system throughout the province that general practitioners working in the smaller fifteen to twenty bed hospitals would be able to use to ensure that they can get the proper references in terms of making assessments in these cases.

MR. DESJARDINS: First of all, every person that is going through in the medical school receives some training in this, every single one of them, not only the specialists. And then there is extra courses also. Now what we are trying to do, we are trying to instead of keeping their responsibility only in the institution — some of them are responsible in the institution and then they have an area that they work with our community staff workers. So our intention would be to have one of them responsible for each region as soon as possible.

We give consultation . . . The Pas, Flin Flon, Thompson, Virden, Dauphin, Swan River, Steinbach, Ste. Anne, Beausejour, Gimli and Selkirk, through the method that I have referred to. This is not training of professionals as such, that's done by the University.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(a)(3) Professional Training—pass; 61(b) Office of Mental Health and Rehabilitation Services, (1) Salaries. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister can tell me how many people are involved in this salary and how many professionals?

MR. DESJARDINS: The total staff under this item is 13. There are 13 full-time staff, 4 for the Mental Retardation Directorate, 6 for the Research and Planning Implementation Group and 3 for the Executive Director's office.

MR. BROWN: I wonder are there any professionals involved? Are there any medical doctors, any

psychiatric nurses or psychiatrists?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, this service, it comes from the hospital, the Director, Dr. Kovacs at Selkirk and Dr. Moyes in Brandon and others on their staff who work with this group.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am just looking for a little bit of direction here. Would this be the area where we could discuss different problems involved in the Community Mental Health Program?

MR. DESJARDINS: As I stated earlier that should come under, if it's institution it should come under (e) Institutional Mental Health Services and (d) also, Psychiatric Services, and as far as Portage la Prairie, St. Amant the Mental Retardation Service under (f).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister what is the relationship between this particular office of Mental Health and Rehabilitation Services and the other services that deliver the services? Now his thumb-nail description here indicates that it is to co-ordinate the development delivery of these other variety of services. I would like to know whether in fact this is the office — first, is it regionalized into a series of separate centres throughout the province but then has authority over each of the institutions, Community Mental Health workshops, homes and so on, in each of the areas, and to what degree do they then provide assessment of programs, standards, treatment and so on in each of these regions? I wish he could describe to us exactly what the function of this office is in relation to the other parts of the delivery system, and how in fact they go about co-ordinating it.

MR. DESJARDINS: This is under the Directorate of Mr. Creasy, who answers directly to Dr. Tavener. They co-ordinate but the main function is to work on the standards and then the standards are carried out and as I say they work with the people in the field. It's a small group and then the standards and the policy and so on are carried on by the different hospitals and the different people delivering the services.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I keep coming back to the point that again there seems to be something missing here because the government announced in the Throne Speech a much heavier emphasis on the development of Community Health Services. It has committed itself to a number of programs and yet in each of these Estimates the money that is being spent is less. Because again if this office is being designed to co-ordinate all these services and expand a number of services, unless they create a brand new miracle in Public Administration and find out that they are now doing more for less and God knows we would certainly love to see that. But the fact of the matter is it's not just a matter of the same personnel offering additional services, it's an actual net cutback from 465 to 360, again a cutback of about \$100,000.00. I assume that the major issue related to Community Mental Health Services, or one of them, is to make sure that there is a proper integration between the variety of institutional care, group care, workshop type homes and settings, to make sure that there is a flow and an allocation of people and all the work that goes into keeping standards and assessments and yet we are spending in net terms less money. —(Interjection)— Well, whatever the reason may be, again I am coming back to this, and I really want to know how it is that you put greater emphasis on program and yet in these different Estimates come up with less money in the next year. link it really does deserve that explanation.

MR. DESJARDINS: There again I will cover some of these areas. Now the reduction, it's not that there's less policy and less people working on the policy at all. There is a reduction of \$110,000 (110.7). There is 30.5 that is transfer of Steinbach Day Care that was to extended grants and then there is a \$30,500 transfer of Steinbach Day Care and there is \$69,000 reduction in staff contract funds, and there is 11.2 reduction in travel costs. They are doing the same function and I'll make statements later on, as we go on, on these things. I think that will answer a lot of these questions.

There is no reduction in program costs at all which was, I believe, the question of my honourable friend.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, the point of it was the question I had. I'm still a little bit wondering about why it is that you make the commitment to expand the program and yet still pull the dollars back in. I gather there is a transfer of one day care centre . . . I'm not sure how a day care centre ended up under this office but be that as it may he did say there was a reduction of \$60,000 worth of contract work. Well, what was the contract work doing if it was so redundant that we can take it back now when in fact we are expanding the program?

MR. DESJARDINS: The reduction was of contract people who were on contract, because it was a temporary program. It was computer work that has been completed but there is no reduction in programs at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(b)(1). The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. BANMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could elaborate a little bit about the transfer or the reason for the transfer for the Steinbach Day Care.

MR. DESJARDINS: This was a pilot project that has been transferred to the regular Day Care Program that is funded under the regular Day Care Program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(b)(1)—pass; (b)(2) Other Expenditures \$146,400—pass; 61(c) Rehabilitation Services to the Disabled: (1) Salaries \$117,600—pass; Other Expenditures \$36,000—pass; Financial Assistance \$3,246,200.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Well last year we did a pretty thorough review of this particular item and I think that some of the problems that we had last year . . . One of them was transportation. There was very little transportation assistance for any of the physically handicapped, those people that were capable of going out into the work force were unable to do so because transportation costs prohibited them from doing so. I wonder if this has been rectified.

I also would like to know how much assistance a blind person is getting at the present time. One problem that we seem to be having in this area is that there seems to be no set standard. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if there are any standards for delivering this, if program; people working in this area seem to be a little confused because there seem to be no standards.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, just to save the Minister rising to his feet more often than he need, I would like to maybe add a few questions to that. Again, one of the oddities of the Estimates in this particular area is that the net amount of money being provided for financial assistance is almost identical — I'm sorry, it's smaller this year than it was last year, it's about \$100,000 less. Now again, even under the very highly effective restraint program of the Federal Government that has kept costs down so well, we still experience an inflation rate of eight or nine percent this year which means that, presumably, the cost of disabled people has risen an according amount and yet the actual amount of financial assistance has gone down, which would lead one at least to the simple conclusion — in fact they're getting less money this year, and not only are they getting less money, but they are having to pay higher costs for food, clothing, rent and other amenities. Now either there is other financial assistance being provided but is not indicated in this Estimates Book, or in fact they've cut back payments to those who are physically or mentally disabled at a time when, again, the costs have risen probably I think — what was the rate last year, eight percent something like that, of inflation. I think that, Mr. Chairman, deserves some explanation as to how we're managing that particular bit of legerdemain and whether, in fact, are we providing for the budget cuts and making them pay for it as opposed to perhaps applying it in other areas. I think that would be a question of some real concern in this House, whether in fact those who perhaps are less able to protect their own financial positions are being the ones that are subject most readily to these sorts of cuts. So, Mr. Chairman, I would certainly like to raise that question and I would further — well, let's leave it at that. There are some other questions in relation to this we can come back to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development.

MR. DESJARDINS: The reduction was that last year we underspent by \$400,000. Well, you see that it's a little less than \$100,000, so therefore there's a net increase. There is still some work to be done on that. We hope that this year we will be reviewing the funding for the workshop — that's where the area was overspent. Now maybe this will answer — under (3), I believe we are under (3) Financial Assistance — some of the questions of my honourable friend from Rhineland. There is financial support for clients attending 25 workshops in the province, that's \$1,043,003. There are fees paid on behalf of citizens in vocational training programs, that's at Red River and some of these other places, physically handicapped people, \$306,400. The other question my friend asked, subsistence and transportation for citizens in workshop and training programs, \$520,000; financial support for the community residents, \$25,000; for the mentally retarded, the mentally ill, \$1,376,800, for the total that you see there, \$3,246,200.00. These are programs that are cost-shared with the Federal Government and that's under strict review for standards and so on before they're accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: It's fine to have rehabilitative programs for the disabled but once they have completed these programs and so on, it's so difficult for them to get into the labour force because of transportation difficulties. —(Interjection)— Oh, that is the actual — okay, fine. Another question I ask is, how much assistance does a blind person receive at the present time?

MR. DESJARDINS: I can't give my honourable friend this information now. This is a pension under Social Allowances.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to come back with a question of financial assistance because I don't think the explanation is totally full at this stage. The Minister indicated that the actual net increase for people of physical and mental disablement would be netting out at \$200,000 increase this year if you consider they underspent by \$400,000.00 The question I would have for him then is, what was the basis for the underspending last year? Was it because that became part of a restraint program, holding back? I guess you can raise at the same time the issue of upon what basis the financial system is assessed. What criteria is used to determine the actual amounts of money and how many people are really under financial assistance? What are the numbers involved in terms of additional — are numbers staying the same or are there more people coming requiring financial assistance? Are they requiring financial assistance of a different kind? I think we would like

to get some more detail on the exact nature of this program and how it's affecting people. Maybe the Minister could give us the basic minimum financial requirements, say, for a single person or for a married couple where one partner is disabled, not able to work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: This is a question that will be better answered under Social Allowances. In the meantime, let me say that the review wasn't finalized last year. That is the reason that it was overspent. The total people enrolled in workshops, I think there's 288. I can give you the different workshops if you want but I don't know if that's of any interest. There are 23 of them; in the community residences there are 157 people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(c)(3) Financial Assistance — pass. 61(c)(4) External Agencies \$2,647,700. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could identify these external agencies?

MR. DESJARDINS: There are three agencies — and I'll try to anticipate the next question. I'll give you what the actual was in 75-76, the adjusted vote in 76-77, they approved in 77-78, in that order. The CNIB was \$304,400 in 75-76; \$388,400 in 76-77; \$422,700 that I'm asking for in these Estimates. The Society for Crippled Children and Adults is \$1,615,100 in 1975-76; \$1,802,300 — and this year \$1,897,100.00. 1010 Sinclair, \$57,600; last year \$252,300; this year \$327,900.00.

I guess you know what the Canadian National Institute for the Blind — it supports staff and service costs for this Institute which provides many and varied services for the blind people. The Society for Crippled Children and Adults is a provincial umbrella organization in the rehabilitation of physically handicapped children and adults. I guess you probably know — it's old news now — that they have a World Congress every four years, something like the Olympics. The last one was held in Tel Aviv. There was a delegation of the three levels of government partially financed by the three levels of government, not to a large extent. We were fortunate enough to obtain the next one in 1980, not only for Canada but for Winnipeg and Manitoba, so in 1980 the World Congress will be held here.

The 1010 Sinclair — this is a 75-unit residential facility with 50 of the one-bedroom suites, specially designed, designated for severely handicapped adults. So there's been an increase every year on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. .

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister some questions which I would hope would come under this definition because I don't see anywhere else for it. Relating to some basic changes going on, I think in the ambitions of disabled people or those who have handicaps to greatly improve the facilities and services that exist in the community, I think that there's been major efforts to alter the public transportation system and architectural barriers. In particular, the City of Winnipeg has responded to some extent. There was some confusion expressed in the House when a question was asked about a month ago concerning whether the new buses that were being supplied by Flyer Industries to the City of Winnipeg would have any capacity for total access and egress of those who are in wheel chairs or have severe mobility problems in terms of their handicaps. There didn't seem to be any clear answer at that time and I am wondering if part of the auspices of this section of the department is to try to promote the responsiveness of other parts of government or other groups in the community towards the needs of changing these particular programs.

I could think of another example which comes to mind in my own constituency or very close beside it, and that is the real serious demand for recreational services for those who have handicaps, blind, deaf and so on. Again, very rarely are these provided in any kind of community setting. I can think of one case where, for the absence of about \$100,000 of capital cost, the opportunity to build a full gymnasium that would be available for people with handicaps is not being provided because it's not included as part of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, or CMHC will not fund such programs as part of their housing projects. So I am just wondering if the Minister and members of his department are beginning to investigate perhaps a more activist role in promoting and developing the kind of changes in community services and facilities that would be necessary to enlarge on the opportunities for people with different handicaps. So it isn't just a matter of doing the minimums but also trying to reach out and ensure that they have full access to these kinds of services the rest of us have.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, as far as the bus, it's unfortunate the Minister of Urban Affairs is not here. Well, I guess I can give you this information — that we have participated, we have helped the City of Winnipeg to provide the bus. Now, as far as the construction in the bus, that has been left with the City of Winnipeg. I don't know exactly what facilities they have for these people. I know that our department have also in discussion with — like my honourable friend hinted this afternoon, we do meet once in a while, the members of the Cabinet, and I know that I've always tried to convince my honourable friend, especially the one to my left and the Minister of Labour who is responsible for some of these regulations in homes and so on, that we should provide as much as possible the facilities and we hope that in most instances this is being done.

As far as the recreation, not that long ago, I asked the Committee on Fitness and Amateur Sport to look exactly at this problem, with a view of trying to help them in devising some kind of a program where we can help them with the lottery funds that we will be receiving.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(c)(4)—pass. Resolution 61(d) Psychiatric Services. (1) Salaries — \$708,900.00. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: A short announcement here I think might be helpful and might— of course, every time I make an announcement, it causes me another half hour of questions. "Negotiations with the Health Sciences Centre, Manitoba Health Services Commission and the department have now arrived at the state of acceptance by the Health Sciences Centre Board and have approval in principle by the Minister of Health and Social Development relative to (a) an extended treatment service for children and adolescents; and (b) a residential type of facility for persons with relapsing mental illness. Details of program delivery and a final budget for capsule and operation expenses remain to be finally delineated. However, this is not expected to be a lengthy process. Space for both programs will be provided by renovation of an existing building on the Health Sciences Centre campus, the Harry Medovy House. The facility for children is for 20 beds and to serve a group of very disturbed children who require hospital treatment rather than child welfare or correctional care." I guess that will answer one of the questions that was posed earlier.

Children are expected to fall in the time of treatment range from several months to a year. A few may be of longer duration. This is a high intensity treatment unit and will encompass in-patient treatment and associated day care and out-patient care. This facility is to fill a need for which no present facility exists in Manitoba. The need for such a facility has been recognized for some time and its proposed program is highly endorsed by the Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre, by the child psychiatrists and by the departmental personnel having responsibility for care of very disturbed children. Because of the complexity of cases and the broad spectrum of treatment methods necessary, costs will be relatively high, possibly \$85 per day. However, these costs are offset in human terms by treatment in Manitoba without the complication of separation from family, etc. There is promise of an ability to handle cases much more efficiently due to co-ordination with other services such as acute treatment wards, placement agencies and home follow-up.

The facility for adults is designed to provide a residential treatment resource for a group of patients who need less than hospital care but more service than can be provided in the foster homes or their own homes. At present we have inadequate treatment possibilities for this group of patients with not an enriched treatment media, frequently relapse or grow sicker. At present this group of patients require frequent admissions and are difficult to care for in the community in general. Provisions of this facility will reduce strain on acute psychiatric beds and on mental hospitals. The association with the hospital allows for separate and less expensive program while the benefits of back-up resources, medical and nursing input, non-duplication of management, are retained. This facility represents the first of eight similar developments budgeted for this year. Discussions are well along with Grace Hospital for a similar unit. We expect four rural facilities to be slightly different in size and programs because of different needs in different areas of the province. It is our expectation that these programs and facilities will move towards filling gaps in the spectrum of treatment needed for children and for those adults who need alternatives to hospital care and yet are too ill to be independent in the community." This would be bringing back into the province some of the patients that have been taken care of in the States — there's not too many in the States — but mostly in Saskatchewan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: We are very pleased that this program at long last is getting under way. We've been asking for this for a considerable time and there certainly is great need for it in the province. I am wondering, though, does the Minister consider 20 beds to be sufficient in the Health Sciences Centre? Since we have quite a few children that seem to need this type of treatment, I wonder does he think that this is sufficient?

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to add my own words of appreciation to the Minister. I would suggest this is probably long overdue but most welcome and certainly should be supported by everyone.

I had some questions concerning the two descriptions. I don't believe the Minister mentioned in his statement that there would be any special provision within this new unit at the Health Sciences Centre for those who may have been detained for criminal reasons and are under psychiatric care and observation. I would want to know whether in fact they are part of the adult or child centres or whether there would be a separate divisions or they will be incorporated. Perhaps he could, in responding to this, indicate how those who are under the custody of the Courts would be treated in this area.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, to the Honourable Member for Rhineland, this is only the first phase of 20 beds and we expect that there should be 40 beds or so, but this is a start. Of course, there will be a day

care program and so on, and this is part of an overall jigsaw puzzle ; this is only one component of it, one part of it.

Yes, these people referred to by my honourable friend are not criminals; if they are not responsible then they will be treated in this area, treated the same any other, not as criminals.

MR. AXWORTHY: Based on that answer, Mr. Chairman, I can assume then that even though someone has come into the court system and is under their custody, if they have been so examined as to be there for reasons of psychiatric purposes then they will be in this unit. Okay.

I have another question, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to ask the Minister, in this same field, and that really deals with a serious time-lag that oftentimes occurs in the forensic examination, particularly of children. It does come down to a question of certain rights, that those who are apprehended as juveniles and brought into the court system under the Juvenile Act do not have to receive the same kind of consideration. Perhaps it may be at least, I gather for their own protection, until a proper forensic treatment is applied by trained psychiatrists or others, and yet the fact is that sometimes it means that they stay in detention for four, five, six, seven months in some cases, without any kind of charge being laid or any kind of deliberation by the courts, which seems to me, again, really a denial of certain of their rights.

It may be that this particular problem will be eased by this, although I understand that this centre is primarily a residential centre, not an area that would upgrade the ability to provide forensic treatment at the Youth Treatment Centre and in the courts itself.

I guess the next question — I know the Minister is going to say, "What more do you want?" — but I guess the next question I would have is that will this new facility — as I understand it right now it's just a physical place, will there be additional staff added to it in order to allow for a more quick dispatch of the forensic examinations that are required in both the Youth Treatment Centre and in the Juvenile Court and so on, so that that whole process can be speeded up and people can get their examinations under way without undue delays.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, of course, before setting the facilities at the Health Sciences Centre, there had been negotiations with the staff, with Dr. Prosen and Dr. Penner, and we're assured that it will be properly staffed. I might say that they are very interested and they are eager to start.

To help the caseload, we have added a full-time person and two part-time and we will have another part-time in July, so it's an improvement anyway. —(Interjection)— Staff. Right now it's a mixture of psychiatrists and psychologists.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(d)(1)—pass; (d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: I would hate to have it pass without knowing exactly what's involved in this. Is this part of the new expenditure for the Centre; what items are included in this budget?

MR. DESJARDINS: In a capsule, this is community services for children, \$114,500.00. Forensic Services that we mentioned is \$77,200, and the Eden Mental Health Centre is \$24,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)(2)—pass. (d)—pass. 61(e) Institutional Mental Health Services (1) Salaries \$15,462,700.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Well I suppose there will be quite a few questions in this particular area in light of the fact that the Selkirk Mental Hospital has just recently lost its accreditation, but I would like to ask first of all how many actively practising psychiatrists do we have in the province at this time? —(Interjection)— First of all, in the service of the department, and could we also have, in the province? Could we have those two figures?

MR. DESJARDINS: . . . be the Commission, when we have the Commission. Right now we are only dealing with the department. I can give you — for instance in Brandon and Selkirk, I'll give you the staff, you'll probably be asking for that anyway. The total staff is 1,195; 663 in Brandon and 532 in Selkirk.

In Brandon: Medical 23; nursing 347; service — dieticians, laundry and so on 196; psychology 14; social services 22; education 10; term and holiday relief 27; others 24 . . . for a total of 663.

In Selkirk: Medical 18; nursing 264; service 187; psychology 9; social services 21; education 9; term and holiday relief 10; others 14. Four positions were transferred to Community Services, Community Mental Health Workers.

MR. BROWN: One of the reasons why Selkirk received its accreditation at one time was because they had a training program for psychiatrists. I wonder if this program is still in effect?

MR. DESJARDINS: I don't know if this might have been a reason why they did receive accreditation at first, but this has now been centralized for all hospitals at the Health Sciences Centre. I'm talking about the training program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. JORGENSON: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could advise the House as to whether or not his department provides psychiatric services to the Correction Institutions in this province.

MR. DESJARDINS: We just passed that under "Forensic," just the item before and I think I

answered all the questions about the increased staff and so on. Yes, we do, for my honourable friend, Mr. Chairman, yes we do provide this service to the Courts. In fact, this is where I mentioned that we increased with a full-time person and two part-time, and in July we will have another part-time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(e)(1). The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, under this item, I note that under the Brandon Mental Health Centre there is some explanation of the team concept that is operational at that unit. I believe there are five teams providing service in the community, in the Parklands Area and the Westman Area. I wonder if the Minister could explain something about that concept; is that unique to the Brandon Mental Health Centre or is the same concept being used at Selkirk? I think it might be of interest to know how this team concept is functioning and whether there are any difficulties arising out of that particular method of delivering mental health care in the community.

MR. DESJARDINS: The Brandon Mental Health Centre has five psychiatrists, has seven other physicians at varying levels of psychiatric experience. It operates three multi-disciplinary teams into the Westman and Parkland Regions. It operates a travelling Child Guidance Clinic into the Westman and Parklands Regions. In addition to teams going out to the regions, the psychiatrists on sessional fee provide consultation services to the Community Mental Health Workers on the Westman regional staff and to general medical practitioners in the community. Parklands is served by psychiatrists travelling from the Brandon Hospital on a regular basis. This service will be augmented in August, 1977 by the addition of yet another psychiatrist travelling to the region.

These people at one time were working only in the hospital, now we are — I hope not too fast — but we are looking in the communities and we don't want two sets or duplication; it is the same people that are based in the hospital but giving the service to the area. And the same thing in Selkirk also.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, there's a mention of a facility at Russell, I think it's called Holiday House. What is the type of care that is provided by this facility?

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm sorry, unless it is community health workers in that area, I don't know exactly what my honourable friend is referring to in Russell. I'll try to find out, unless you have more specific information that might help us here.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I don't have specific information; I believe there's a mention of that facility in the Annual Report of the Department of Health. I'm looking for that reference and if I can locate it here, I will give the Minister that information. I don't have any additional description to give you because I have not heard of the facility before and that was the reason for my question. I presume, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister will be as quick to find this reference as I am, but in any event, I presume that if the answer is forthcoming he will be able to provide it.

MR. DESJARDINS: I will be very interested in receiving the answer myself, and as soon as I get it, I'll pass it on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(e)(1). The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister has any program designed to attract doctors back to the mental health field? It seems to me that we are running rather short on psychiatrists so I think that the Minister should very definitely look at this if he doesn't have.

Another question that I have is, is he doing anything to improve facilities in order to attract doctors to the mental health field?

MR. DESJARDINS: There is nothing wrong with the facilities. I guess everything can always be improved; I don't think this is the answer. There is a shortage all over the country for this specialty. We are presently on an extended recruiting program; we are negotiating with five now and we expect to have them all by July.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(e)(1)—pass. The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Including everything, there are 60 psychiatrists in the province; those who have their own private practice are included in that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 61(e)(1)—pass; 61(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$2,730,800—pass. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could identify the Other Expenditures.

MR. DESJARDINS: That's both Brandon and Selkirk Mental Health Centres.

I would like to give you the populations at this time, I'm sure you are interested in this. In December, '75, Brandon was 595, in December of this last year, 568. Selkirk, 330 and in December of '76, 348.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(e)(2)—pass; (e)(3) External Agencies \$694,300.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Go ahead.

MR. DESJARDINS: The Canadian Mental Health Association, \$33,000.00. This is for the report and study that they are doing; and by the way, the study, we feel, is excellent. Mind you, it's critical of some of our operations; I think they will be happy with the changes also. And the other one is in my own friend's home town; constituency, in fact in his it is for the Eden Mental Health Centre, and that is \$661,000, if you want to tell your constituents how much we are spending.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 61(e)(3)—pass. The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, for the Minister, the reference is Page 107 of his report and it mentions other developments include the operation of three student employment programs over the summer concerned with evaluating the effectiveness of in-patient care, providing a holiday house in Russell for former patients. Perhaps that reference will enable the Minister to deal with it.

MR. DESJARDINS: This is Holiday House in Russell operated in conjunction with the Department of Education, to work with the school board, to work with the disturbed children in schools, and there is one mental health worker of our department attached to this program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(f) Institutional Mental Retardation Services (1) Salaries \$8,247,700.00. The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: I wonder if the Minister would favour us with a breakdown as to patients in this regard, as he did in the preceding item.

MR. DESJARDINS: Manitoba School for Retardates — I'll give you a more complete breakdown: Under 18, male 149, female 102; 18 - 65, male 382, female 263; over 65, male 17, female 32. There is a population of 945 retarded children and adults ranging from mild to profound levels of mental retardation.

Would you want the breakdown on the different state of . . .

MR. BILTON: Nine hundred and forty-five is the overall total, is that . . . ?

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes. Do you want a breakdown as per their degree of sickness? I can give you that if you want.

MR. BILTON: No, no, I think the total number of patients beside the cost factor, \$8 million to look after 945 people, in salaries?

MR. DESJARDINS: Twenty-seven dollars and sixty cents *per diem*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(f)(1). The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could tell me how many of the people are involved in this total salary?

MR. DESJARDINS: There's 715 staff in here. That's the staff. I was talking about the patients before.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(f)(1)—pass; 61(f)(2) Other Expenditures \$2,407,900.00. The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I just would like to, through you, ask the Minister if this is the place to discuss the residential homes for the mentally retarded people.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I wish to raise a matter that has occurred in my area and I'm sure it may have occurred elsewhere in the province, where the government offers support to residences where there are people who are mentally retarded who are being maintained either by government grant and a combination of private help. Apparently last year the Minister wrote a letter to the Home in Portage and the subject matter was concerning fiscal restraint. He suggested that there should be not only a holding the line in spending, but an actual cut. Now as I recall, and I'm not sure of the percentage, but I believe that or six percent. Now I have a feeling, Mr. Chairman, that the civil servant that made the directive and sent it out, I wonder if he applied the same cut to his own operation, to his own salary, and to his own staff, and to his own light bill and water bill, and other matters that he needed because the people in Portage found it very difficult to take six percent off the heat bill . . .

A MEMBER: Two percent.

MR. JOHNSTON: Two percent. Two percent, I stand corrected. To take two percent off heat, off light, and off very modest salaries, very modest salaries. The Minister received a copy of the letter that I received and I'm sure that his aides in front of him will refresh his memory but they raised a few questions for him and I wonder if he could give us some of the answers publicly.

For example, in reply to a letter from the Minister a letter was written back which stated, "It has been our policy to exercise restraint at all times. Our staff and board have always shopped for the best prices and have eliminated frills as long as they did not sacrifice the right of comfort for the residents."

And they make several points, Mr. Chairman.

(1) If operating grants were received from your department in advance then bank charges which are in excess of two percent could be eliminated. We presently wait for two to three months for new *per diems*.

(2) If the process for approving proposals for new residential facilities could be more systematic there would be more efficient use of valuable time and travel.

(3) Emphasis should be on purchase or rental of existing facilities rather than on new construction.

Fourth point, and I don't know the background of this, but I'm sure the Minister would.

(4) Funds needed to provide residential services for the mentally retarded people should follow the person, as in Alberta.

And again I would ask the Minister if he could develop on that point.

The letter continues, "It should be pointed out that we are a volunteer board and already save the government money by eliminating the need for paid persons to run residential facilities in our area. We are at present in great difficulty in regard to staffing. We are allowed 1.5 staff man years and are forced to maintain a twenty-four hour supervision for eight people. Our staff turnover is high because of the strain of time demanded of them. Obtaining the adequate quality of staff at presently allowed salaries is impossible. We feel doubling our staff is a priority and a necessity. "Training programs for staff (if we do get them) are almost non-existent and again volunteers on boards put in long hours assisting new staff at their present jobs. Board members are also taking responsibility for setting up programs for individuals in the residence. Program support is the responsibility of the community worker but they have little time to set up programs and can only help in a crisis situation.

"In view of all the problems presently facing us, we hope you will reconsider fiscal restraints to community residential services. Community based residential services as a cheaper and better alternative to institutional care is already threatened by existing funding. It would be a backward step if residential services were to be stopped from developing, or worse, that existing services close out from lack of support."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't know what the Minister's response was to this letter but these people who are volunteers are pretty concerned and they are pretty worried about the direction that the program that they are assisting is taking in the future.

This letter, and to refresh the Minister's memory I'll send it over to him because it is a letter that was sent to him. He perhaps doesn't have it in front of him. There is no need for tabling it because the Minister has it.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'll have to get the answer to this correspondence. I'm told that the residences were not cut at all.

Now hospitals all across the province, including those that we administer ourselves were asked in the global budget to cut down.

And a question was asked about the department. The department, through the restraint and revised estimate, released 5.7 million in this thing. We've cut down also and we have cut down in staff that we had and we can't even fill the staff man years that we have because of the restraint. There has been some cut all over but the residences, I'll have to get the answer to that letter. I don't remember exactly these things, because it's in writing it doesn't mean . . . It might have been a misunderstanding. I'll get the reply and I'll give it to my honourable friend and I'll table it in the House, also.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: I thank the Minister, Mr. Chairman, for his statement. I know he's got a very difficult department to handle, where the pressures of costs are always there.

Well I'm on my feet I would like to pay tribute to the staff of the Portage la Prairie Mental Retardate School where I believe we are fortunate to have a person at the head of it in the person of Dr. Lowther who has spear-headed this approach to getting people out of institutions and into residence, into a family situation. I know the Minister knows all about this but I think that public recognition should be made and I would like to say to the Minister that with people like Dr. Lowther and his staff that even with the onerous responsibilities of his department that he has got a very good team in Portage la Prairie.

MR. DESJARDINS: I am very pleased, Mr. Chairman, to hear these remarks that I certainly second. I think that Dr. Lowther is very well known in his field and maybe you never appreciate as much as you should in your own territory but I think that across Canada he is well known. I am familiar with the facilities. I have dropped in unannounced which is the way I like to do it. I don't want the royal treatment, I want to see the problems, on a Sunday, in Portage, and I was quite impressed by the service, the staff, and the facilities, and the improvement, but mostly the dedication of these people who go way over and above the call of duty to serve their patients.

At times when we feel like criticizing and complaining about our lot in life, I think that if I was a judge I would sentence people instead of putting them in jail to go and visit and maybe work with these people for a little while. I think that would be quite helpful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(f)(2). The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder under which of these items we can discuss the Occupational Training Program. —(Interjection)—

No, you have a training program where retardates, where they are trying to train them to get back into the community.

MR. DESJARDINS: The workshops, I think my honourable friend is talking about. We've passed this item. I guess if he has any questions, as far as I'm concerned, Mr. Chairman, I'm ready to entertain them at this time although we've passed the item.

MR. BROWN: Thank you. I didn't realize that we had passed that particular item. I was just wondering how many of these workshops do we have in the various areas like Winnipeg, Interlake, Eastman, Central, all the seven areas. And how many occupational training.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, I did give this information. That's the nature of a workshop, it's

occupational training. And there are twenty-three of them and there is a clientele of 288. This information was given also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(f)(2) Other Expenditures— pass; 61(f)(3) External Agencies \$6,213,500.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I would like to have these external agencies identified, if at all possible, and how much money is allocated to each of these.

MR. DESJARDINS: The Canadian Association of the Mentally Retarded \$100,000; St. Amant Centre \$4,926,500, Pelican Lake Training Centre in Ninette \$1,151,000; Steinbach Development Centre \$36,000. For a total of \$6,213,500.

MR. BROWN: I have a few questions here in regard to the St. Amant Centre. I understand that the school board has taken over the running of this establishment. Is that correct? The school division.

MR. DESJARDINS: My honourable friend is probably referring to the school board providing teachers for these people but they are certainly not running the hospital. This is the old sanatorium. The Grey Nuns are running this institution.

MR. BROWN: My question, then, is, do these teachers have to have any special qualifications and has this program been evaluated lately. I wonder if the Minister could tell us how much time is spent in learning life skills and how much is spent in recreational activities.

MR. DESJARDINS: This, of course, is like every hospital. They are responsible for running the hospital and where I had a red face when we talked about Selkirk, I'm very happy here that two months ago it was surveyed and it received a higher accreditation. It's a model school for the type of service that they give. I don't know if my honourable friend has visited the school but I certainly could make arrangements for him to see it and I think it would be an eye-opener.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 61(f)(3) External Agencies—pass; Resolution 61.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$43,661,400.00 for Health and Social Development—pass.

Resolution 62 Social Security Division (a) Office of Social Security: (1) Salaries \$283,800.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could tell me how many people are involved in this salary and just exactly what their specific duties are.

MR. DESJARDINS: This is the office of Social Security of the Assistant Deputy Minister in charge, Mr. Hikel who just came in, and the total staff is eighteen. And that again, if we could follow the same method as we did earlier, this is the administration. This is the staff for administration. There is the salary of the Assistant Deputy Minister, the Executive Director, and support staff for the Manitoba Supplement to the Elderly, Central Registry and one Administrative Officer whose position was abolished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 62(a)(1)—pass; 62(a)(2) Other Expenditures \$174,500.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Would the Minister identify these other expenditures.

MR. DESJARDINS: That is the expense to run the office, like we have in every one. The expense related to travel, office upkeep, and the major item provides funds for contract and professional services to provide program development and review services related to expected new federal legislation, because you know that there is going to be a change in the funding with the Federal Government also. It also includes funds to develop a monthly information reporting statistical system. Strictly administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 62(a)(2)—pass; 62(b) Income Security Head Office: (1) Salaries \$140,600.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: Can the Minister tell me how many people are involved in this salary.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, this is also administration. They administer the Social Allowances Act and provide administrative direction to Income Security. There is an . . . two staff. There are nine altogether; one from interdepartmental transfer from the Minister's office to handle correspondence re Social Assistance. There is all kinds of phone calls and correspondence of people that want information. This was done in my office. Now it's done directly in that office. And another position is for research co-ordinator.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask: Is this anything to do with this Income Security Program in Dauphin? —(Interjection) — That's a different . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 62(b)(1)—pass; (b)(2) Other Expenditures — \$14,200—pass; Resolution 62(c) Income Security Program. (1) Social Allowances — \$51,926,200.00. The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister could give us a breakdown of how much is spent in each of these items: Mothers' Allowance, Aged Allowance; Long Term Disability and so on?

MR. DESJARDINS: I think maybe this is actually the welfare that we hear so much about and I think that a short statement might go a long way in anticipating some of the questions. It's a few basic facts about the Social Assistance Program.

On December 31, 1976 there were 22,918 cases on social assistance. This is the lowest figure for any year end in this decade. Will you please tell your friend from Pembina on this; I know he will be very pleased — 22,918 — Yes. At the end of 1970, the figure was 27,063 and at the end of 1971 it was 28,623. Since then it has dropped steadily and it is now about 1,000 cases lower than when I last reported to this House. In other words, during this decade, the number of cases on welfare has in fact been slowly but steadily declining not increasing and the figure is now lower than any previous point in the 1970s. I might add that municipal welfare cases are also down substantially as compared to six or seven years ago. The case count is made up as follows.

The single parents — 6,672; the aged, and that's mostly the health cards that they get — 5,815; physically and/or mentally disabled — 9,273 and the others, that is short terms and students and so on, — 1,158.

At the same time, we have made substantial improvements in the program. For example, the basic rate is now increased annually in line with the consumer price index. Social assistance rates were increased before that in 1960 and then no increase until 1964, then 1966, then 1967 and 1969 then May 1973, November 1973, October 1974, October 1975 and October 1976.

As you know, Manitoba has one of the most active and powerful social services appeal boards in Canada and I am pleased to be able to report that the number of appeals filed has been declining which indicates the number of persons who feel unjustly treated has also been going down. In 1975, 383 appeals were filed and 95 upheld. In 1976, 360 were filed and 72 allowed. In 1971, there had been 731 filed and 201 allowed. One other point, without increasing the size of the appeal staff which is, incidentally, 214, we are stepping up the number of home visits at the time of enrolment in order to more fully explain the program and to ensure compliance with the program regulations. Incidentally, the size of the appeal staff has not grown although the level of service delivered has increased significantly, including day care and the work incentive program. Indeed there is about one percent reduction in field staff for 1977-78 and the headquarter staff is also down over the previous years. While precise figures are hard to come by, we estimate that 93 percent of the income security appropriation goes to the clients and only 7 percent goes towards the administration costs. So I am pleased to be able to say that there has been no increase in staff, the administration costs are very well in hand and the size of the rolls have been declining. Our assistance rates are adequate and in line with those across the country and the number of appeals is dropping.

MR. BILTON: Mr. Chairman, we're all very pleased to hear that the number is dropping and certainly it's a thousand lower than the last time the Minister reported.

I wonder, in view of that under this item, why with this good news, that this item should be up \$4 million over last year? What's the reasoning behind that?

MR. DESJARDINS: It's indexed every year. The cost of living is higher for these people also so that is where the increase is. It's not that there's more people. It's approximately ten percent increase for these people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Woleseley.

MR. WILSON: I welcome the good news that we seem to have less members on welfare but I attended the Social Planning Council luncheon the other day where the fellow said that by having so many different agencies to go to, there was very little need for the Appeal Board any more because it seemed that people could work the system. If the Minister's telling me that approximately just under one-third were successful in their appeals, it means that the government indeed has taken a soft stand. I wonder if the Minister could comment? I notice that Mr. Vandersalm in B.C. had said that "the policy is just another step in our long-range emphasis on employment first and social assistance second."

Last but not least, I wondered under this particular program here, if we phase out the basic annual income program, namely Mincome will all these people then not in fact be added to the welfare rolls and we'll be back at where we were and the good news that the Minister is expressing today will no longer be a fact?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: While the aides of the Minister are supplying that information, I would give another question to the Minister. Of the 22,918 and he categorizes them into four categories, I wonder if the Minister could tell us of the total number of these people who are on social assistance, how many are physically able to work — go out and work? He may have some difficulty with that question because there are single parent families, some of whom may be able to get out and work and some who cannot but some people make a big thing out of the lazy bums on welfare situation. I wonder if he could supply a hard figure or an estimate of how many people are receiving assistance who are physically able to go to work.

MR. DESJARDINS: Those who are the responsibility of the government, there's approximately

700 of these people that could work, that's mostly in unorganized territory where there's no municipality.

The Mincome program, there's approximately 1,200 people on this program and very few of them would qualify for this program and the drop is still the correct answer because this program has been going on for more than one year, it was there last year.

The employment first, the social assistance second, I don't think anybody can argue with that. I think we've talked about that last year. We have tried in the department to provide that. I think I've got some information; I think I'll probably make a statement on that later on. What we're trying to do and I think the First Minister discussed this last year, we've been discussing with the Federal Government, we've been suggesting that the money that they are paying now to welfare people or people that would be on welfare probably for the rest of their lives, if they could let us use that amount of money, we would put in additional funds and try to create jobs. It is very difficult if the Federal Government doesn't agree to go on this because on the welfare we get recovery, we get cost-shared fifty percent so let's say that for every two dollars we get one back and if we go ahead and have a make work program that costs \$3.00 we have to pay the full \$3.00. This is something that we're trying to do in the workshop and in this kind of work I think we need assistance from the Federal Government to try to provide incentive for these people but there are not that many. There's the supplement for the elderly, there's the health services for the elderly that is mostly cards. Then on the social allowance — oh yes, what I mentioned already, there's the single parent, there's the aged and the physically and mentally disabled. As I say, the only ones who would be the unemployed employables under this would be 700.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, I know the Minister partly covered the answer he gave of the 700 who were able to work and he said they're mostly in remote areas. Could he break it down a little bit more and give us the information as to how many are long term welfare, if that is the term and by that I mean six months to a year or more continuously and how many are on short term and perhaps he could tell us what a short term is. Also, what efforts are made — and again he touched on this but he didn't develop it — what efforts are made at the present to have these people moved to where work is available and what training programs has he for those who need the training before they can take the job that may be available?

MR. DESJARDINS: I don't want to mislead my honourable friends. When I say that there are 700 that are unemployed employables, this is the area that we administer ourselves. I'm not saying that this is the total in the province. Most of the unemployed employable are short term assistance and of course, the program administered by and the responsibility of the municipality, they are dealing with short term and unemployed employables. Now, the City of Winnipeg has a total of 3,624 cases; out of that there's 2,405 who are single parents, single units who might be taking care of their children and so on and the family units, where there's two of them, there's 1,219. All other municipalities, the same breakdown again, they have a total of 4,364 cases; family unit 1,584 and the single unit 2,780. Now they're certainly not all unemployed employables. Many of these people can't work and many of them are staying home and they aren't required to work — they're taking care of their family.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: Well, the Minister has brought a new dimension into it when he talks about the situation in Greater Winnipeg. Many of the complaints I receive are the obvious where the so-called hard-working taxpayer sees what he thinks is an abuse of the system. I'm talking about the pubs being supposedly full of welfare recipients in certain areas of the City and the system itself, because the welfare or social assistance cheque is made out to the recipient and he does as he or she will with that money, is this a satisfactory way of doing it after having some years of experience at this.

Now I refer, of course, to the way it's done across the line in some minor variation of that where food stamps are given along with cash but not all cash and the system — and I've talked to many people in the United States about this and there doesn't appear to be any stigma — the food stamps are given to those who need it along with a cash supplement. I suppose two goals are achieved, one is that a country that has bountiful surpluses of certain types of food can through the capitalistic system of the chain stores and other stores, there's no bureaucratic overhead. The person takes his food stamp into the store and makes certain purchases. As well as that he has a cash supplement. Has that system ever been considered by his department? Is he satisfied that the cheque payment to a recipient is the only answer and is it working as well as it should be in that regard?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, first of all, before this government took over, it was agreed that the municipality would administer these programs. These programs are the responsibility of the municipality. Now having said that, I think that yes, of course, our people are looking at that all the time but there is no perfect method. Also, it's not only the people who are receiving who are abusing; it's the people who are preying on these poor people in society. I know of some stores who have cashed this at a discount, I know of them that with cash only they would buy some rubby-dub or some kind of, I think my honourable friend knows, not necessarily the example that I have but some of the same concerns that I have.

Now there's another thing — the term welfare is used quite loosely. A lot of the people, the bums that are supposed to be in the pubs are also many of the people that are on unemployment insurance

also. So as I say, the administration is the municipality, we've looked at that, we've looked at the situation, there is some abuse but most of the abuse goes the other way. Some of the municipalities are proud of their record — they have nobody on welfare — but they make it so difficult that the person would have to go practically on their knees in front of the alderman or the council and then some of the rates are pretty low. I think that if anything, the way we should move and this is being considered at this time, it's probably setting up a minimum rate for all municipalities.

Another bad point is that where do these people go? They come into the core of Winnipeg because Winnipeg has the highest rate. I think this is unfair to Winnipeg and it's unfair for these people because you know what happens, the core of Winnipeg is not the best place in the world to live in. There are many of these people, don't forget in that area, those that I mentioned, who are women with their children who have been abandoned by their husband or whose husband might be sick or drunkards and so on. So we'll always be careful but there's no way that we'll ever correct the abuse. They're not the only group in society that has abuse. There's people that should know better, that have many more views when it's time to cheat the government in paying their taxes and so on, I think that this is one of the factors, you know, it's easy to point out some of the abuse. There's no doubt that there is some abuse and I would appreciate if all the members of this House who it was said at one time are sort of ombudsmen, would point out to me, give me confidentially and I can assure you that I will never reveal the name, but I will check the supposed abuse. I know that not too many but about four or five members of this House, members of the opposition mostly — asked me to check and I never found one that was exactly as reported. There's always another side to it.

As I say, I'm not standing up here and saying we've got it licked, there's no problems. There are problems but I think that the case is going down. I think that it is mostly exaggerated. I think that those general statements that are made at times, you know, get these people off welfare and they are praying on society, I think that's exaggerated. Sure at one time it was felt that if they were going shopping and if you saw somebody buying a chocolate puff or something, people on welfare, you were paying for that and that was a sin. So what the hell, or if they go to a movie once in awhile or get an ice-cream cone, they're still people.

Now I think that where we could press, if we can go ahead and go after the people that are abandoning their family, if we had better co-operation from maybe the other provinces or the — oh, I've got to be careful, the Honourable Member for Swan River is being on his best behaviour, I want to tell him that I don't want to insult him on that — but we have had difficulty at times to find these people with the RCMP. For some reason or other they haven't given us the information. But if any of those people all of a sudden are left some money, we find them in a hell of a hurry, or to come for a wedding or a funeral. But when we try to find them so they can take care of their family, maybe it is against the policy, I don't know, I'm not criticizing, but I'm saying that it has been very difficult.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. G. JOHNSTON: One more question to the Minister. When he talks about the staff of the department dealing with possible abuses of the system, is the staff that deals directly with the families or the individuals, is the staff a 9 to 5 operation or are there a certain number of the staff that work at night when the problems arise?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: There is, of course, a skeleton staff, there is a 24-hour service where people can phone and get the information if there's an emergency. If it's not emergency they are referred to the proper department for the next morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN (MR. BARROW): The Honourable Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was pretty distracting, the cheer of the people that have just received their Winsday Lottery money or something.

However, almost \$52 million, I don't want to be getting into small minute details, but if I could just sort of recap the system as I think it is, does this mean that if the Minister says that there's 6,672 single parent families, and 2,405 in the City of Winnipeg for a total of 9,077 . . . One of the concepts of day care has been to put these single parent people back into the work force. So I welcome the decreasing figure in this area, if it is a decreasing figure because the Minister didn't give us the previous two years and I wondered if he could do that.

Now, in this area one of the things that concerned me was the regulations pertaining to moving. It seems that the welfare recipients or people on social assistance seem to be a moving lot and I wondered if the Minister would have anywhere the total moving costs for the year of recipients.

The second thing is, would the Minister have the total cost of special welfare appliances? By that I mean apparently they're entitled to one lot of furniture a year, so if they were on welfare for five years they theoretically could have five housefuls of furniture in five years. Is there any requirement by his workers, or a policy that requires these people to take their furniture with them when they move?

The other is, does there seem to be any check or balances like they put down in the States where people every once in awhile — and I think it is important that certain people don't have to stand in line for their cheques and I welcome the fact that they have started mailing them out — but is there any

system of checking? I documented a couple of cases and especially last year where one landlord had been receiving for five months the welfare cheques of a woman who had moved back to Ontario, and he said to me that he tried — and again I have no way of proving this — but he tried to send the cheques back to the government and they kept sending him the current month's cheque. — (Interjection)— Well, I'm saying, what have you done about it?

The other is, is there any thrust back to the country? I have so many people who seem to brag about the fact that they got rid of all the people on social assistance out of their community. I think part of the problem and part of the demoralizing factor is, they are sent into the urban areas, they are sent in the core area of the city, and they're sort ghettoized in certain districts, and I think there should be a thrust and some pride in some of these communities rather than bragging that they have no one on social assistance; that thrust that puts them and have them stay in their own community. Because if they could not obtain a job in their small rural setting and there's no employment here in Winnipeg, why bring them in here in the first place?

Then the other was that yesterday the Member for Crescentwood said he was speaking on a bill and so put a gentleman on to me. The gentleman was 64 years of age and had been sent out here by the Manpower in Toronto, that there were lots of job opportunities in Manitoba, because they had got somewhere that the employment was low out here; and he came in here and his wife was sick and they couldn't get help and couldn't get medicine or anything, and finally I was able to send them to the Red Cross at 4:30 at night because there didn't seem to be any after hours staff to be able to handle this in the Minister's department, and I wondered — like the Meer for Portage la Prairie has stated - is there any after hours service? Are we not reaching the cycle when we have to start looking beyond punching the clock from 8 to 4 and a 20-day sick pay and three weeks holidays, is there anyone that would mind working beyond the hours? Has he got anything in that area?

I know I'm covering quite a bit and maybe I should give the Minister a chance to soak that up, but I'm concerned about the requirement that they can get once a year a houseful of furniture; once every six months they can move and I would like to know the government policy on that. And is there any record anywhere of who the government does business with when they buy these appliances? Would we ever be able to obtain that information? I'm not on a witch-hunt, but I have heard rumours to the extent that certain used appliance stores are being given favoritism by the Minister's department.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Chairman, I intend to allow the Minister to soak that up overnight by moving that the Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and asked leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

MR. BARROW: I beg to move, seconded by the Member for Wolseley that the report of the Committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Acting House Leader.

MR. PAULLEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable the Minister of Health that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.