

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, May 1, 1978

Time: 8:00 p.m.

## SUPPLY—HIGHWAYS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We have a quorum. Members of the Committee, as we broke off at the supper hour, the Member for Lac du Bonnet was asking some questions of the Minister; perhaps the Minister is now in a position to reply, and then back to the Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could circumvent some further discussion on this, in the sense that the Registrar has informed me that while we would like to comply with his request prior to the adjournment hour in terms of giving the member the information that he requested, he needs some additional time to do that. I think I understand and appreciate the gist of the member's question, and would ask him to accept my undertaking that that information will in fact be supplied, but he asked for some background — not unreasonable background, two or three years — for comparative purposes, and Mr. Dygala informs me that he is unable to break it down in the manner and way which the Member for Lac du Bonnet asked. But I'd like to give the assurance to the honourable member and to the Committee, that I think the question was a very valid one, and one that we should examine and perhaps can reintroduce at some stage of our deliberations in this department, whether it's in this Committee or on a future occasion that will be presented to us. I say that not to preclude any opportunity for the member to express his concerns in this area, except that we have not been able, in the short supper hour adjournment, to provide him with the information that he requested.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the two hour notice was inadequate; I'm certain that it will probably take a number of weeks, or maybe more, to put that together. But in any event, I think that what we should be doing as a government, Mr. Chairman, partisan politics aside, is we should be looking at ways and means that would reduce the slaughter of young people out on those highways, and I really believe that there would be a lot of support for measures that would be taken through the school system that would make it mandatory for driver education and in fact to whatever extent that includes defensive driving as well, that we should move in that direction as quickly as possible. Wherever you go in Manitoba, and I'm sure in Canada, I'm sure in the whole part of the world that happens to depend so much on automobiles for transportation, I think we all experience the same thing, and that is, the very heavy incidence of young people dying behind the steering wheel of a car, or circumstances arising out of a motor vehicle accident. And I think it's just too high a price to pay, quite frankly, to continue to bury 19-year olds, and 20-year olds, and 25-year olds. It's too high a price to pay, Mr. Chairman, for the privilege of driving. And I'm sure that we can tailor our driving system to minimize much more than we have to date the number of traffic deaths that do occur on an annual basis.

So, I suggest, Mr. Chairman — (Interjection) — There's relevance to that point, I don't deny it. I suggest that without wanting to take any particular partisan position, that this is something that all parties I am sure are interested in. Perhaps some are somewhat nervous about moving too fast, and from my point of view I say to this government, if they move faster than we have been moving in this direction that I will support it. And I would suggest that either we do some studies if we don't have the data or we pull out the data that will show the direction that we should be moving. So, safety first, is what I'm really saying, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, only one comment to perhaps indicate, it may be an extreme position, but to give some indication of what jurisdictions and other countries are doing in this respect. I am advised by my departmental people that for instance in Japan, before you get the privilege of driving a motor vehicle, it costs in the neighbourhood of \$700 to go through an extensive driving training defensive course plus virtually a mechanical course. Now that is an extreme position which I don't advocate, but in between that position and the responsibility I think that we as a government should have, to meeting that objective that the Member for Lac du Bonnet expressed somewhat eloquently and correctly . . . The sad thing that strikes just anybody, reading the daily weekend news reports, it is so often the young and inexperienced driver that's involved in the multiple deaths on our highways. That's the story that I can just about predict will be in the newspapers the next weekend, and I think that's what the member is alluding to and I suggest I accept the advice of the honourable member and I look for his support if this government screws up enough courage to do something about it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin.

**MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to follow the theme of the Member for Lac du Bonnet and not partisan politics as we deal with the item that's before us and that's the Motor Vehicle Branch. I think there's enough members sitting around this table that understand the years that under the Highway Traffic Act and the Wildlife Act, you're guilty and you have to prove yourself



innocent, and I'm not a lawyer, I'm not a legal mind, but I say that's the only two jurisdictions under the province that follow that principle of law. Under the rest of the jurisdictions and the laws of this province it is common law principle applies, and you're innocent, and you have to prove yourself guilty. I think I've sat around this table long enough and so has the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet and the Minister and many others. They're satisfied that that principle actually hasn't worked at all, in fact it's been a disaster, because we're continually plugging up Acts, plugging up regulations, to try and make that system work, and it hasn't worked, in my time. The problems, they grow and they grow and they grow, and I don't know why those two laws, or why those two Acts before our time around this Legislative Building and this province, why they were put under this law whereby you're guilty and you have to prove yourself innocent. Under all the other laws you're innocent, and I wonder, because everyday . . . I don't think there is a member who is sitting around this table who doesn't have all kinds of people in his constituency who is getting nailed under The Liquor Act or The Highway Traffic Acts.

Well, the problem is, who is selling the booze? The state, the Province of Manitoba, is selling the liquor at some vendor outlet and so people have one or two too many for whatever the reason. The policing in our province today is such that the policeman can go into any hotel in my village or any jurisdiction, they know every guy who is in there. They can see the cars that are parked out in front; they know his license number. They see the guy seven days a week. And if it's the guy who likes a beer, so they can sit back and they wait and he goes home tonight and they nail him. And the next night they pick another guy. And that goes on and on and on.

And once that process starts, then who is the next guy to get involved? It's us, the MLAs, or the Minister, because these people have to make a livelihood, Mr. Minister, and the tragedy is, to make a livelihood in this province, you have to be able to drive a vehicle. There are no more ox carts or "Bennett buggies," as some people the other night said they were afraid they are coming back. I don't think they will. I think that as legislators and people who are here to look after the problems of people and to try to solve this problem, the sooner we deal with it, the better, rather than keep sluffing it off and sluffing it off.

I would just like to ask the Minister tonight how many unpaid fines under The Liquor Control Act have they got in their register. There must be millions of dollars. I know of some Indian people in my constituency who have \$2,400 and \$2,500 unpaid fines and they never will pay them. They don't have the money and they drive without a driver's licence and we're not going to solve that problem under the present —(Interjection)— Well, we're suspending guys, I have three or four farmers today who, right now in seeding, need their privilege of driving. They are under suspension and it is not from our laws; this is from the former government's laws. Now, they have to go and beg, either the Minister or me or the members opposite, or somebody, because you can't put a crop in today in this country without a driver's licence; it is absolutely impossible. We know that and so does the government know that, and so does the Minister know that.

**A MEMBER:** What's the solution? .

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, I don't know the solution but it is darn well time that we measured up to it and rather than . . . Does it require changes in The Liquor Act; does it require changes in The Insurance Act; or does it require legislation that is before this Committee. We have a job to do here, rather than keep sluffing it off year after year after year. —(Interjection)— Well, I don't know who has the answer but I saw that the problem isn't going to go away. I have sat here for twelve years now, going into my twelfth year, and this habitual problem keeps coming up every time in Committee and I think it is our job as legislators and citizens of this province to deal with it — let's set up a committee, let's do something, but not just come year after year to this Committee. So you get ahold of him, he gets a suspension, the Board meets and so they nail a guy for 45 and he is suspended. That is not going to solve the problem.

I don't know the answer and I'm sure many members opposite don't, but why can't we, Mr. Minister, or members of the Committee, have an in-House Committee of all and see if there isn't some way. My gosh, we have got the most, I think, legitimate political brains in the province sitting around this Legislature and in my 12 years we have been continuously sluffing that problem off year after year after year and we are not prepared to deal with it. I think that we are not being fair and I think we should set up a committee and go and try to study it and maybe we're the first jurisdiction, but really deal with it at a serious level and hopefully come up —(Interjection)— Again, I can't protect The Wildlife Act; let's just deal with The Highway Traffic Act.

Why, under The Highway Traffic Act are you guilty and you have got to prove yourself innocent? Now, that is a strange world. Under law, you are innocent until they prove you guilty. Now, maybe the Minister can answer, but if he can't come up with an answer, I suggest let's take a hard look at it, Mr. Minister, and see if we can't find ways and means. I suspect tonight I have four or five farmers who are either under suspension or are going to be suspended. They need driving permits; they have got to put their crop in. And there they are; they are at the mercy of the Minister and the department and the Board.

So those are my remarks, Mr. Minister. Maybe everyone will sluff it off like we have done for 12 years and just say, "Forget it." I hope in your term of office, Sir, you will at least will attack the problem and see if we can't come up with some answers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** To the Honourable Member for Roblin, whose remarks always bear serious consideration, and they will be taken in the spirit that they were given.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We are on Highways, not wildlife, just in case you . . .

**MR. URUSKI:** I don't intend to fly off the handle, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I had several specific questions that arose from earlier discussions with myself and the Member for Selkirk dealing with the merit points and some with the statistics dealing with accidents.

What is the total bank or the amount of banking that a motorist might have, can undertake under the merit system that is being proposed?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Honourable Member for St. George, the total number, banking of merit points that will be available under the new system that will be introduced in September is five points.

**MR. URUSKI:** That will be a point for every two years of driving, accident and conviction-free driving.

**MR. ENNS:** A point for every two years.

**MR. URUSKI:** Okay. Mr. Chairman, the Minister undertook to bring some statistics to the House. I am wondering whether the department or the Minister would have — we have had several provinces implement seat belt legislation in Canada and our sister province of Ontario has had the seat-belt legislation the longest — I am wondering whether or not there are some statistics dealing with the Ontario legislation which may give us some indication as to whether there is some success, what the actual figures might be in terms of, for example, has there been a reduction in fatalities in the Province of Ontario coincidental with the reduction of speed limits and the implementation of seat belts? If there has been, is there any analysis that has been done in terms of what the savings or the cost of savings in terms of medical costs and treatment costs as a result of whether there have been, for example, surveys conducted — I believe there have been — in Manitoba about whether the motorists favoured seat-belt legislation? Has there been a survey in this province or not, conducted, and what has such a survey brought out, and any statistics that may be available for Ontario as to the age groups? I understand that, in your discussions that I missed, that the age group is primarily the under 35 age group which is the prime category of fatalities on our highways.

Can the Minister provide us with any of those survey statistics and any other information that may be available on Ontario, on the Ontario experience, or any other province that you might have, dealing with the record on seat-belt legislation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, yes, the Member for Roblin, though I don't want to respond to most of his comments, he did touch on one aspect having to do with the question of guilt or innocence, and I just would like to suggest to the committee that the question of guilt or innocence of a particular accident, is perhaps broader than just the people involved in the accident. It seems to me that if you develop a society in which there is so much reliance on motor vehicle transportation that there is really a responsibility on the part of that society to make sure, to make sure that the proper educational steps are undertaken in advance so that people are more equipped to live in that kind of a system. So that part of the guilt is really not attributable to the people involved in a given accident, but it's part of our collective guilt in not preparing people for those responsibilities.

So I sort of want to reject the simplistic approach of whether a particular person involved in an accident is guilty or innocent of some violation of law, whether it's under the Liquor Act or under the Highway Traffic Act, but rather whether or not we are not somewhat guilty for not having prepared our people for this mobile age of ours that we've been living in now for a number of decades.

**MR. ENNS:** The phrase that you're searching for is, not being our brother's keeper.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, I'm not suggesting that, Mr. Chairman, I'm suggesting that we train people for their adult responsibilities in every field. I'm suggesting that perhaps we've failed to quite a degree in this particular area, and that really we shouldn't fail any longer. We should move somehow, to try to get people to be more responsible and more able to handle whether it's 350 horsepower engines, or 400, or whatever they are, to be able to be responsible drivers out on the highways and the streets. It's



either a weapon or it's a convenience. I'm not sure which in some instances. But it can be a weapon, Mr. Chairman. A vehicle can be a weapon on the road. And it depends on the knowledge of the person that's behind the wheel.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Selkirk is next.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to present a problem which has come to my attention by a constituent just recently, and ascertain if I could the policy or the attitude of the Minister and the Motor Vehicles Branch to this type of situation. A constituent in his seventies who speaks very little English and understands very little English, and who had driven for some 30 years conviction-free, accident-free, received a letter to show himself for test. He attended for the written test, and was shown a page with about 25, 30 signs on it. He was unable to explain to the questioner the purpose of each sign, so that he failed the sign test. Frankly, I don't know how this man is going to pass the sign test. What I want to know from the Minister is, here is a case — let me assure the Minister that he received his physical approval from the doctor, there's no problem with the medical certificate, he received one — what is the alternative there for this man.

Do we have in the staff of the branch people who can speak other languages sufficiently that they could take an elderly man of this age and ascertain whether he understands the signs. To me, quite frankly, I thought it was the height of folly, because this was a man that has driven for 30 years, hasn't been in any accident, and because of his age, I guess, was called in and yet he's in all this difficulty with the interviewer on the sign question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin next.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I think we're so archaic in our thinking. In our time of sitting around this Legislature, we've seen a man arrive on the moon and we haven't changed the Act. We're living in a continental world today and we're still plugging away with the same old philosophy, the old dogma, tradition, in both Acts. I've tried, on the question that the former Attorney-General is raising, I tried it on for size on the former Highways Minister, because I happen to have a heavy Ukrainian element. Why can't these old people have their examination in Ukrainian. But they don't have that. They have it in French over there, but they don't have Ukrainian. How difficult is it for the Motor Vehicle Branch to bring in a Ukrainian, and put in the same questionnaire. You could send the former Minister of Autopac. It's the same old thing, that we sit here like . . . The former Minister of Agriculture says he'll support me partly on one but then he wants to get into who's responsible for an accident and education.

All you have to do is go in there and listen to the debates in Education which was on all day today. Who, in their wildest imagination today can go and attack that problem, what some member raised today, of telling young people they're eating too many pops and so the girls are all fat now and the boys are slim. It's not our job, it's dragged in here like a lot of other problems. We can't solve that. But I'm satisfied that surely this jurisdiction in this province, because of the heavy ethnic population we have, why can't Mr. Dygala send out two Germans, put it in German, Ukrainian or Romanian, that's not tough. We've got all those kinds of people, and let them have an examination. Because I've had people in my constituency, sure, they go, it's in English, they can't even read it, and so they can't pass an exam, and they're deprived of their driving privileges. The bureaucrats aren't going to change. We're the politicians, we're the ones who are going to have to force them to change, and recognize, as I said earlier, that we're living in a continental world today. There are people flying to the moon, and there are people coming in from jurisdictions . . . I just wonder what the Motor Vehicle Branch is doing for citizens that come in tomorrow and drive a U-Drive car from Yugoslavia or Russia, do they have special privileges, or how do they drive? —(Interjection)— No, I think again, that committee, and I suggested earlier we could do a lot of things to make it better for the department, for the Minister and go and study some of these problems that have been coming up 12 years that I've been here. I say again, we haven't even tried to attack them or even solve them, and we're sitting here and I'm sure when the committee's over we'll pass these Estimates and nothing's going to change. It never has in 12 years. —(Interjection)—

Well, maybe this government will change it. I hope this Minister will. But he hasn't given me the way to reply to my 30 minute oration. I got a ten second answer. So things are going to be much the same as before. —(Interjection)— No, I know how these Ministers operate, Mr. Chairman. They sit there . . .

**A MEMBER:** No hope, no faith.

**MR. McKENZIE:** . . . because I watched the former government very skilfully, and I see the former Deputy Minister of Agriculture got his picture in the paper yesterday, you know who ran that department. That was a beautiful picture. Now we know who was running the department. So it hasn't changed. So I'll just leave those ' and again. . . —(Interjection)— If we can't do anything in this Committee. . . May I ask you another question before we close, Mr. Chairman. When was the Highway Traffic Act completely reviewed? We've done the Municipal Act, we've been doing the Department of Education Act — it's supposed to be out next year — when was the Highway Traffic Act last reviewed?

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**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister is starting to record the questions with the idea in mind I think of trying to finish Highways tonight sometime. The Member for St. James.

**MR. GEORGE MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I was happy to hear that the Minister and his department have indicated that they are going to look at providing merit marks, not demerit marks, for good driving. And I raise the particular subject because, to give an example of one of my constituents and I am sure several, have run into difficulties where they have driven for many years accident free, traffic violation free, and then have sort of run into bad luck you might say in a period of a short time and all of a sudden have got a bunch of demerit marks. One individual in particular who is a truck driver by profession, and raised three particular areas that I think the department should give consideration to, when they are looking at applying demerit marks. And I have spoken to the Minister on some of these items but I think it might be useful for his administration to possibly hear them firsthand of what has happened in this particular instance.

I particularly comment on the fact that in many major centres, particularly in the City of Winnipeg, people aren't necessarily aware of it. I think that motorists that drive in the busy hours of the weekdays are aware of it, but while the speed limit might say 60 kilometres or in the old days 35 miles per hour, that in the actual heavy traffic period of time, the flow of the traffic dictated the speed, and at times reached 39, 40 miles an hour and the police department has accepted that. They accepted the principle which I think was common sense law enforcement, that if the majority of the traffic wanted to go 39 miles an hour with no accidents occurring, that was the safe speed to go. And I think if anybody has travelled down Portage Avenue between 7:30 in the morning and 8:30 in the morning or 4:00 in the afternoon or 5:30 at night, that they'll find the average traffic speed exceeds the speed limit.

I think if anybody has taken the defensive driving course, one recognizes to use the rear view mirror and when you see somebody tailgating you, and there's nobody up at front, you speed up a bit, and I think this is what sort of emanates exceeding the speed limit. What has happened in some cases and I think in more cases than the incidents that I am referring to is that's fine on Monday to Friday, and possibly on Saturday. But on Saturdays and Sunday8s, through habit if you start to drive that speed down the main thoroughfares, that some of the police departments have a tendency to set up their radar traps and start these same drivers that have been driving at that speed all week, and I think in particular this has happened more often on weekends than it has during the weekdays because the police department recognize they have to move traffic —(Interjection—) that's the opinion of the Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

That is one area of problem, that good drivers are getting caught in, and again they are legally breaking the law, but the fact of the matter is they get lulled into the attitude most drivers drive by the seat of their pants. And I think most drivers understand that, that they don't necessarily look at their speedometer and an old RCMP recognizes that, that they drive by the seat of their pants. They get lulled into driving at this speed during the weekdays and all of a sudden they're driving down Portage on a weekend, and they get nailed with a speeding ticket, exceeding the speed limit by five miles an hour, or whatever. That's one area I hope the department would recognize would be the time of the day and the actual day of the week and the speed that the individual is registered at when he receives a speeding ticket.

The other area that is not the Minister's responsibility or the department's responsibility is the fact that in some areas in Winnipeg that I am aware of, but I am sure must exist in other larger communities, is that there is not realistic posting of speed limits. The example I can give is when you're travelling down Portage Avenue and you turn off on an industrial or commercial street like St. James Street, which all of a sudden goes from 35 down to 30, or when you come off Notre Dame where you have a speed limit of 35 and you turn off onto St. James Street, that people who are particularly travelling as truck drivers and motorists turn off of a 35 mile an hour zone, or 40 mile an hour zone, all of a sudden they're into a 30 mile zone that's not properly posted. The Highway Traffic Act accepts that all that has to be required is the posting at the entrance to the city boundaries that anywhere that it's not posted, you have to travel at 30 miles an hour or I guess now at 60 kilometres. So this is another problem that the average motorist who is a good driver is facing these days, is that he can turn off a regulated higher speed zone area into a lower speed zone and if it's not properly posted, can be nailed for speeding.

The other thing that the Minister has already indicated, which I am happy to hear, is that there will be allotment of merit marks as well as demerit marks and I think that's a common sense approach to the problem that we're faced with. At least people will be getting credited for the years of good driving. There is one area that the individual got involved in that called me was that the department, in his instance, accepted the reports of the municipal police department or the city police department in an accident, and was allotted demerit marks and he took his time off work and went and got the actual reports and followed it up to rectify the situation so that he did not get the demerit marks. So I hope that the department is not necessarily just accepting a police statement or saying that the individual was involved in an accident, he gets two demerit marks put on his licence, because in this instance the individual was correct in what he did and had the demerit marks erased. I recognize the department is human and will make mistakes but I hope they are cautious when they get reports of accidents and they just don't automatically say well that's two points on the licence.

Mr. Chairman, I have probably taken up more time in the Committee than I should have, but I wanted to draw these items to the attention of the administration while they're here so they are aware of what can happen to the average motorist, and even though he is a very good driver can all of a



sudden to be faced with 6, 8, 10 demerit marks against them, because of nothing that he hasn't been doing for 25 years, but because of certain circumstances that he gets caught in.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could take the opportunity now to respond to several questions that have been asked.

In response to the Honourable Member for St. George, who asked for some supporting data or statistics relative to the experience of other provinces, I would have to say initially that, for instance, seat-belt legislation is so new to most jurisdictions that substantive data is simply not available. I can tell the honourable member this, that despite the fact that Ontario, which has the experience of perhaps the longest period of time with compulsive seat-belt legislation in effect, that per mile travelled, their fatality rate is higher than ours. I know that's not necessarily what the honourable member wants, but you know, all that points out is that we don't have . . . Different jurisdictions are just moving now into some of these areas, and if I understood the honourable member's questions correctly, he was looking for some comparable data comparisons between the various jurisdictions that have put in effect different pieces of legislation. Well, I will allow the honourable member to pursue that question, if he will allow me to respond to a few of the other members' questions as we go on.

I acknowledge and respect the questions raised again by the Member for Lac du Bonnet, which re-emphasizes his concern, and a concern that I share and concur with re the importance of education.

The Honourable Member for Selkirk raised a particular problem about the difficulty that particularly some of our senior drivers face, that aren't conversant with the language commonly spoken in the land, be it English or French. In this case, he questioned whether or not the department had the facility or capacity of responding to that kind of situation.

I am advised by the Registrar of the Motor Vehicle Branch that we are trying to meet that need, and that any person who professes a difficulty in the proficiency of the English language can undergo a relatively simple oral kind of test with a person that will speak the language of the applicant, simply to determine whether or not the applicant understands the universally adopted signs that are now being used for instance, which is the basic part of our written tests, and that, in fact, that area of service, you know, is under consideration by the department for improvement. We welcome, of course, the particular incidences where a member feels that that's not happening, that that should be brought directly to the attention of the Registrar or the Minister to facilitate that kind of situation. I can't say that I can go to the extent that the Honourable Member for Roblin, my colleague, says, that we have on hand at all times on a 24-hour basis interpreters or people who can speak all the languages that are spoken in this province, but I'm led to believe that the Registrar is prepared, where that person makes his difficulties known to the department . . . I appreciate that that's part of the problem, that there's a certain amount of — you know, the person is backed-down a bit by the sheer administrative machinery. If he doesn't fully comprehend the language and the situation he may very well be the person that will be the last one to knock on the director's door, or to knock on the Minister's door, or perhaps to call on his own member. But we should try to expand that understanding among our people, that that opportunity is there for them. The Registrar's office is prepared, he assures me, to make whatever special arrangements that have to be made so that language, in itself, is not a barrier to one's attaining driving privileges. We will take the time, the department will take the time to find somebody within the service or otherwise, or to allow that person to bring somebody along that can sufficiently interpret for that person to make the test clear and understandable to that person.

I don't think that the Member for Selkirk is suggesting that we ought to allow or that we ought to excuse persons that don't have an understanding of the driving rules and regulations in the province for driving. What I think his understanding is, is that simply not having the capability of comprehending what is being asked of him, because of a language barrier, should prevent him from doing that.

The Honourable Member for Roblin repeated the same kind of problem, and I direct my remarks the same way to him that I just directed to the Honourable Member for Selkirk.

The Honourable Member for St. James commented on subject matter that we dealt with previous to the supper hour adjournment, and I thank him for his support and for his comments with respect to the department's intentions to enter into a merit system as of September 1st. I believe it will be an incentive to good driving. His comments with respect to some of the difficulties within the jurisdiction of the City of Winnipeg, I have to remind him are the responsibilities of the jurisdiction of the City of Winnipeg, and not that of the Department of Highways. I might tell him that my advisors question his facts and figures. It's doubtful whether or not the average traffic flow at peak hours is anywhere near what he suggests it is. It may appear to be that, but on average, statistics tend to prove otherwise.

One area that the department agrees with him in his comments is that there is a problem of signing. People coming in from out of the city, that there is a difficulty there that the signing isn't clear, and that it could well lead to some entrapment of persons coming into the jurisdiction of the city before they run into that first 30 or 50 kilometre sign limit now. Those things are discussed with the city, and some efforts will be made to improve that.

Mr. Chairman, I think that attempts to answer some of the questions that have been posed by members of the committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Roblin.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask the Minister, the Boards that are listed, but I guess that comes under (d) as to who is on those Boards, and who's chairing the Highway Traffic Board, the Transport Board, the Taxicab Board and the Licence Suspension Appeal Board, so I will leave that till (d). But under this other matter that we're dealing with, again it is a case that's in my portfolio and I'm sure that the Minister has it in his right now.

Under the common law principle, I could cite an example of a farmer, at 7:00 o'clock in the morning, he's feeding his cattle some 12 miles west of a certain village, picks up his three hired men, and after they feed the cattle they go into the Duck Mountains and they cut timber all day long, come back about 10:00 o'clock at night, and he is taking his men back to where he picked them up and he is intercepted by this big police force we have in this village today. That village used to be manned by one policeman, now there's five and some days there's eleven in there.

Nevertheless, this honourable gentleman was presented with this breathalyzer thing, to blow into this bag, and because he is policed every day from the time he gets up in the morning until he goes to . . . he refused to blow into this bag. So, he is charged, and he is charged under The Criminal Code, Mr. Chairman, the same as a guy under a manslaughter . . .

**MR. ENNS:** On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways, on a point of order.

**MR. ENNS:** Would you remind the Honourable Member for Roblin that he is on my side.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Roblin.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, would you advise the Honourable Minister that I am on his side; I'm trying to get some change in the legislation that is long overdue.

I don't see how we in this Committee or the government of this province<sup>8</sup> or the former government, can justifiably charge a man who worked under those conditions all day long and because he told a policeman to go to hell, then he is charged because he didn't blow into . . . And now, he is in the courts now and he is under the same class as a man who committed manslaughter and that is not fair. Those are not the kind of citizens that I represent in my constituency. I think that it is darn well time that the Minister and the Civil Service clean up that Act because that is absolutely unfair. Because a man refuses to blow into that thing, then he is classed under The Criminal Code as the same subject that commits manslaughter. And that's not fair. And so now he is deprived of his driver's licence. He has got to go and prove himself innocent. Now, how can he? It is absolutely impossible. He can't prove himself innocent.

**MR. USKIW:** He could have done that by blowing in the bag.

**MR. McKENZIE:** So what. But are we at that stage in this province today, again, on this principle. I'm a great supporter of the common law principle, sure, if he refused, let them come back and prove him guilty. But the ball doesn't turn that way under The Highways . . . and the Minister opposite knows, the former Minister.

So, again, I think Mr. Minister, that it is high time that we take this Act and set up a committee and go out around this province and talk to the people whom we are dealing with every day, our subjects, and surely we can come up with better laws than we have on our statutes today.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Selkirk.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister for his comments re the incident I provided to him. But I would like to just add if I could that in this particular case, this gentleman appeared before the interviewer and it was obvious that he couldn't speak English except very brokenly and in a very difficult fashion and no doubt he felt somewhat intimidated by the circumstances, and no one alerted him to the fact that this type of service could be provided. So he did go through the test, and failed the test. I am just wondering if, when examiners see that type of situation, an elderly gentleman, whatever it be — Ukrainian, Polish, German — that the person be alerted that it might be wise for them to attend before someone who can relate to them in their own language. I forwarded the particulars of this on to Mr. Dygala and I know that Mr. Dygala is looking into it but I am concerned about the overall principle of it because if we leave it to the person to request their rights, they are not going to request their rights because they are not aware that such rights exists. —(Interjection)— Yes, so I would hope that the interviewers would know that they should be on guard for this type of situation.

I would like to just point out, too, in respect to The Traffic Act, that the Law Reform Commission — unfortunately we didn't get around to updating The Highway Traffic Act — but with reference to the comments made by the Member for Roblin, the Law Reform Commission did a very exhaustive study



of The Highway Traffic Act and I think that at some point we are going to have to get around to taking a good look at that report. There are a lot of suggestions in it for improvement.

Also, I would like the Minister's views on this type of situation: Last year we amended The Highway Traffic Act to provide that a second offence, liquor offence, five years automatic. Now, I know that good and valid reasons can be presented for that. But we do have the anomaly of when a juvenile is convicted first offence for driving while impaired, the second offence when an adult, in the courts it is treated only as a first offence because the first offence there occurred when the person was a juvenile and the second offence while the individual was an adult. But under our Highway Traffic Act and the motor vehicle practice, the person is treated as though he had a second offence, even though the first offence occurred while he was a juvenile. I think our practice should be the same as the court here because after all it happened when the individual was a juvenile and not an adult. So I would just like that to be considered.

And just one fast comment which relates a little bit to what I said the other day. I have the impression some time that we are too concerned about moving traffic and not sufficiently restrictive as to speed. Sometimes it seems difficult to get the Traffic Board to concur with reduced speed limits even in areas that are heavily congested. I would just like to mention that I have an uneasy feeling that too often they are concerned about moving traffic rather than safety. I think possibly the Minister may have to provide some policy direction there. It may have been missing in the past and I would suggest that he give that consideration.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, the Honourable Member for Roblin has left the Committee, but principally his concerns were of a Federal jurisdiction with respect to offences occurring under The Criminal Code as imposed and as exercised by the RCMP. Other than that, I simply want to indicate to him, I am all in favour of his common law principle; I think that is a principle that should be defended to the last.

To the Honourable Member for Selkirk, I think the manner and way in which he raised the problem of the person with difficulty at the driver examinations is being noted by the registrar and that perhaps some more formal way of making it known to people with this difficulty, either by way of a notice at places where people come for their examination — I'll discuss that with the registrar — but certainly the registrar informs me that while there is always the difficulty of the human factor entering into not taking sufficient cognizance of the situation, the department I understand is prepared to accommodate that kind of a situation.

His comments with respect to the greater problem about attitudes on the part of the Traffic Board and whether we are more concerned with moving traffic, are well taken. The difficulty, as I'm sure that he has experienced during the period of time that he was in office, is that we set up these boards to hopefully administer the laws that we as legislators pass from time to time, in a fair and equitable manner. However, they aren't always sensitive to the mood or to the changes that the people request and desire of them. I can only cite him one example of recent vintage where without, I think, abusing my privilege as Minister, I did ask the chairman of the board involved to reconsider the numerous petitions and complaints by residents, to reconsider a rather firm position that the Board had taken on several occasions in the past for a reduction of speed on a particular artery or a roadway, which involves Kenaston Boulevard. I am please to announce that the Board has taken that into consideration under some advisement; the criteria being that we recognize that while from a city and I might say from a department's point of view, Kenaston Boulevard happens to be part of a major arterial roadway, and the movement of traffic is important. But we recognize that from an engineering point of view we have allowed too much in-traffic coming into that particular roadway. It is a roadway that has a heavy residential area adjacent to it and children crossing to make use of recreational facilities or school facilities, but it was with these kind of considerations in mind that I took it upon myself, not to direct the Chairman of the Transport Board, but to ask him to take these considerations into fuller prospective and consideration, and in this particular instance the ruling of the Board was, in fact, to do so. I think the question is valid, one that we have to consider.

**MR. PAWLEY:** I wonder if the Minister would mind commenting about that anomaly that I made reference to in the Highway Traffic Act in relationship to the practice, the Traffic Act as against the courts, second offence. That five-year provision, which I think was a necessary one, but it is quite a punishment if there isn't consideration given to the fact that that first offence occurred while the individual is a juvenile, which seems to be inconsistent with the court practice.

**MR. ENNS:** The difficulty that I have, or that the department has with that, is that in essence it is the same offence whether it is committed by a juvenile or an adult, and I believe really the determination will be to what extent the government, or as represented by society as a whole, is prepared to exercise its will on the one hand to screen out and to take off the road those persons who violate the rules that we set for the safety of the public.

Let me put the question in reverse. We are prepared for instance to ask, you know, despite the fact that maybe a relatively small proportion — and I don't have the percentage figures but, you know, whatever it is, five or ten percent of the people that are involved in serious accidents — we are prepared to legislate or we are being asked to legislate the other 85 or 90 percent on penalty of paying fines, fairly substantial fines, to do certain things like buckle up for the sake of safety on our highways. Should we then really quibble about the penalties imposed on those persons who



blatantly disregard the law of the land, the law of the jurisdiction that we are operating under, in the operations of their vehicles.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Well, can the Minister then assure me, because this is even a greater concern if the Minister adopts that position, that the juvenile records are totally and fully made available to the Motor Vehicle Branch so that both rural and city juveniles are dealt with in the same fashion. I don't believe from my information that has been the case, that such records have been turned over to the juveniles in the same way rural and urban.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, without wishing to evade the question, but I think that question perhaps would be more appropriately asked of the Attorney-General, and I am speaking to an Attorney-General or a former Attorney-General and he could perhaps answer his own question.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Now, the particular type of problem that I raise is one that came into being last May or June with the passage of those amendments to the Highway Traffic Act. It is my understanding that the records of the Juvenile Court, traffic act offences, were not made available generally in the Family Court, City of Winnipeg, to the Motor Vehicle Branch. Now if I am correct in my recollection of that information, then we have a situation where the records are made available, i.e. rural Manitoba in the main, the individual is prejudiced as against the individual in the city, where the Family Court in Winnipeg, rightly or wrongly has taken the position that these are juvenile records and they are not going to make them available to the — there has been a lot of difficulty if I recall correctly in the past with some of the Family Court judges — that these records should not be opened up to the Motor Vehicle Branch.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I intend to concur with the Honourable Member for Selkirk, that juveniles or otherwise they are asking for a specific privilege, that is to operate a motor vehicle, you know, on our roadways, and if they are asking for that privilege, they ought to come under the same general rule of law and that the position that the Motor Vehicle Branch takes is that while there is some exchange of information, it is on a haphazard basis. We do get some information from the Juvenile Court authorities with respect to driving records, but not to the satisfaction of the Branch, and quite frankly we would like it to be a full and free exchange of information.

In other words, you know, we have anomalies, we extend those privileges to 16-year-olds, where the age of majority for other reasons is 18-year-olds. For whatever reasons known to all of us we say that at 16 years old you are adult enough to be behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. I believe that with that privilege comes along the responsibilities and the driving records should commence to count from the moment that you are licensed by the government, by the Motor Vehicle Branch, to drive.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Well, I would agree, but in practice unfortunately the records are not made available uniformly until the person is 18 years of age. So in view of that, would it not be wise to follow the court process in the type of incident which I provided to you and mark time from that point on insofar as offences are concerned, where the court only recognizes for purposes of this section the offence 18 plus, because only at that point are the records uniformly available? Or else change the record keeping and compel the — but I don't know how you compel the Family Court judges — I suppose you can change the legislation.

**MR. ENNS:** We will find ways. Mr. Chairman, I think that is the kind of a question that appropriately should be taken as notice by the Ministry and by the departmental people, and I invite the honourable member's contribution on the subject matter when we open up the Act for some revision as I think is contemplated during this Session.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Now, if I could just ask a further question because it arises from the same type of circumstances. I believe it can be shown and I believe my colleague from St. George noted this too, that the Winnipeg Police Force do not often attend at the scene of accidents in the same frequency as the R.C.M. Police do, so the tendency is again for the motorists outside the City of Winnipeg to have lodged against them many more demerit points than motorists in the City of Winnipeg because of that very type of situation. Does the Minister have any thought as to how that type of anomaly can be corrected in fairness to the overall demerit point system?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am sure the honourable member will recall that it is not entirely dissimilar to that situation that whenever the report of the Liquor Commission is reported to the House, some honourable member from rural Manitoba rises in his place and says, "How come that it is only rural Manitobans that are being nailed with all the offences?" But part of that is precisely in the question that the Member for Selkirk raises. There is an anomaly there and I don't have an answer for him at this time.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Are we able to conclude then that rural Manitobans are hit harder, juvenile records in the Traffic Act convictions, Liquor Act convictions, would you agree with that, Mr. Minister? And possibly unfairly?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, I think the only conclusion that can be drawn is that a great deal more is expected of rural Manitobans and that they are called to order a great deal more often to live up to those expectations.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** On that last answer I think we will move on to another speaker. The Member for St. George.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, just before we move forward, by way of information I was asked this by a member of the Committee, the composition of the Motor Transport Board at present consists of a Chairman, Mr. Al Mackling; the members of the Board are: Mr. Kapnik; Mr. Frisken; Mr. Fred Wood, who is a long-time secretary of the Board; Mr. Mitchell; Vice-Chairman of the Board, and I must inform members of the staff is no longer Mr. Gordon Fines. He, for reasons of his own, sent me a letter of retirement just the last few days.

And on the Highway Traffic Board, Mr. Mackling also acts as Chairman of that Board; and essentially the same members with the exception of a Mr. Frisken, are members of that Board.

On the Taxicab Board, Mr. Al Mackling also acts as Chairman of that Board and Mr. Mitchell is the other provincial representative, with the City and the City Police appointing other members to that Board.

In effect, Mr. Chairman, there have been no substantive changes made on these Boards, that is not to preclude the fact that changes will be made in due course, but I would like to take this occasion to acknowledge and appreciate the fact that these members have served in their capacities well and will be serving to the expiration of their terms.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George, then Ste. Rose, and then Swan River.

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to take up some of the comments I think that the Member for Roblin was getting at in a way, at least I thought in his own way, and that I thought he was urging this Committee and you, Mr. Minister, to possibly establish a Legislative Committee dealing with highway safety and highway traffic, that may examine various alternatives and various proposals dealing with matters like the Education Program, some aspects of the Highway Traffic Act, and highway safety within this province. So you might wish to consider that move, and might wish to think about proposing certain matters that might be looked at inter-sessionally by a Legislative Committee dealing with specifically highway safety within this province. That is, I thought one of his points that he was making and that he was getting at.

In the statistics that I asked for and you quoted me in terms of the Manitoba fatalities per lane mile travelled in Manitoba are less than Ontario. Well, that may very well be, but what I was looking for specifically was the Ontario experience as compared to the Ontario experience to see really what has happened in Ontario with the move to seat-belt legislation. I realize that your statistics on the lane miles travelled in Manitoba will, I don't think there will probably be any year that they will be comparable, because of the density of population and travel, even though the lane mile travelled may be the same. I don't think the comparison can be equalled, so that Manitoba statistics, I think will always be more favourable in that light. And although we've had a reduction in fatalities in this province over the last year, I would say that we still should examine and look at what Ontario, or pick whatever province you wish, but I believe our neighbouring province would probably give us as much information, because I'm sure that if there has been an indication, a positive indication with respect to the lowering of fatalities, I'd like to know that. I'd like to know if in fact there has been that reduction, what kind of reduction have they seen in treatment and medical costs as a result of that.

Along with that, as a result of the seat-belt legislation, has there been a reduction in after-treatment costs, in terms of people who were involved in accidents, who may have worn seat-belts. Would they have been hospitalized any less than those who were involved in accidents who were not wearing seat-belts?

There is the Australian situation as well that might be considered. So I would like a comparison from the Minister. If he can't provide it for me tonight, I would like him to provide it and make it as a record into Hansard, as much information as he can on whatever jurisdiction he wishes to choose that is available, whether it be the Australian, but I believe the neighbouring province would probably be the best to go to to give us some indication whether the law that has been implemented in Ontario has had an impact on the driving habits and the eventual costs that we as a society have to face when people are injured in an accident.

We can take those arguments of freedom of choice and some infringement of freedoms that we will erode by people having to wear seat-belts. However, we as a society have to recognize the cost that we have to pick up after those people have been injured in a motor vehicle accident, the rehabilitative costs, the costs of social welfare or insurance, or whatever. We end up paying all those costs as a society, so that the loss of freedom that is argued by many, many in my caucus as well as in your caucus, I believe should not be the sole cause or the sole reason not to look at and examine and implement seat-belt legislation within this province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that further statistical evidence of the kind that the Honourable



Member for St. George is seeking will be forthcoming. I'm advised that just at this month's end the transport committee of Canada is doing a kind of comparative study of statistics in Ontario which is the province with the longest period of seat-belt legislation. I can advise him further to that, that in the first three-quarters of 1977, Ontario experienced a 10.1 percent decrease in fatalities. However, I can also tell him for some further information that studies that have concluded — and these are American studies — that in the U.S., fatality reduction is directly attributable to the 55 mph speed limit, and that they conclude that upwards to 4,000 to 6,000 lives have been saved in the United States in the American jurisdiction as a result of the speed reduction.

Now, I'd have to say at this time, recognizing that I'm in danger of raising some hackles opposite, that this Minister and this government had the intestinal fortitude to impose metric signing in this province, which was scheduled to commence on September 1, 1977, but for reasons known only to the previous administration that had no doubt nothing to do with the oncoming election, decided to postpone and secondly, along with it, with the reduction of the speed limit, the general speed limit in the province of Manitoba. I would like, and I don't mind indicating to the members of the committee, that I would like at least one year of data to have to fall back on, on what the combination of a reduced speed limit has in terms of our accident rate and fatality rate in the province of Manitoba. I don't think that's an unreasonable position to assume or to take, particularly coming on the heels of the fact that while Ontario, with compulsory seat-belt legislation, has effected a ten percent reduction in fatalities, in Manitoba, without seat-belt legislation, in the same year, have effected a fifteen per cent reduction in fatalities. I'm suggesting that our situation is somewhat different; we don't have the density of travel and traffic that some of our neighbouring provinces have; I'm not suggesting that that should excuse the government from eventually imposing seat-belt legislation. I take to heart those comments made by the Member for Selkirk prior to the supper hour adjournment that there might well be other areas examined, such as providing or building in an incentive to the wearing of seat-belts, either by recognition through your Autopac insurance premium rates, either by recognition by some merit points on your driving record and I say the same thing for those people that abstain from liquor. Some jurisdictions who acknowledge — and I'm now looking at the Honourable Member for Virden who is deserving of this merit award — certain jurisdictions have successfully been able to implement programs where abstainers have had that accorded in their insurance costs.

I'm suggesting that our overall effort, in terms of highway safety, is not one to be decried, in fact it's one to be commended. We have recorded, I repeat it once again, despite a four percent increase in the number of drivers on our roads, despite a six percent increase in the number of vehicles on our roads, we have reduced the number of fatalities on our highways in this last year. I think that speaks well of the department and their overall safety program. I am prepared to acknowledge that that's not the end of it. I think the strong recommendations that were made at this committee, that the idea of compulsory driver education ought to be introduced into our schools, is one that this ministry will look at. I believe some forms of inducement to the encouragement of wearing safety belts ought to be encouraged in doing that, but you know gentlemen, for a Minister that has introduced metric and reduced speed limits in five months that he's responsible for the department, give me a little bit of elbow room.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I know the Minister would like to indicate that he did introduce metric. He surely must recall that well ahead of the time that the signs were taken down and posted, the announcements were made that metric would be introduced effective a certain date and he carried it out at the time they were announced. I wanted to ask the Minister whether there is any prognosis or analysis by the department with respect to that recent, or annual drop in fatalities in the last year. Is there any prognosis on that, dealing with even the number of miles travelled as a result of the higher energy costs in this province, or is there any thought in respect to this area? Or is it just a drop that can be experienced one year in a number of years, or is there any explanation for it, other than the sheer goodness that there has been that drop.

**MR. ENNS:** I think it can be directly and solely attributed to the direction of our safety program under the direction of the Motor Vehicle Registrar, Mr. Peter Dygala.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased that the Minister has made that statement. Because if we can have a 15 percent reduction on the basis of the program that he attributes the reduction to, and I will accept his statement at par, then we certainly should be able to have a much more significant drop if we implement some of the things that we should have done. I fully admit that, that we should have done. I would hope that your administration provides the financial resources in terms of doing the necessary highway safety programs that we have in, so that we can reduce the numbers of fatalities, and in turn with it, the aftermath and the costs of not only the fatalities, but the injuries that we have to all pay for in the long run.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** I just have a few questions, Mr. Chairman. One is, for the record, could we have the estimates of the cost, if any, involved in the merit point system, so that we can analyze the cost benefits at some future point in time.



**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that there is no specific cost attached to it as such. The Motor Vehicle Branch, in its move towards computerizing its operations over the past several years, have been able to accommodate this move in their computer programming. Unless I am otherwise advised, I can't put, in terms of dollars or cents, a specific figure that's involved here. We have, possibly with the exception of two SMYs per annum that perhaps could be attributed to this program, but not in total, because the two additional SMYs that I'm referring to are part of the computer program of the Motor Vehicles Branch. It is not an item that was of that import that the department has had to ask the administration for the setting aside, or the calling for additional funds.

**MR. ADAM:** Mr. Chairman, I'm going to ask it on the next item, on (2), so could you give me . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Ask the question now, and then we can go through them all.

**MR. ADAM:** I want you to give me a breakdown of Item (2).

**MR. ENNS:** Item (b)(2) Other Expenditures consist of Salaries and Expenses; Office Expenses; last year's vote 1977-78 was \$896,800.00. This year's requested vote is \$952,400, or an increase of \$55,600.00. This increase will provide for the general salary increase and the normal annual increment, and the reduction of two SMYs — (Interjection) — Oh pardon me, you're asking for it under (2), Supplies, Expenses, Equipment and Renewals. In that particular instance the vote for 1977-78 was \$4,136,200.00. This year's request is for \$3,797,500, or a decrease of some \$338,700.00. The decrease of \$338,000 is attributable to the following factors, a reduction — and this will interest the Honourable Member for St. George — a reduction of fees paid to MPIC for administration of vehicle registration systems of some \$200,000.00. During the consideration of the 1977-78 expenditure estimates, Cabinet directed a review of existing formula of cost-sharing between MPIC and MVB. Lack of specific guidelines made it virtually impossible for the committee to recommend changes. During the consideration of 1978-79, Expenditure Estimates were determined by the Department of Finance as an independent official to assist in the development of a cost-sharing formula. The consensus appeared to be that costs should be apportioned on the basis of benefits accruing to each party. A reduction in licence plates order due to stock on hand accounted for an additional \$135,000.00.

So the reduction was made possible by the fact that we required less licence plates to the tune of \$135,000, and a reduction of \$200,000 with respect to an adjustment in the MPIC and MVB sharing formula.

**MR. ADAM:** And there are no increases in the other items?

**MR. ENNS:** No increases there, no.

**MR. ADAM:** And the data and processing is still the same as last year? The computerized part, component.

**MR. ENNS:** I am advised that that has gone up very slightly, negligibly, but no notable increase.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. George.

**MR. URUSKI:** I have just one question on this, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister give us the total cost of the redesign of the driver's licence system which has taken the last four years?

**MR. ENNS:** I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that that cost comes very close to between \$900,000 and \$1 million.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Swan River.

**MR. DOUG GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, many of our residents, because of either age or medical reasons, are required from time to time to have medical examinations. These medical examinations are not covered under the Health Services Commission. It is a third-party claim and I am just wondering if any thought has ever been given to increasing the licence fees slightly to cover the cost of these medical examinations that are required? It is a hardship on many people who have heart attacks and are maybe unable to work and I think the medical fee is something like \$25.00 an examination and this happens, I think, every six months in some cases. I just throw this out at this particular time.

**MR. ENNS:** I am advised that our costs, that is the Motor Vehicle Branch's cost for administrating that aspect of the program is within the area of \$250,000 to \$300,000.00. So one would have to look in



that ballpark to increase either by means of motor vehicle registration or more appropriately, the driver's licence fee. . . I'm sorry, I'm just relating now the costs to the branch of the administration. In addition to that, of course, the question by the Honourable Member for Swan River is to include the actual cost of the medical examination.

**MR. GOURLAY:** Yes, now the Health Commission say that they are not interested, they are not in a position to cover these costs; it's a third-party claim and it should be borne by probably the licensing branch or individuals concerned. So I am just wondering whether any consideration might have been undertaken up until now or whether it would be looked at in the future if it hasn't already been looked at.

**MR. ENNS:** I am advised that that question ought to be more appropriately directed to the Minister of Health. Currently under the regulations governing the Manitoba Medicare program, they prohibit the paying of costs for medical examinations requested by any third party, that is, an employer or an insurance company, and in this case the Motor Vehicle Branch, the regulations presently do not permit the payment of those medical examinations.

Now, if that is felt to be a matter that ought to be considered, then it should be taken up with the Ministry of Health for possible expansion of the Medicare program to include these costs. But in the Motor Vehicle Branch, we are under the same regulation that prevents the payment of a medical examination that is requested by any other third party, that is, an employer prior to hiring a person says, "I need a medical examination." The Medicare scheme doesn't pay for that. So that is the rationale of why we are not currently involved or why we are not doing that. It is really more of a problem, I say to the Honourable Member for Swan River, of what the Medicare provisions will allow us to pay.

**MR. GOURLAY:** I have briefly looked into this with respect to the Health Department and they say that it really is not their concern. An insurance company, when they require a person buying insurance, the premium is raised enough to cover the cost of a medical. So that in the case of licences, the licence fee should also be raised enough to cover the cost of that medical.

**MR. ENNS:** With all due respect to the Honourable Member for Swan River, there is a slight difference, though, in the incidence of an individual insurance company to build into their premium structure the capability of paying or defraying the cost of a medical examination that they demand. What you are asking in this instance, though, recognizing that only a relatively small minority of people who purchase driver's licences are being requested to have a medical examination, you are asking all of them to pay for these medical examinations. In the case of the example that you raise, only the person who is in need of that medical examination for, say, insurance purposes, is paying through his premium rate, if he purchases the premium, the cost of that medical examination.

Just let me mention briefly that there has been some concern expressed by members of the medical profession and other individual and private presentations made to me, that question the number of medical examinations that the Motor Vehicle Branch requests. I don't think that there is any question that in certain classes of driver's licences, these have to be and ought to continue to be mandatory. Certainly any drivers who are driving public vehicles, conveying public buses, school buses, other units, that one would ask and expect to have regular medical checkups.

I have asked the department to examine the number of medical examinations that are being asked for and being undertaken in the pleasure or private category and as to how they relate to our experience, I mean, the numbers of driver's licences that are being suspended for this reason and what in fact the experience has been. I cannot report to the committee at this time that there has been any results as a result of that review but it is an area that I have asked the department and the Motor Vehicle Branch to look at.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. James, and then Selkirk. To all members of the committee, we are really covering all items under Motor Vehicle; we have been all over the place and I hope that we can pass them at one time too. The Member for St. James.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, through you to the Minister, I have two driver's licences in my hand; one is my own that was renewed on September 30, and one is my colleague's from Virden which was renewed just this month. One of my constituents raised an objection to a change in the back of the licence and it relates to consent of human tissue. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister when this change took place where on the back of our licences now there is a blank space where we can will our body or parts of our body for the transplant. The reason I raise it, the one constituent who phoned me was very irate that we would put something on a public document like this that he received, that obligated him — and I know it is sort of nit-picking — but obligated him to either blank it out because he didn't want to will his body and he didn't want to leave it blank because he was concerned that if something did happen to him that somebody might fill in his name and forge his signature on it if he didn't fill it in. I am just wondering when this took place and why the reason for it?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, it took place under my direction shortly after assuming responsibility for the office and I can tell the Honourable Member for St. James that while the individual constituent

may feel irate about it, but if he would have sat in my office just a few days ago when a delegation of blind people came to talk to me about another matter, they expressed an extreme degree of gratitude for that particular addition being made to the licence plate because the cornea bank, the eye bank, is constantly short of transplants that can be made available. They, among other things, expressed the appreciation that the change was made.

Now, I'll ask the Member for St. James to weigh those two factors. A particular individual of the public may feel somewhat irate. There is no compulsion on him; he can simply ignore it. I have received minimal, one or two letters, suggesting it was somewhat macabre, that on the driver's licence we delegate a box for them to donate live tissues or organs. But the fact of the matter is that we have in our medical capacity and capability today, the capability of providing for those who are in dire need of transplants of human body organs, and are indeed on waiting lists for those transplants. This was deemed to be, and under the advice of the department and the registrar of the Motor Vehicle Branch, a relatively easy means of identifying those persons who unfortunately find themselves in an accident but wish to make life just a little bit more meaningful for those who are in need of these organs.

I accept the honourable member's statement of concern but quite frankly I have to reject it.

While I am speaking on that particular subject, I am prepared to announce to the committee something that the registrar of the Motor Vehicle Branch hasn't had an opportunity to be fully apprised of, but there is a unique phenomena involving the driver's licence that the honourable member holds in his hands. It happens to be — and it says something about the veracity, about the acceptability of the driver's licence in our society — it happens to be the best and often the only accepted means of identification. One's Social Security card doesn't measure up to it; one's birth certificate doesn't measure up to it. Many times when you are buying your groceries for the week and you are cashing a cheque at Safeway's or the corner store, you will cash that cheque if you have a driver's licence in your pocket. I have recently been approached by people with severe handicaps and asked to consider the issuing of driver's licences, clearly marked that these driver's licences will not allow them to drive a vehicle, but I am giving serious consideration to the issuing of driver's licences to the handicapped people of Manitoba for this purpose, and that includes the ind.

**MR. MINAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I recognize the Honourable Minister's comments but I think what the Honourable Minister should recognize is that I think that there are many drivers in our province that have recently been issued licences that are not aware in fact that that's on the back of their licence and I wonder just how many drivers were aware of it and are maybe carrying it around blank. And really, what in fact the department is doing, is you might say issuing a blank check on one side with the signature of the driver on the other and I don't know whether that is correct if the department hasn't advertised the fact that this is on the back of it, because we're dealing with humans and most people don't read the fine print. I am just wondering if there has been any publicity to the fact when the licences went out. I don't know because when my licence came out I didn't have it on the back of mine and I am just wondering because I know the Honourable Member for Virden I believe didn't realize it was on the back of his licence and I am just wondering how many more haven't. Because I would think that the person should have the right to decide whether he wants to will it or not and I might sign it when I get mine but if I didn't know it was there and I was a person who didn't want to will it, I'd like to fill it in.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I accept the validity of the member's comments. I am advised that there was, particularly by the Kidney Foundation. . .

**MR. MINAKER:** No, but by the department.

**MR. ENNS:** . . .and one or two other organizations that chose to associate and indeed had pressed for the change with the Motor Vehicle Branch, did provide some publicity with the change along with some announcement at the time from the department. Other than that, I can only hope that the member of the media present would further assist us in providing some measure of publicity to this change. I concur with the member's general comments that persons ought to be made aware of the change and ought to be able to conscientiously make that decision. But I do really say that it is not. . . I regard it as a relatively small thing that we can do with little or no cost, that in many instances can provide somebody with sight that has no sight today, can provide somebody with extra years of living that is in need of a kidney transplant and the likes of that, and I think that on those grounds, it is a totally defensible and commendable action.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member from Selkirk, then Emerson, then Virden.

**MR. PAWLEY:** I wanted just to ask the Minister pursuant to the questions posed by the Member for Swan River, if the person that is required to obtain a medical at the request of the Motor Vehicle Branch, rather than at their initiative, having to take a test because of job requirement, etc., but say the old age pensioner required to take a test, does our Medicare cover the cost? ?

**MR. ENNS:** No, it doesn't. Mr. Chairman, again in this instance, the Motor Vehicle Branch is still a third party.



**MR. PAWLEY:** Well, I would like to just say that some way or other I do feel that some steps should be taken to examine that where a person is required because of age to take a test, and the test isn't taken as a result of their initiative but at the initiative of government requiring them to do so, that Medicare should. . .

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, allow me just to modify that answer slightly. I think it's relatively common knowledge that we are all allowed under the regulations of the Medicare Act, one medical examination paid for by Medicare. Well, I'm advised that that's the case if it's not initiated for any reason. Some doctors will use that in the event that the Registrar asks for that medical examination but I am told all too often that is not common practice.

**MR. PAWLEY:** So it would depend a great deal on the timing of the demand for the test whether the pensioner could use that particular occasion. I really think that something should be done where the initiative comes from the government to the person in question that he or she must take that test insofar as the person that requires the test to survive in their employment, that's a different story. But for someone because of age and the requirement, I am sure the Minister would take that into consideration.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to honestly express an appreciation to the members of the Committee on both sides for having brought, particularly in this area of discussion numerous points that I think the government in this department ought to consider. The fact of the matter that some of the points of course that are being now raised might well have been considered during the last eight years I'll let pass, but we will consider all these matters and they are worthwhile matters to consider.

I happen to again concur with the Honourable Member for Selkirk where one agency of government initiates the request for a medical examination, it seems that there ought to be some capability of the other government agency for responding to it. I think if we can't or we find some difficulty in accepting that in its totality, then certainly some provision because in most instances this falls into the area of our senior citizens. It's generally those persons arriving at the age 65 and over, usually 70, 71, that for quite appropriate reasons the Motor Vehicle Branch calls in either through a minor mishap on our roads or I might also say, in many instances, it is close members of the family, relatives of the family, sons and daughters, who are concerned about their aging parents driving on the roads and haven't quite got the courage to face up to dear old mom and dad and say, "Really, Dad, you ought to be off the road." They'll phone up the Motor Vehicle Branch on occasion and say, "Pull in the old man for a test and make it as rough as you can for him." That happens too, but I think that in a sense that most of these tests, and I would have perhaps at another Committee meeting the statistics for you. But I would without consulting with the Registrar, I would suspect — there are exceptions of course — that on average, these medical examinations are being requested from our senior citizens that are holders of licences and whether or not the suggestion made by the Member for Selkirk shouldn't be seriously considered a good one.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Emerson.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to direct a question to the Minister and his department. Has any consideration been given to a picture ID on the drivers similar to what they have in B.C.?

**MR. ENNS:** A short answer is yes.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** And it's not acceptable?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Virden is next.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering inasmuch that I was ignorant when I got my licence, a day or two late as a matter of fact but I did get it this morning, and this questionnaire was on there. Now, do RCMP and city police and doctors, are they all aware that in every accident victim, there might be this in their wallet? Are they immediately supposed to dig for the wallet to find that, because you haven't got too many hours to make that transfer. I have seen nothing in the paper, and do they indeed know that this is on our licence?

**MR. ENNS:** Yes, I am advised that the police are aware of that.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** And doctors also, because doctors are the key.

**MR. ENNS:** I am advised that all the law enforcement agencies are aware of it. But I will again echo the comments that I made to the Member for St. James. I think that additional publicity in this respect and a full and clear statement as to the intent, there's no compulsion in this, those persons who feel perhaps for religious reasons or other reasons, ought not to feel in any way compelled to fill in that blank. It's strictly a matter of individual preference as to whether you should concern yourself with that blank.

**MR. MCGREGOR:** Mr. Chairman, it just strikes me that while one might want to do this, it's in such a hidden form to tell those people that are around at that time that there must be even another better way of identifying that this body is willing to give, maybe something like that on them, something that's right now before them.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can only answer that we are charged with the responsibility of issuing driver's licences, not bracelets or alert insignias. We can only do and accommodate on the driver's licence form those things that we can work into our other information that is required and essentially that is the principle reason for the form. We're prepared to accommodate the medical profession, we're prepared to accommodate our fellow man with this kind of information, but there is a limit to what can be put on that one form that you want to be able to conveniently slip into your wallet and not become too cumbersome.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Chairman, just getting back to this requirement for a medical examination. One of the problems as I understand it has been and continues to be the problem of the medical that is normally undertaken by a doctor and his patient once a year, the annual checkup doesn't necessarily provide as much detailed information as is requested by the department if they want a particular check done because of certain information that they have. They may want to be zeroing in on something that they are aware of with respect to that particular driver. However, where there is all the information gained from an annual checkup and where that's been a recent check on the individual, I am wondering whether it isn't possible to negotiate with the Medical Association that they simply fill out the form and pass on the information to the Motor Vehicle Branch, where there has been a recent check on that particular individual. Now I'm not sure that that is within the parameters of the doctors' code of ethics to do so without being instructed to do so although subsequently they have to be instructed or asked for it anyway, so it seems to me that should be overcome.

I had a situation that I drew to the attention of the Motor Vehicle Branch where the person in question just had his annual checkup and had to go back within three or four weeks and get another one and pay that \$15 or \$16.00. It seems to me that if the checkup was thorough in the first instance and the information was all there that was required by the Motor Vehicle Branch, unless there were circumstances that required further checking, that the doctor should be able to simply fill out that form and maybe charge a lower fee. I think one of the problems is that the doctor feels he has to charge a fee even if it is just for filling the form because it is a fairly extensive form that he must take the time to fill and to mail out. So I don't know that you can expect them to do it for nothing, but certainly there should be some happy medium that might be negotiated with the medical people. It is just a suggestion and I don't want to debate on it, Mr. Chairman, I just pointed that out.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 7.(a)(1)—pass; 7.(a)(2)—pass; 7.(b)(1)—pass; 7.(b)(2)—pass; 7.(c)(1)—pass; 7.(c)(2) — The Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, there's an increase in (c)(2). I would like to have the figures on that and also I think there were some questions raised under (b), that I think should have been addressed to this section here. So I have a couple of questions on . . . the questions that were raised were driver tests and student driver training programs. I would like to suggest that there are many people who are fluent in English and do not know all the road signs and what they mean and I can sympathize with somebody who — this question was raised by the Member for Selkirk and the Member for Roblin — but I can sympathize with that because I'm sure that there are many people who are fluent in English that do not know all the signs as they are today, so I don't know whether we are distributing sufficient handbooks, or should we have perhaps a little T.V. training course once in a while to show the different signs. I think maybe that would have more impact than . . . You know, there may be some problems there that a lot of people do not understand.

**A MEMBER:** Spot ads.

**MR. ADAM:** Spot ads would do it and may not cost too much. I suggest that and also I'd like to ask if there is any change in the student driver training program, whether there's going to be any change in policy.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the specific asked of me by the Member for Ste. Rose was an explanation of the item under (c)(2), Supplies, Expenses, Equipment and Renewals. Last year's vote was for some \$870,300.00. This year's request is for \$1,146,100, for an increase of \$275,800.00. Principally this is to restore the Driver Education Program back to its full level of four units which was reduced by the previous administration in the last year's budget by one unit. That accounts for \$98,000, the restoration of the driver testing to the 1976-77 level. An additional \$24,000, simply because of the workload increase and the additional training, equipment, and upgrading required accounts for a further \$60,500 in this vote for a total of \$275,800.00.

With respect to the other comments made by the honourable member I accept them as notice. I think that perhaps within the Motor Vehicle Branch we don't pay sufficient attention to the need for



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publicizing our efforts. We don't have the large complement of P.R. people within the staff of either Highways or Motor Vehicle Branch combined. We have one person alone, we have one person that has been doing that job, and to date I am not so sure yet whether we have his salary secured, but we're attempting. But I accept the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose's comments in that respect as given and we'll see whether we can improve on that, particularly too that we have had need . . . We have had a tendency to use that person where we are converting, say, to the metric system. You know, you've noticed some metric ads prior to the conversion. We've used that person in terms of developing some P.R. on our crosswalks, although that needs refurbishing every once in a while, a reminder, or else they become dangerous, so there's room for . . .

**MR. ADAM:** I would think there's a lot of people who do not know the computer change — just what that means to them as far as . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. James.

**MR. MINAKER:** Just a quick comment to the Honourable Minister. Maybe he might consider printing some of these signs on the Orbit garbage bags and stagger them — maybe on three or four different garbage bags that you could pull out of the Orbit that will have the signs on them and while they're sitting in the car you can pick them up — just as a suggestion.

**MR. ENNS:** To the Honourable Member for St. James, it's a real garbage idea and I'll consider it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 7.(c)(2)—pass; 7.(d)(1)—pass; 7.(d)(2)—pass. Resolution No. 72; Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$9,165,800 for Highways—pass.

Appropriation 8, Acquisition, Construction of Physical Assets. 8.(a) Winnipeg streets. The Member for St. James.

**MR. MINAKER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll pass on speaking on this and go to the Minister's salary to deal with the subject matter so I will it over . . . turn

**MR. ENNS:** Let's deal with it on the Minister's salary.

**MR. MINAKER:** I'll wait and deal with it on the Minister's salary, because this, I understand, Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, deals with acquisition of primarily land, etc. to achieve the construction of street right-of-way, is that correct?

**MR. ENNS:** This is actual construction program.

**MR. MINAKER:** It's not new capital construction? I'll wait until the Minister's salary.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Highways.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the honourable member this vote includes the appropriation of some form in the area of Winnipeg Streets Construction Assistance Program of some \$10 million for that purpose that was voted, you know, as compared to last year's vote consisting of \$4 million current and \$6 million capital. This year the request is for a straight \$15 million or an increase of \$5 million to aid and improve the city street system. It provides for the province's 50 percent share approved City of Winnipeg street construction projects and it includes a carryover from 1977-78 program of \$11.5 million in acquisition of future right-of-way of \$1.5 million, then a commencement on the 1978-79 approved projects of \$2 million. New projects approved for the 1978-79 totally approximating \$5.5 million. However, the cash flow in 1978-79 is not expected to exceed some \$2 million.

Other projects in this vote consist of an additional \$1,054,000.00. A breakdown of other projects in this vote consist of gravel exploration of some \$100,000 which is an increase of \$50,000 from last year. The increase in this vote provides for a normal rise in the cost of salaries, equipment and expenses, plus the provision for the use of a back-hoe, plus gravel stockpiles. This appropriation provides for the stockpiling of an acceptable quantity of gravel in strategical places throughout the province to ensure availability as and when needed, generally during the spring break-up, and for bituminous patching and for shield coat operations. The present level of this fund is some \$2,800,000.00. The request for this year is for an additional \$250,000.00. So in total this is the request for the acquiring or the acquisition of these physical assets, whether it's gravel, right-of-way — you name it — of some \$15 million plus the \$1 million for a total vote of \$16,054,000.00.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** Yes, the capital has lapsed and it all shows up on the right-hand column?

**MR. ENNS:** Yes.

**MR. ADAM:** That's correct.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 8.(a)—pass; 8.(b)—pass; Resolution 73: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$16,054,000, Acquisition—pass.  
Committee rise.

### SUPPLY — EDUCATION

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Page 25, Education. We are on Resolution No. 43, Clause 3. Clause 3. —pass — the Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some questions for the Minister on Frontier School Division. I assume that this would be the section that would contain the funding for the Frontier School Division. Is that correct?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** That particular division comes under 3. (a), Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know what the funding is for Frontier School Division this year as compared to the last fiscal year, that is a comparison of the funding for the fiscal year 1977-78, as contrasted to the one before us.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that comes under 3.(a), and I understand we're now on 3.(e), but I'll try to accommodate the honourable member by answering his question.

Last year the Special Grant to Frontier amounted to \$5.095 million. This year it amounts to \$5.999 million.

**MR. BOSTROM:** The Minister may not have this information *directly* there, but I would like to know how many students that figure would represent serving as a student body; that is, the number of students in the last fiscal year as contrasted to the one before us. Do you have that information available?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I have that information here, if the member will just bear with me for a minute.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is looking for that information, it may be all contained in the same section of his Estimates Book, I would like to know in addition to the number of students contained and served by the Frontier School Division, the number of teaching staff as contrasted between the two years, as well, if he has that information. And, Mr. Chairman, the number of schools that Frontier School Division purports or plans to operate this year as contrasted to the number operated last year.

**MR. COSENS:** The figure for 1977-78: nursery to 12 — 5,702; 9 to 12 — 718; so very quickly, 6,420 last year, this year a total of 6,236 in total enrollment.

The number of schools: 32 in both years. If he requires the breakdown, I can give him that too.

**MR. BOSTROM:** Mr. Chairman, just while he's on the schools, I know there are a number of areas within the jurisdiction of Frontier School Division, where the number of students in the schools is quite small, and in some years in the past it has been a question mark whether or not a school could be continued in those particular locations. I'm wondering if there are any of those the division is considering to be on the margin in this coming fiscal year.

**MR. COSENS:** The answer, Mr. Chairman, to the honourable member is, "No changes."

**MR. BOSTROM:** Would the Capital Works for the Frontier School Division be contained within the amount quoted — the 5.09 last year and the 5.9 this year?

**MR. COSENS:** It is found in the last item in the Estimates, Mr. Chairman, No. 8, I believe.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Well, first, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what item are we on right now.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We are on a re-cap of Clause 3. All items have been passed — (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e).

**MR. JENKINS:** We are now on the main resolution. Is that right?



**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We are on the main resolution of 3 — Financial Support.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I have allowed a re-cap of the Clause 3.

**MR. JENKINS:** I missed it this afternoon, because it went so fast here, once it moved, the item. The question that I have firstly, for the Minister is, where in Resolution 43 is the Parents Council Grant? Is that contained in this resolution?

**MR. COSENS:** It's in No. 3.(a) Other Grants, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the breakdown you gave us this afternoon, I don't know whether you mentioned it or whether I failed to catch it, but I didn't see anything in there in a Parent Council Grant as the breakdown of the Item (a) School Grants and Other Assistance?

**MR. COSENS:** The Member for Logan, Mr. Chairman, is quite correct. In the breakdown of Grants I gave you this afternoon, the reference was to the Foundation Program Grants. We did not go into the other Grants that are also part of the total finance picture for schools.

**MR. JENKINS:** I wonder then if the Minister — well, I can ask him now or I can ask him on his Salary or he can take it as notice if he wants — what is the money this year in the Estimates and how does it compare with the money that was in the Estimates last year?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** That is under 3.(a), Mr. Chairman, but I will accommodate the Member for Logan. Last year there was some \$180,000 allocated to that area. I believe that was the first time this had been done and we have not allocated any money in that area this year.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's one other item that doesn't appear — and I don't know where it would appear — it is the Special Equalization Grant that takes place between the unitary divisions enclosed within the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. I think two divisions make a contribution; other divisions receive grants from, I believe the Winnipeg Public School Division No. 1 and the Fort Garry School Division No. 5.

I believe that representation has been made to the Minister, I think, by at least the Winnipeg School Division No. 1, that the Minister take cognizance of this fact; and I just wonder if the Minister has this under active consideration for the alleviation of this grant which, I think, this year runs a little in excess of \$6 million that the Winnipeg School Division has to put up. I don't know if he has replied to the board yet on that request. Perhaps he would like to answer those two questions.

**MR. COSENS:** Yes. This topic also comes under 3.(a), Mr. Chairman, but I can reply to the Member for Logan that in the total financing picture for schools, this is one of the topics that we have under consideration. We've had briefs presented to us from different school boards. There's no common view, of course, held by either the Trustees' Association or different municipalities on this topic. I understand that it came in in 1971 with The City of Winnipeg Act.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to the Parent Council Grant, it seems very coincidental that this recommendation — and the Minister says that he really hasn't had time to make any analysis of the Task Force report — but on Page 74 of the Part 2, Volume 2 of the Task Force, I see that the Parent Council Grant, the recommendation is that it is to be discontinued. And lo and behold, I get a confirmation this evening that this grant has been discontinued.

There are, I believe, about a dozen recommendations and it's going to be very interesting as we go through them. I have some more marked in the areas that I think they will come under later in the Estimates review, and it's going to be very interesting when we examine these sections to see if these recommendations which the Minister says that he really hasn't had too much time to make a study of . . . But yet we find that \$180,000 that was in the Budget last year has disappeared, just coincidental with the Number One recommendation of the Task Force. It is recommended that the following program changes be made: The first one is, the Parent Council Grant be discontinued. There may be more of the recommendations that have been made by the Task Force as we proceed through the Estimates debate here that we will find have already been recommended, and that doesn't seem to tie in too well with the statement that the Honourable Minister made the other day in reply to questions, that he really hasn't had too much time to analyze what the Task Force has recommended. But yet, the first item of the recommendations here of the programs and budget, we find Number 1, Parent Council Grant, has been cut out, just exactly what the Task Force has reported. I guess as we go through these Estimates, we will find out perhaps many more have been already implemented.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with Resolution 43, I believe? Fine, thank you, Sir. I intend to speak with respect to the totality of Resolution 43, since it really bears on one of the larger and more major of the appropriations that this House is being asked to vote.

It has to do, coincidentally, directly, with some of the things that the Conservative Party had to say by way of their election program brochures, pamphlets, general propaganda, in the last election. I have before me here, a photostatic copy of a document entitled "The Progressive Conservative Program" and I obviously will not deal with any of this program, other than that which relates directly to education and youth and public school finance.

Right on Page 1 — and it's interesting to put this in perspective of actuality, Mr. Speaker, but this was the "can't" that was expressed in the Conservative policy platform, right off the bat, Number 1, Increased Grants to Municipalities to lower school taxes. Now, there are a few other items, I'll come to them in turn. Well, when we look at the Estimates of Expenditure and the amount that is indicated here that will be going by way of school grants to the school divisions and through the municipalities to the school divisions of this province, we note that there is an increase all right, but it is ironic that the amount of the increased support to local government, to school divisions in this case, is probably the lowest increase of any increase in the past decade and more.

Therefore, it certainly is ironic, coming on the heels of this rather bald statement in the Conservative policy platform, and I quote it again, "Increased Grants to Municipalities to Lower School Taxes." I believe it would be correct to say that in the past decade, nothing else has been true, that in fact there has been an increase every year, so this would hardly be something new, increased grants, as they put it. But in fact, what is the increase? It is approximately half of what would have been considered a normal increase in years gone by. I don't know of any year in the '70s and I think I would be hard-pressed to find any year in the '60s in which the percentage increase of senior government support to municipalities, through municipalities to school boards, was less than what it is this year.

I believe a figure that is approximately 5 per cent — is that about correct? In the order of 5 per cent. I think that the aggregate average of increase in support for local government school boards has been more in the order of magnitude of 9 and 10 per cent, and some years higher. So, why do I mention it, Sir? Well, because, that comes as a flat-out contradiction, I mean really flat-out contradiction to this Conservative policy promise: number one, increased grants to municipalities for lower school taxes. Indeed? Will school taxes be lower this year? I believe that every school division in this province is being faced with the prospect — more than a prospect, the reality of increase. And I put the word "increase" in this context in quotation marks, because while it is in the strictest sense an increase, it is the lowest increase in a decade; that in fact, school boards will be faced with the reality and the requirement of dipping into reserves, where they have any, and some do, but in many cases, they will be going with mill rate increases that really have no reason other than to be quite high.

Ironically, this year the demand of the teachers at the bargaining table is relatively restrained, in fact, it is probably the most restrained in a decade as well. Were it not for that, I suggest to you that school boards because of the rather peculiar contradiction by this government, of its own election platform promise; were it not for the restrained demand of teachers, school boards and the municipalities in which they are located — would probably be putting forward the highest, most unprecedented mill rate adjustments or increases in many a year.

Now, I go on to another page of this Conservative policy platform where it is repeated, only this time instead of saying Conservative policies for — what's the heading — for the homeowner, we skip three pages and it's Conservative policies for the taxpayers, and this time Item No. 5 is "Lower School Taxes on Real Property." Well, indeed we shall see whether there are lower school taxes on real property, yes, we shall see.

"Conservative Policies for the Young," and here I see as postulation or promise No. 1. I should like to probe it just for a while; it has to do with education. It is, and I quote, "to restore" — but let's savour every word — ". . . to restore leadership and a sense of direction to the education system," which implies, I think to any person with a common sense of vocabulary, that there is some assumption here by those who apparently have responsibility for the drafting of Conservative policy when it comes to education. There obviously is an assumption on their part that there is some general malaise that is affecting our educational system; I suppose they mean only here in Manitoba, maybe they also mean everywhere else in Canada, I don't know. And since that is such a stark assertion to be made, and since education is so important to our society and its future well-being, we would be derelict in our responsibility if we were not to take the opportunity at this time, Mr. Chairman, when faced with an appropriation of this magnitude to ask, "What is this sense of malaise that seems to permeate the minds of the Conservatives that they think that our educational system must have a different sense of direction and a restored leadership? Where has our educational system failed?"

Having just come back this morning from a late evening speech yesterday to the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and having had an opportunity to talk to quite a number of teachers at the Canadian Teachers' Federation annual meeting, I feel that it is really fresh in my mind to hear what they have to say over on the other side with respect to our educational system. Where is it so obviously lacking that they must speak in terms of restoring leadership and restoring a sense of direction?

I say quite without qualifying, Sir, that the educational system in our province and in most parts of Canada has been working well and it has by and large produced results that are at least as impressive as the results that were brought about or produced by means of our educational system a decade,



two, three, four, five ago. There is a lot of nonsensical diatribe from time to time about having lost the fundamentals, having lost the capability to teach effectively the fundamentals, too many frills, that kind of argument, and, in fact, there's nothing new about those arguments. But I for one want to assert that as one sees the kind of schools we have, generally speaking the kind of curriculum that is followed, generally speaking the extent to which teachers are involved in curriculum change, the extent to which they are involved more than ever in the preparation of ancillary material; generally speaking the extent to which the young people in our schools are quite aware, quite knowledgeable in basic skills and quite aware of the wider world around them, much better, I suggest, than any one of us here in this room, in this Chamber, when we were their age; therefore I must ask, and not rhetorically either, "where is this complete loss of direction, and what is to be the new sense of direction?" I really would like to know. Rhetoric alone isn't enough, so since we are on the Estimates of this department I think we shall quite reasonably ask that we be advised how do they propose to restore leadership, what is the nature of the new leadership they propose to restore, and what is this new sense of direction that they hope to instill? Are they asking for funds here with which to do it, or are they going to do it by means of the exercise of a political will? It all sounds very vague so we're entitled to ask for elaboration.

Then, too, I notice in Resolution 43 that assistance to schools in remote settlements, which is undoubtedly those very human settlements which have the gravest problems with respect to accessibility, of education and equality of opportunity in education, that that is those communities having the greatest difficulty with respect to education. The remote settlement schools are precisely the ones that are to experience no increase in support whatsoever but indeed a diminution of 30 percent in the appropriation. Maybe there is some ready explanation such as that some of the funds are transferred to other sub-appropriations and therefore not really decreased or diminished, but unless that be so this really does call out of concern and or some criticism because where the area priority should be high, in fact there is a falling off from \$1.3 million to a \$1 million even. I should have thought that when inflation is running at 8 percent, and inflation in northern and remote communities is running higher because of the simple fact of logistics being more difficult, therefore more expensive, harder hit by inflation, that an increase in the order of 8 or 10 percent would be merely sufficient to keep even and therefore the appropriation should read \$1.5 million; instead it reads not even \$1.3 million like last year, but \$1.1 million, so I think it's justified to ask, "Are we handling this problem in a different way or are we just hoping that with remoteness and distance comes perhaps a greater probability that there will be less awareness and less complaint."

There are indeed many commanding issues to be raised, Mr. Chairman, under the general appropriation of financial support for public schools, but it goes to beyond that of simply financing when we read these bald statements about, that imply that there is a malaise in our educational system. I think that it has hardly been better than in our very modern day and age.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all to answer a previous question on Frontier School Division, we are ranging all over the appropriation, Mr. Chairman, but we'll do our best to accommodate honourable members opposite.

For 1977 the number of staff members in Frontier School Division is 330. I don't have the staffing for 1977 readily available; I can get that to the member late.

I would like to respond in part to the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition who, I know, has had a long and continuing interest in education. In fact, many, many years ago, although he may not even remember it, we did take a course together in adult education with a certain Professor Tweedy. I attended all the lectures. I'm not sure if the premier may have been involved in politics at that time — he may have missed the odd one — I'm certainly not accusing him of . . . — (Interjection) — I'm sure he did.

The Leader of the Opposition has expressed some concern about the fact that our funding of education this year is not as much as he would like to have seen. I would suggest to him that it is not perhaps as much as we would like to have seen either. However, I think the results are what count and I would suggest to honourable members opposite that the amount of money that we were able to put into the school system this year we feel have accomplished the job to a reasonable extent. I might tell honourable members opposite that I have received nothing but complimentary letters from school divisions stating that they appreciate the support and that they feel that it will enable them to function without appreciable increases in the mill rates in the coming year.

It's interesting that the mill rates — we'll get right down to those and we can go to the special levy — the increase from 1976 to 1977 was some 9.2 percent representing \$12.8 million, and the increase this year in special levy across the province is some 8.1 percent, and that represents some \$12.3 million, so in fact we are not looking at an increase to the taxpayer in that regard I would suggest. . . If we look at mill rate increases or decreases in the metropolitan area, and I have them for the whole province, but I would just look at the metropolitan area at this time: in Winnipeg No. 1, in 1977, the increase was some 4.05 mills; in 1978, the coming year, some 2.756 mills; for St. James-Assiniboia, in 1977, some 6.68 mills; and in 1978 for St. James-Assiniboia, a decrease of 1.453. Assiniboia South No. 3, and I'll not show any favouritism, in 1977 it was somewhere in the area of 7 to 8 mills, and this year is 2.597 mills; St. Boniface — the Member for Transcona can hardly wait because he knows that one is in his favour, but there has to be one out of the group, I would suggest — St. Boniface, in 1977 was a decrease of -2.6, and this year is an increase of 3.9; Fort Garry, in 1977, was .19, and this year is 3.16;

St. Vital, last year 7.16, this year .86; Norwood, in 1977 was 3.58, this year 3.07

I'll keep going because we have to get to Transcona for the member: River East, 5.48 in 1977, and in 1978 River East is 5.47; Seven Oaks in 1977 was a decrease of 1.5, and this year is an increase of 5.99, and that will no doubt I suppose effect the Member for Seven Oaks who is a taxpayer in that area; in Transcona-Springfield, in 1977 there was a decrease of 4.36 mills, and this year a very large increase of 10.58. And of course I suppose there are unique cases and unique explanations for certain extremes: Seine River, a decrease in 1977 of -1.7 and this year an increase of 1.7. I just give you those in the metropolitan area because I know that most of the members opposite have an interest in that regard.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned the fact that teachers' demands this year had been quite moderate. I would suggest to him that yes, they have been, and within the AIB guidelines as they were last year within the AIB guidelines, but I think we can appreciate that moderation on the part of the teachers who I feel act quite responsibly in this particular matter.

As far as our promise to attempt to lower the school tax for the residents of this province, I think we have made every effort we could under the fiscal circumstances to do that, and the resident homeowners advance, the tax reduction through the income tax system and of course the old age pensioners' \$100 this year for old age pensioner homeowners amounts to about some \$110 million. Last year this was \$102.6 million, and certainly there are a number of people in this province who had to pay school tax last year who, I am sure, under this particular system, will not have to carry that burden.

Someone among the honourable members opposite asked about Duck Mountain, about the mill rate there. Well, on the basis of the moneys that went out through grants to the school divisions for this coming year, their mill rate in 1978 will be 72.1 mills. In 1977, their millrate was 81.2 mills.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned something in regard to the remote schools. I would like to touch on that for a minute. He was concerned about the obvious reduction in moneys for remote schools, which changed from some \$1.381 million to \$1.070 million, and I would allay his fears in that regard, because what has happened there, that applied to three schools, I believe, last year — Falcon Beach, Hillridge and Steadman. There are some 41 students in Falcon Beach, some 207 in Hillridge, and some 355 in Steadman, and to allay his concerns there, and I appreciate that concern, we should note that on July 1st, 1977, Steadman School was transferred over to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs of the Federal Government, and as a result that is no longer the responsibility of the Provincial Government this year, and I think in large part explains the reduction in that extent.

The Premier has expressed his confidence in an education and an education in this province, and I join with him. I appreciate that expression of confidence, because I think that it's a very healthy sign, and I believe criticism at all times can be harmful. After awhile everyone thinks it becomes fashionable to criticize. I do not say that everything is well in education, there is always room for improvement, and certainly there are areas, and I am sure honourable members on the other side would not deny that there are areas that certainly can stand improvement, and I appreciate his remarks in that regard.

As far as the philosophy concerning the whole educational area, I hope this is something that we can get into more completely when we get into the Minister's salary. I think that it will become quite evident, as we proceed through the different appropriations, however, the philosophy becomes manifested in some of the programs and the way they're developed, and the way they are carried out, so I won't go into that area, at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has replied to each of the points more or less seriatim. Some of his answers I accept as matters of specifics and factual, others I am not quite ready to accept as being completely accurate, and still others are matters of opinion, of course, which cannot be easily argued as though they are matters of fact.

But to begin with, I express appreciation for the answer which reassures us that insofar as assistance to schools in remote communities that the decrease here is due to the very concrete change in administrative procedure, whereby the Federal Government is assuming or reassuming responsibility, as the case may be, for three school districts in particular that were admittedly, we felt, rather peculiar statuses between two governments. So much for that.

The reference, however, to the reading off of a list of school divisions in metropolitan Winnipeg and indicating that because the mill rate this year was increasing a little less, or not any more, with one or two exceptions than in the year before, leaves out a very important point of truth and reality. That is, that this is probably the first year maybe in a decade or close to it anyway, that because of the existence of an Anti-Inflation Board in this country, as a consequence of it, the settlements in order to be within the scope and limits of the Anti-Inflation Board, result in one of the least dramatic increases in teacher salary adjustments in many a long year. Whether that will be the case when we move into the post-Anti-Inflation Board period remains to be seen.

But because that is so doesn't detract from the fact that the provincial level of support to local school divisions is increasing this year less than in over 10 years, and that is quite a statement to be able to make; nevertheless I make it because I believe it to be true. The provincial level of support,



taken in its totality, global provincial funding for all public elementary and secondary schools in the province in percentage terms, as a percentage of total cost, taking the tax credits into full account, I don't believe will be at the 70 percent mark and it will be interesting to see, in fact, when the year is concluded, in the audited figures, whether that is going to be so.

By the way, although it is a very relatively minor matter, it's a specific, when reference is made to Duck Mountain having a mill rate of 81 mills last year, I just happen to remember, now that I think of it, that there was an adjustment to Duck Mountain School Division, and the 81 mills was the preliminary figure, for reason of the fact that the Department of Northern Affairs was not paying its full share of the load and adjustments had to be taken into consideration. I believe that a reconciling grant was in the process of being prepared to be paid to that school division, amounting to something in the order, as I recall, of \$80,000 to \$100,000, more or less. The actual mill rate figure as adjusted would certainly not be in the order of 80 mills or so, it would be something significantly less than that.

However, that is not the main point of my rising. It is to reassert once again that I for one would not be rising in my place to take issue with a new Minister with respect to the point that 4 1/2 or 5 percent increase isn't enough; I would not be making that argument, Sir, were it not for the fact that in the previous year and years when the amount of incremental support by the province to school divisions was in the order of magnitude of 8, 9 and 10 percent per annum and we had the Conservative policy statement coming out saying that there would be increased support for municipalities to reduce school taxes — let me read it again: "Increased grants to municipalities to lower school taxes." That was what was promised and that is not happening.

There are in fact no increased grants, not if you take it in relation to the amount of increase that was the case every year before in this entire decade of the 1970s. That is what the issue is, not the absolute amounts.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is pondering in his mind a reply to comments raised by my leader, I want to draw to his attention once again the comment made by him in introducing the Estimates of his department wherein he stated that he expects to continue to look closely at the department's operations in the light of the report from the Task Force on Government Organization and Economy. As I had pointed out to the Minister last week, it is quite apparent from this statement made by the Minister that the Minister is not reviewing the Task Force Report per se to see whether he is going to recommend to his government the adoption of that portion of it related to the Department of Education or not, but in fact it appears to have been accepted. Now he is looking at the operations of his department and of the education program to bring it in line with the Task Force Report, as has become apparent to us, Mr. Chairman, over the past few days while debating the Estimates and reading Pages 71 to 75 of the Task Force Report where we see much of what has been recommended already built into the departmental operations.

Now, with reference to Resolution 43, that being the case, that the Honourable Minister is reviewing the operations of his department in the light of the Task Force Report, I would like him, and I'm sure that the people of Manitoba and in particular school trustees and teachers, would welcome the Minister's comments on two or three of the recommendations, in particular the recommendation that policies be developed that will create an incentive for bringing about control in spending at both the provincial and school division levels. I think, Mr. Chairman, the trustees would be most interested to hear the types of incentives that the Minister may be considering implementing to bring about controls on spending at the school division level.

The Task Force Report also draws reference to a section of The Public Schools Finance Board Act to withhold grants to a school division, to require more efficient operations. I think, Mr. Chairman, the trustees would be most anxious to hear the Minister's thinking on this particular section, in particular the ways in which he may propose to implement this section, the guidelines that he will establish — what he will consider to be a more efficient operation, a less efficient operation, an inefficient operation — at a point that may not qualify for the receipt of grants.

So I am sure that the trustees would want the Minister to comment upon this particular section, in view of the fact that the people of Manitoba in reading the Task Force Report, can see much of what has been recommended already implemented; they would want to know if this is the next recommendation that is about to be implemented, what the Minister's thinking on these particular recommendations is.

The same recommendation goes on to read that: "Application of these powers should also be made in cases where special levies at the local level cannot be justified; that also, to impose controls upon the special levy that a school board may wish to assess itself." So that, too, I think the Minister ought to comment upon. And, the recommendation that the Finance Board should initiate a program of external management audits of school divisions, particularly to determine the reasons for operating at administrative cost increases, and to determine what has been accomplished with the additional expenditures.

I don't know whether the Minister intends to resurrect the Task Force, which apparently has been disbanded, or whether those are the sidewalk superintendents that he plans to employ for this purpose, because he did make reference to sidewalk superintendents. He did not exclude members of the Task Force, so he must have included them as being those that he was somewhat critical of. The program could set a target of reviewing two divisions per year. And then it goes on to



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recommend, and this, I think, the Winnipeg School Division and Frontier School Division would be most anxious to know, whether they are going to be the first ones subjected to this type of audit and review, as is recommended in the Task Force report.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the Task Force goes on to make some other recommendations related to school finance, but I think I'll stop at this point and give the Minister an opportunity to respond to the recommendations which I have just drawn to his attention that are contained in the Task Force report and allow the people of the province of Manitoba to learn of his thinking, of his thoughts and his plans on these particular recommendations.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister..

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I'd first of all like to respond to a couple of the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition. First of all, in respect to Duck Mountain, and he very correctly points out that the previous government had supplemented the grants that were given to Duck Mountain with a special grant of some \$110,000.00. I can so advise at this time because of the unique position, and rather different situation at Duck Mountain that we will be supplementing that as well with some \$115,000 this year.

I don't intend to go into great deal detail on the whole grant picture again, but I would mention that if we're talking about percentages, that the total government support this year, and I'm using the type of comparisons that have been used in previous years, amounts to some 74.3 percent of the total expenditures for school divisions. I understand in 1977, using the same comparisons, it was 76.5 percent, slightly higher, but then 1977 was a special year. And 1976, it was 71.7 percent. 1975, 74.3, identical to this particular year. Now I know that those percentages, by some people, may not mean very much, but they're the same type of comparisons that have been used through the years, and I would have thought that I would just throw them out at this particular time.

As far as the Member for Burrows' comments regarding the Task Force report, it's quite true, and I think I've said it about three times now, but I'll say it again, that definitely my department will be looking at those recommendations of the Task Force report. We'll be studying them and looking at the feasibility or advisability or in fact, perhaps rejecting certain recommendations in the future. As he can well understand, having served in a similar position to mine, at this particular time to sit down and give careful study to that type of recommendation is not that readily available. However, I would hope a year from now to come back and justify whatever particular recommendations that my department sees fit after careful study and consideration to adopt.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Mr. Chairman, I believe that my last intervention here insofar as appropriation 43 is concerned is to make two points. The one is to say that after all of this exchange of some forty minutes more or less between that side and this side, we have come to the rather — and one has to say in all candor — the rather interesting conclusion that there isn't much change at all in the total ratio of provincial support for public, elementary, and secondary education as a percentage of total or global cost of that in this province. And I'm not going to fault the Minister or the government for maintaining a ratio of about 74 percent, was it, in that order of magnitude, because I believe that that would be about the weighted average of the past several years. What lies behind the figures, though, is the fact that the provincial contribution has been able to stay close to the aggregate average of the last several years, by virtue of the interesting fact that the global cost of education has incremented less before this coming year than was the case in the years gone by.

Whether this is due entirely or in large part, or only in some part to the existence of the national Canadian effort of the Anti-Inflation program, is something that I believe we will have a better idea of in retrospect some few years down the road.

I'm sorry I have to say this at the risk of sounding vindictive, but while the Minister's candid statement affords me an opportunity to be equally candid in return, but there isn't much change at all, despite all the argument and contestation. The fact remains then, that the Conservative Party policy plank in the election is simply not accurate. "Increased grants to municipalities to lower school taxes" — it hasn't gone down, it certainly hasn't gone up, Sir. Not even one jilt nor tittle. Not even one percentage point. Not even half a percentage point over the average of the years of the 1970s. I quite agree that it would be stretching the point to say that we maintained it at 76 percent, although we did in some years, but the weighted average would be around 74. This government hasn't done any worse, but they have contradicted their own election promise of increased grants. Well, I leave that aside.

I want to now take up the question with the Minister since he, in the enthusiasm of the first flush of office, was reported in one or two of the local papers and because I happened to see the headline in one paper in particular, that I wouldn't just accept as gospel, I give the Minister an opportunity to tell us directly whether in fact he was correctly reported, at least in essence, when he was reported to have said that education administration was sloppy, or words to that effect, and that indeed a rather entire new direction had to be struck out toward.

In recent months, I believe in the last 18 months, we have had the benefit — some of us would call it a benefit — of an outside perspective look being taken of Canadian education by the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development, which is an international body, for the purposes of reviewing Canadian education, goals, objectives, etc. The head of Columbia University's Faculty of



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Education and a team of, I believe five or six people, did visit extensively across Canada and held interviews and meetings with people directly involved in education in our country, and proceeded then to summarize their impressions, their findings, their analyses, and publish it in the form of an OECD Report on Canadian Education Goals and Objectives.

I should like to know from the Minister if he has had an opportunity to review this report in depth and if he might then indicate whether any significant features of it he finds as being meritorious enough for adoption here, and whether he will then be providing "leadership" towards seeking some of those very self-same objectives.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, once again, reflecting on the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition and his comments regarding the percentages, I would like to remark on his suggestion that one of the reasons why we have been able to keep school taxes down this year from getting out of hand, becoming an excess burden on the taxpayer, is because costs were less this year. I would suggest to him that if he compares these figures, in 1976 the total school division expenditures were in the neighbourhood of \$340.9 million; in 1970, \$373.8, which is a difference of \$33 million.

**A MEMBER:** What year?

**MR. COSENS:** That was 1976 to 1977, a difference of \$33 million.

From 1977 to 1978, we had \$373.8 million in 1977 and in 1978 — and this is not a pure figure at this time, as he realizes, it's an estimate, but very close — \$406.7 million, again, an increase of \$33 million.

So in fact we have not been saved by the fact that school costs have not increased the same as other years; a \$33 million increase from 1976 to 1977 and a \$33 million increase, roughly, from 1977 to 1978. —(Interjection)— 373.8 to 406.7.

I would like to also remark on the election promise. I think that he is quite correct in saying that during the election, I believe it was the Premier and perhaps a number of other candidates, said that our goal would be to pay 80 percent, and of course we have fallen short of that by some 5.7 percent. However, I think in light of the fiscal situation that most people in this province realize why we were not able to realize that goal this year. I would reiterate that it is a goal that we would hope that we can meet in the future.

I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition's reference to the OECD Report. I must confess to him that I have not had the opportunity to study that particular report in any detail at all but I take his recommendation and I will certainly avail myself of the opportunity of taking a close look at the report.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Well, then, Mr. Chairman, I would simply say that I guess we have been engaging to some extent to the coaring of notes and swapping of impressions with respect to election promises. I think that the record will show that we have said in the past that we felt it was realistic to attempt to provide a provincial level of funding to the support of local government for education purposes somewhere in the range of 70 to 75 percent, that occasionally it might oscillate slightly beyond the 75 percentile but that we would regard it as a matter of commitment and undertaking to maintain it in a range by and large of 70 to 75. I believe that the records of the past several years will show that indeed it was kept in that range.

It is again perhaps only slightly vindictive on my part, but once in a while I can allow myself that, that to have promised increased grants and in fact not delivered any increase, but merely a status quo is, I think, an unfortunate example of politicians promising more than they can deliver. In the field of education the greater promise in terms that couldn't be fulfilled, was made not by this side but by the other side and I'm not faulting the Minister in person because I rather suspect that when this document was drafted it must have been drafted by the back room boys and not by someone who was to subsequently have responsibility for the Department of Education.

Then, too, I rose principally, however, to take note of this fact for the record: The Minister said, and I believe he is correct, that the figures we have before us, this is why it really doesn't pay, there is no point in prolonging this particular argument' ation much longer tonight or even this season of the year, that the global figures are still based on estimates coming in from the local boards. Now, protocol prevents me from making reference by way of name to the distinguished gentlemen, public servants who have responsibility for tabulating and exercising their best judgment in terms of the prognosis of Education spending for the year, but they happen to be sitting before us and while I have the highest of respect for their judgment and sense of balance, occasionally they have been found to be sometimes unduly optimistic and sometimes slightly pessimistic. In the long run, however, they have always been pretty close.

That being so, I can see, Mr. Chairman, that there is some possibility that the projection of \$33 million, which by coincidence is identical to last year even in the face of an 8 percent inflation rate, I can't help but feel it has got to be a little optimistic. Balancing that, however, is the fact that because of the AIB and the certain formula, the settlements that already have flowed under it, that that much is certain. Given the fact that in education, as indeed with health care, so much of the cost — by far and away the major part of the cost of delivering those public programs have to do with salaries and



wages — so that perhaps we are lucky this year, lucky in the sense that the public purse has a lesser incremental leap of demand on it than the year before or the year before or the year before that even. Whether this means that the demand is penting up for the next year and the year after is, as I say, something that remains to be seen.

I don't feel, Mr. Chairman, that I should take my seat quite yet. I want to make reference to the OECD Report. The Minister of Education; understandably, because of the press of time and events of the past two months, he says that he has not had opportunity to review it in depth. I consider it, Sir — perhaps it is showering it with excessive praise — to be an outstanding landmark document, but certainly what is different about it is that it gives us the benefit of view of independent, outside people — outside of our country — and those very same people have had an opportunity to review and analyze education systems in most other countries of the free world, the western world, and therefore unless, which I doubt very much, unless they are given to repeating the same kind of technical jargon that one sometimes finds in the field of education I rather suspect that it is precisely the kind of document which will give the Minister an opportunity to see through the eyes of others with a longer distance perspective, hopefully a perspective that doesn't avoid the forest for the trees, and perhaps also help to give the Minister a perspective as to how our educational system really stands up in comparison to other parts of the country and other parts of the free world.

Maybe I'm to dismiss it simply as the rhetoric that comes with politics and electioneering but I must say that when I heard in months gone by all kinds of descriptions of our educational systems being in a mess, administration sloppy, whether it be senior departmental or divisional I wasn't sure, but that seemed to be the reference, and that we had gone far beyond what was prudent in the way of flexibility of the curriculum and that we had virtually orphaned off the three r's, all of this left me rather astounded and just a little bit hurt, because I believe, at the risk of repeating myself, that in our modern day and age it's not a case of three r's or other forms of knowledge, but rather a case of three r's plus, and that is precisely what our schools have tried to do and I believe with considerable success.

I for one would like to go on record as regarding so many of our young people as — I've seen them in the schools — as being remarkably well aware of the larger world around them, remarkably knowledgeable of basic skills in mathematics, remarkably better informed that I believe we were at their age in science, remarkably better informed of this world, this planet and its resource limits than we were, and for all of these reasons I think that perhaps we should be less parochial and more willing to look at the OECD Report which was commissioned at some cost to look at all of Canadian education, including that of Manitoba, and see whether and to what extent we are still deficient, and what are these new goals and objectives. Well, I happen to remember some of them. It is suggested, for example, and this may shock some of the more conservative, and I don't mean necessarily those on that side of the House, but it may shock some to know or to learn that according to the OECD Report, that there is still social stratification in our country and that this reflects itself in our schools to some extent, and in the attitudes in and around those that work in the field of education.

There is a suggestion that there is still inequality of opportunity in education in our country and in Manitoba included. That is something which, I suppose, we on this side would have to bear some brunt of the criticisms since we had eight years' opportunity in which to attempt to correct it, but if there be inequality of opportunity in education it is certainly not because of a real systematic effort on our part to bring about some remedial action. Programs such as the Brandon University Northern Teachers Education Program, such as the Teacher Aid in Northern Teacher Training Program, Native Teacher Training Program, the CAP program and a number of other programs — all had as their goal and objective the bringing about of more equality of opportunity in our educational system. That, coupled with new careers, etc. — all was designed to bring about precisely the goal and objective of greater equality of opportunity.

Well, if there is still more to be done then I suggest that the Minister of Education will have some considerable burden on his shoulders in convincing others that have to be convinced of priorities such as that. But that's the view that is brought forward by those from other parts of the world who have had an opportunity to look at our educational system here and that of other parts of our country. I wish the Minister well in the time that he will have to try and work towards some of these, what I guess some would call as rather idealistic objectives, but then again unless we do strive for that I suggest we are acting overly comfortably.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 3. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, I thought the Minister was going to respond to my Leader. However, he may still want to. I would like to spend just a moment to get something clear, and I will do it in this section because this is where the money is being spent. It's in Resolution 43.

With regard to the Capital portion because they're now dealing with a combined Estimates, last year it was estimated that about \$600,000 would be spent on other Capital, that is, for renovation and repair, I notice that last year the Minister advises us \$7.5 million was spent — that would be under Schedule "B" Capital. Last year \$7.5 million was spent — we estimated about \$6 million would be spent — so an increase of \$1.5 million was spent over and above what we had thought would be spent.

In Vocational Equipment it was estimated that \$600,000 would be spent; in fact, I notice \$750,000 is spent and that's the same amount to be shown this year. I'm wondering whether, in fact, what hasn't happened is that the government, the new administration hasn't drawn down more General Purposes Capital, spent it in the 1977-78 fiscal year, the one that's just past, which increases the debt picture for



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the fiscal year just passed and going into 1978-79 in one case they're holding it at the same amount because they've already spent more last year, and in the Renovation and Repair Capital they're down \$2 million because so much of it was done in the previous year and charged to the previous year's Capital which, of course, would increase the deficit.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I have to take some issue with the Member for Seven Oaks. I don't agree with his reasoning in the area of the vocational equipment. It is quite true that the voted in 1977 was some \$750,000 — (Interjection) — my figures say that the 1977 voted was \$750,000. Our estimate for 1978 is the same figure and we have every intention of holding it at that particular level.

In the area of Other Capital it covers repairs, minor renovations and things of this nature to school buildings throughout the province. Again it is our intention to hold this to the \$5.5 million mark, and we're not accomplishing this through carry-through money I would suggest to the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks. I suppose that this becomes a problem if you try to hold these figures at this level year after year, but we would hope that in this particular year at least this will be possible.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, if I gave that impression I didn't mean it — I didn't say that they were carrying forward money. What I'm saying is they stepped up the program last year greater than what had been anticipated from \$6 million to \$7.5 million in the Other Capital so that the result is that the deficit, the draw down in general purposes Capital was greater than anticipated in this area, and by speeding up the program they were able to come up with a lower program this year, they speeded it up last year and the result it would show in the deficit for 1977-78.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, Mr. Chairman, as I understand it there is a difference of facts being stated. The Member for Seven Oaks is saying that there was an expectation of a \$6 million expenditure in renovations — that's for last fiscal year. The Minister is saying that there's an expectation of \$7.5 million in renovations. Now, he uses the word "vote", and I don't think he can use the word "vote" because I don't think there is a vote involved, so let's get it straight and let's find out the dating and let's see what is the correct amount. When was it done? Was it on one occasion? Was it in several? And how was it done? And then we can find out what the facts are.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the figures that I have, and I have every reason to believe that they are correct, indicate that in 1977 the voted sum was \$7.5 million, and the figure for this year is \$5.5 million.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, let's get something straight. I would assume that when the Minister told us that \$8.6 million of this Resolution was Capital, that this money would be Capital money — I'm assuming that — if I'm wrong I wish the Minister would indicate it so I would sit down and let him correct me.

**MR. COSENS:** This particular heading under the Foundation Program is called Capital money, it is not what I understand to be regularly called Schedule "B". However, last year for some reason that I don't quite understand some \$8.6 million was taken out of Capital Supply and put into this particular appropriation. Now, I wasn't here last year, Mr. Chairman, and I don't know why. Apparently that is a rather unorthodox action and I have no understanding of why it took place. I would suggest the gentlemen on the opposite side would have a better understanding than I do of why that particular action may have taken place, but this was B Capital that was placed under the Capital that is usually used for the Foundation Program.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, if the Minister will take a pencil and paper perhaps he can follow. He refers to \$8.6 million which is part of Schedule "B", a small part of an \$82.4 million general purposes Capital, and there was \$2 million for buses, there was \$6 million for Renovations, and \$600,000 for Vocational Equipment — \$8.6. In fact the figures supplied by the Minister today, those three categories I mentioned, add up to \$10.750 million, which means there's about \$2 million more — \$1.9 million. What I am suggesting is the \$1.9 million is spent. I am not questioning the spending of it. It's spent and it's properly spent because it's from general purposes Capital. It's properly spent. What I'm suggesting, however, is that by spending it in the last fiscal year more than anticipated you can now afford to spend less, or hold the line as you're doing in Vocational Equipment and appear on this year's Estimates to be lower.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid that there's still a discrepancy that's unexplained. Now the Minister understands that the Capital Supply moneys are not voted; the Capital Supply moneys are allocated by request of the department, and I believe by management committee, if not management committee, then the Department of Finance.

Now the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks gave us specific figures, \$6 million, \$2 million and \$600,000.00. The Minister has given us larger figures on each item and said that it came out of Capital. Now, I don't think that's correct, because he told us earlier that only 8.6 came out of Capital. So there's something to be reconciled. But the question in my mind, as a result of the Member for Seven Oaks' enquiry, was, when was the money authorized and spent? The Minister . . . -it's easy for him to say that was last year, but it so happens that 5/12ths of last year was spent under his direction. So he cannot say he didn't know, or has no access to the information. He has the access, even if it were spent prior to his time as Minister. But unless my arithmetic is wrong, he spent the last five months of the last fiscal year in direct responsibility for the department. So let's find out.

Where did the change take place between the figures given by the Member for Seven Oaks, \$2 million, \$6 million, \$600,000, and the figures given by the Minister. What was the dating, when did it take place? What was the nature of the decision?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think the problem we're having here and the point I've been trying to make with the Member for St. Johns, is in the Foundation Program there is an item called Capital, which is voted, covering bus purchasing, debt servicing, maintenance and repair of buildings and vocational equipment.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Who voted . . . where?

**MR. COSENS:** in this House. And we're going to be doing it again this year. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, and remind the member that the 8.6 came from a B Capital allotment and was transferred over into this particular Capital last year, which is to my knowledge and from the knowledge of other people who have been involved in this, is not a usual practice, it happened before I came on the scene, I don't know why it happened, I would suggest because they had not supplied enough money to handle the appropriation of the Foundation Program.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I must ask the Honourable Minister to stop speculating and to find out. He has complete access to all the information. I don't have any access to the information. I didn't have access to it when I was in the back bench sitting where some of those people are who are guffawing now, and if you think, Mr. Chairman, that they know, or have access to the information, they don't. All they know is how to sit in the back and laugh. So let's get that straight, Mr. Chairman. If those comedians - and I call them comedians because they're laughing at each other and no one else finds them amusing - if they want to keep interrupting, I want to tell them that they don't know, I don't know, and the Minister doesn't know. There is one important difference. The Minister has access to the information. The Minister knows. And for some peculiar reason these two gentlemen in the back are rising on some occasion to participate as they usually do, heehawing from the back there, but being gentlemen, I'm sure they will stop soon and let their Minister get the information that he has to give to us so that we will understand his Estimates. — (Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, while the Minister is seeking information, I must comment that the Member for Roblin, who participates in every debate from his seat and never stands, doesn't stand because he knows very well that his reputation is not very good around this House, and that therefore he better not. A man who makes a promise to give information, to produce actual facts, gave a pledge to the House and didn't keep it, is a man whose integrity is not to be accepted, and therefore, Mr. Chairman, I understand why all his greatest contribution is made while he is seated. I think the Minister may now be ready to give the answer.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, let the record show that I don't see how I could possibly get in the debates in this House because the amount of paper and the amount of time and the amount of debate the Honourable Member for St. Johns takes, I don't think it's possible for me to speak.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, on a matter of privilege of the House. It appears to me, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Roblin is complaining that the Chair does not recognize him when he wishes to speak. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that I think I can prevail on members on our side of the House not to compete with him in order to get the Chairman's eye, to give him a chance to make a positive contribution to the debate. One of the best contributions he can make from my standpoint is to keep his word.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I'll endeavour to once again clarify the situation for the Member for



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St. Johns. I apologize if the issue seems cloudy. I'm trying to make it as clear as possible. Under No. 3, Financial Support to Public Schools, 3(a) School Grants and Other Assistance, the figure shown is some \$175.4 million. Okay? Now, we arrive at that, and I think this is one of the problems, Mr. Chairman, that has arisen here, we arrive at it in rather an odd, and I would suggest, unorthodox way. Last year that \$175.4 million was not provided in the Main Estimate, \$167.7 million was provided in the main Estimates, and then a supplementary Estimate came through of 7.4 million, which gives us the \$175.4, roughly, million that we see here. Then apparently, and I'm sure the Member for Seven Oaks, having worked in this particular area at one time will understand, this was not enough money to handle the Foundation Program which we know comes to some \$184 million, I believe is the figure for the 1977 vote, so an additional 8.6 million was taken out of "B" Capital and put into this particular appropriation.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, the honourable member has made statements which are clear. Now, as I understand it, of the 8.6 million, 2 million went for buses, 6 million went for renovations, 600,000 went for vocational equipment. But the department spent more than these amounts of \$8.6 million, and all we are trying to do is to ascertain where did the authority come to spend more than the amounts totalling \$8.6 million about which the Minister gave us figures. When was that authority given? By whom was that authority given. That's all I'm asking. And that may not be a matter of record in front of them. As a matter of fact, I would guess it isn't, but still it is information that we would like to have and that is obtainable by this Minister, and by no one else other than a Treasury Bench person. So if he can't give it to us now, and I don't think he can, then let him give it to us tomorrow.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the 8.6, the Member for St. Johns, I suppose you can separate it out, but remember it becomes part and parcel of that total appropriation of some \$184.8 million. Now, out of that total, he expects us to find exactly where it was earmarked and what it was spent for. I would suggest to him that it is in this area of Capital under the Foundation Program which includes \$2.49 million for school bus purchase, in the area of debt servicing, which is some \$25 million —(Interjection)— yes, it comes under the Capital heading. In the Other Capital, which takes care of school repair, where we have some \$7.5 and under the vocational equipment, which is some \$750,000.00.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, it's clear to me that the Honourable Minister has a record of the total spending for 12 months. I think what we're trying to get from him, and what I'm trying to get from him, is that portion that was spent before he became responsible, and that portion which was spent after he became responsible for that department. I'm sure he's been responsible in many respects for many years. But he had 5/12ths of the last fiscal year in his jurisdiction, and now I would like to know, take say the school renovation program, which was supposed to be apparently \$6 million, according to the Member for Seven Oaks and grew to \$7.5 million, I'd like to know, for the Minister to tell us, how much of that was authorized prior to November 1st, and how much after. If he would rather speak on another date, like October 26th or some such date, then by all means, but let's get straight just how much was authorized and when was the authority increased from \$6 million to \$7.5 million for this item of Renovations. Now that should not be difficult. I don't claim it's in front of them, it's probably in the Treasury Board or Management Board minutes, but it's there.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, if it's possible to get these figures, and the Member for St. Johns thinks it should be very easy, then certainly I will ask my people in the department to follow through and try to find this particular type of information as it applies in this instance.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (e)—pass. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I don't want to interrupt the particular discourse, but there were some questions I had for the Minister concerning the funding in the schools and I hope he won't mind if I ask him some questions about it. My particular interest is in the funding and support the province is going to provide for special education programs in the schools, for which there should be a special number. I'm particularly concerned about the fact that it's been unclear since the new government came into power exactly what its intentions are in relation to things like Bill 58, inner city school supports, and the rearrangements of the funding form on this to take into account that there are special need areas within the province which are caused by the movements of population, the changes in styles of education, for which the local ratepayer should not be held responsible, because they really are provincial-wide movements.61-07 I think that the premise that we're working on is that the school system is not one that is a homogeneous one dealing with just simply normal, average, healthy, active children, but that there is special need in education to compensate for people who have certain deficiencies or certain kinds of needs. In particular, Mr. Chairman, I'm concerned about the statements that have been reputed to the Minister, in different speeches that he has given, concerning the freeze on the Bill 58 proposals, which were introduced in this House about three years ago now, and which dealt with the attempts to begin mainstreaming people with certain learning handicaps and special educational requirements into the public school system.

In this respect, Mr. Chairman, I think that the reports themselves indicated that the Minister does not intend to pursue the implementation of the measures under Bill 58. At least the reports indicate



that he is paralyzing them for the moment at least, and that there is no further progress being made in the implementation of Bill 58, and if I understand correctly, Mr. Chairman, as of the Estimates of last year, the stage which we had reached was one in which there had been certain grants given to the school boards, I believe about \$2,000 to each school division, to begin looking at needs under Bill 58.

I understood from the questions I raised with the former Minister of Education, that there was going to be a substantial change this year because many School Divisions had already completed the planning phase of their work and were now beginning to move into stages where they were going to do screening of potential applications under Bill 58, and that there was going to be a requirement for substantial improvements in the facilities of schools, the need for special education of teachers to deal with children with different kinds of learning disabilities, and that that was going to require a substantial extra aggregation of dollars to provide for those needs. I think it would be important, Mr. Chairman, for the Minister to elaborate exactly what he intends to do with the implementation of Bill 58, and how he sees himself carrying forward the mandate or stewardship of that particular Bill that was passed by this House, and what he intends to do to assist those school divisions which have reached the stage where they now want to bring the implementation of Bill 58 into a more active force than it has been up to the present moment.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Fort Rouge, I believe that I spoke at some length on this topic just before we broke at the dinner hour. I hesitate to refer him to that particular Hansard, but I think I will, and suggest that if there are further questions that he wishes to discuss, if he doesn't find the answers that he's looking for in that particular set of comments that I have put together on that special needs area, that perhaps he could bring them up again under, well, when we get down to 4.(j), for instance, or again in the Minister's salary, because I did cover this topic extensively before the dinner hour, although there was one aspect of it I didn't finish.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like, in fact, to finish that off at this time, if I could. I appreciate the Member for Fort Rouge bringing the topic up again. And the topic that I refer to was the complete provincial funding for special needs and special education and I have gone through this, more or less highlighting the areas and the financial commitment of the government in the different areas. I mentioned that under the Foundation Program grants that some \$4.162 million has been set aside in that particular area for resource teachers, TMH and EMH teachers for special ed. co-ordinators or school psychologists, that amounts to some \$4,162,000.00.

And under the grants to divisions for services and programs and the institutional services and the child guidance clinic, the support for the core type of program that we have in one portion or several portions of the province, the Gladstone Oral Deaf program, and so on, within those two appropriations which fall within 3.(a) and 3.(e), another \$2,038,000.00.

Under the School for the Deaf and the Child Development Support Services, another \$3,108,000.00.

The school divisions also contribute to this program, and what I'm trying to give, Mr. Chairman, is a global picture here of the moneys that are going into the special education area, and as I said before we broke for dinner today that certainly I'm not implying that this is a great amount of money or that it is enough money, I'm just stating the picture as it now exists. The estimated school division contribution, and again that's a payment of resource teachers and teachers of the trainable mentally handicapped and the educational mentally handicapped, special ed. co-ordinators, and psychologists is some \$4,375,000.00.

Now those areas fall mainly within education, with the exception of the School Board Budgets. On top of that, if we're looking at total government funding, the Department of Health and the Department of Corrections also have imput here to the extent of another \$1,253,000.00.

Now the grand total of those different sums that I have put forth under these headings, Mr. Chairman, is very close to \$15 million, and of course I would reiterate that of that amount some \$4,375,000 is paid by School Boards, so a total funding, and this is an increase in funding totally in the whole special education area over the amount of funding that existed last year. And I am very pleased, Mr. Chairman, to have the opportunity to complete that project that was interrupted by the dinner hour. I would hope that . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** He made reference to the \$9 million — the \$3 million plus whatever the total up to about \$9 million, and then I am not going to ask him about the Department of Health portion of it because he may not be able to answer me — but with specific reference to his own department, is he giving us new dollars put into these programs in this fiscal year, or does that include the amounts that had been appropriated by the previous administration in the past fiscal year?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm giving the estimate totals for this particular year coming 1978-79.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, that is not my question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The Honourable Minister. Would you care to finish your statement?



**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I think I can answer the Member for Burrows. I believe his concern is, are these new dollars? The answer is, "Yes, they are new dollars."

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

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I apologize to the Minister for having him repeat a question. I was not in the House when he made the statement and I will look at his remarks to see if they cover all the concerns I have in this particular area.

I am interested, though, in his later statements, when he said that the some \$15 million he is talking about for the Child Guidance Clinic, and special programs, now these are programs that have already been in existence. The Oral Deaf program in Gladstone school has been in operation now for, I guess, almost three years. Certainly the Child Guidance Clinic has been around for a great number of years, and the School for the Deaf has been available, now is he saying that the moneys he is talking about are over and above those programs? In other words, taking the base year of 1977-78 that we're talking about moneys of \$9 million or \$15 million above those, or can he tell us is an increment being added to them to maintain their operation, or will there be any further development or enhancement of the implementation beyond the state or stage that it had reached last year?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I think again I covered this before the dinner hour, but I will go back to it for the benefit of the Member for Fort Rouge. I think the area that he is most concerned with is probably an area where there was some \$700,000 spent last year in implementation, initiation and development grants. That follows under 3.(a). This year we are spending some \$300,000 and at the time we covered this before the dinner hour I went into an explanation of the reason for that particular change, and that is contained in the explanation I gave at that time. I would commend it to the Member for Fort Rouge, and if he has further questions when we get to 4.(j) Child Development Support Services, I would be pleased to go into it once again.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I will leave that topic, as I will want to read the Minister's remarks carefully, especially when he says he has improved the program by going from \$700,000 to \$300,000 — it will be interesting to see how that's been an improvement, but I will be curious to find out how that particular financial legerdemain works out, but I'll wait for that magic moment until I get a chance to read it.

Now let me go on, and if I'm covering topics that were also discussed before 5:30, then he can tell me. I'm also interested in the kind of support that the Provincial Government is offering for the development of schooling in the Inner City of Winnipeg. The problem that has emerged in particular in that area is the large number of children migrating in from other parts of the province, into the central part of the city, that many of these children come in with substantially different language qualities — they come in from very different cultural backgrounds — their ability to make it or break in the school system is severely limited. The signs or symptoms of that are two-fold: one is the enormous transient rate, sometimes averaging 70, 80 or sometimes close to 100 percent, in something like 27 or 28 of the Inner City schools. The transient rate of children is above 50 percent, and that is simply a symptom of the fact that many of the children are not receiving an education. They are really just receiving a form of custodial care during that period of time, and the reason for that is that many of the children coming in do not have the kind of appropriate language skills or educational skills to enable them to make it into the regular-run system or the mainstream of the school system. And, therefore, the obvious need has been for substantial remedial work.

I noticed in the previous remarks of the Minister in Hansard, that he indicated that he was transferring responsibility for some of the Inner City programs, in the sum of \$238,000, I believe, that was formerly carried under his appropriations, that they will be transferring that to the Winnipeg School Division. My understanding of that is that's a one-year shot, and I'd like to know if there is any further commitment beyond simply transferring the funds for this one year for the special Inner City programs that he is talking about? Actually, I shouldn't call them programs, they simply were consultants or organizers of these programs, and there is really no additional money that is going in to expand and develop the capacity of the Inner City Schools to deal with what is becoming a very important and substantial educational issue in the province.

I am thinking, in particular, Mr. Chairman, again of the debates in the Winnipeg School Division about the implementation of community school programs. If I recall those divisions themselves, they feel that they can't pursue the community school programs, in fact, may have to cut back on them, simply because there is no assistance from the province. The point I would like to come to really is this: that under the formulas that will be applied to the funding of schools, to what degree is the province prepared to consider realigning the formulas under which funds are granted to take into account special needs? I would refer to him the kind of programs being implemented in the City of Toronto, for example, where Inner City schools there receive, under the grant programs, special appropriations based on the fact that the income levels in certain parts of that school division are lower than provincial averages, that there is substantial changes in the population, that there is a degree of in-migration, that there are families coming in from overseas — coming in with very different languages — and that there is a real problem of poverty in those schools that has to be dealt with in a special educational way.

And I haven't really seen any indication as yet from the government, that (a) the problem is



recognized, and (b) that they are going to try to redesign the school funding formula to take account of that particular issue, and if there is some interest and inclination for doing that I would certainly be more than interested in learning how, because within my own constituency there are a couple of schools faced with those conditions, and that they are really, at this point in time, not able to receive any particular additional support for implementation of remedial programs or for the development of community school programs to respond to these changes. I would ask the Minister if he could enlighten us as to what his intentions are in this area?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks of the Member for Fort Rouge and I appreciate the concerns that he is bringing forth at this time.

I would once again mention that we have covered some of these areas a little earlier, in regard to some of the programs that applied in the core area, that will be transferred hopefully to the Winnipeg Division and funded through provincial support, and I would see no reason to believe that if these are viable programs and evaluation indicates that they are so, that this support would not continue.

I would also mention to the Member for Fort Rouge, that there is a special grant that falls under Other Grants in 3.(a) called the Winnipeg Special, which suggests, I think, that it is dealing with special situations, and it is geared accordingly to the core area programs, and recognition of the special needs of that particular area, and that grant, I would suggest to honourable members opposite is some \$1 million. This year it is \$1,200,000 and the \$200,000 taking into consideration the transfer of some three or four programs to the Winnipeg division.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, on that last point, I would like to point out to the Minister that the \$1 million of Winnipeg special funding is exactly the same amount that was applied last year, and that the extra \$200,000 is simply a transfer of staff man years from the Department of Education to the Winnipeg School Division, and that they were under a former appropriation so what I would gather from his remarks is there has not been any additional funding for these programs. To compare that to the fact that the Winnipeg School Division itself in its community school study indicated that there are I think three or four community schools now operating and that the need is probably to implement about ten others translates into the fact that that program will not be able to proceed or go ahead under the particular formulas or transfers that are now being made. I do come back to the point that I'd like to raise with him about the need to look at a new funding formula for these kinds of schools so that you can take into account, and I think in particular this way, Mr. Chairman. I think there is a degree of unfairness to the property taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg because they are being asked increasingly to support special educational programs relating to the inner city schools, even though the problem is a provincial-wide one. The children coming in to that particular area of the city are coming from all over the province or coming from out of province and they happen mainly for economic reasons to settle in the central part of the city. So the central part of the city is becoming the cash fund area for a number of special needs in education simply because it happens to be in the area where there is lower income housing and conditions where these groups tend to settle when they first arrive in the city. Unfortunately, what happens is that the Winnipeg School Division is therefore being asked to bear more than, at least in my opinion, its fair share of the cost for what really is a provincial-wide, provincial level problem because they are dealing with children settling in from all over the province. It would seem to me that that really requires additional kinds of changes in the formula so that you're not living from a year to year grant and sort of negotiating over the small dollars and cents, but that recognition is built into the formula itself, the funding formula, the Foundation formula, so that there can be proper planning in anticipation of those problems on the part of school division officials. And if they know they've got some security of funds they simply don't have to go back to their own ratepayers every year and ask them to substantially increase their own property taxes simply to respond to those problems.

I would want to say, Mr. Chairman, I think the Winnipeg School Division itself has done a pretty good job in doing so. I think to its own credit that it has been prepared to go ahead and enter into some of these programs simply because it recognizes the need. But I don't believe that it's being supported to the extent that is necessary by the provincial Department of Education in partnership in responding to these particular kinds of conditions.

When the Minister indicates that he has some evaluation going on, I'd be very interested to know what kind, and by whom and where. What exactly and how does he intend to evaluate the situation in inner city schools — is it a formal evaluation program, or is it something he is simply going to ask the School Division 1 to give some answers on. Perhaps he could tell us how he intends or really what is in place now to assess the needs of these schools so that we can come up with a more decent and equitable formula in the future.

**MR. COSENS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would suggest to the Member for Fort Rouge that a special grant of \$1 million is not inconsequential certainly in dealing with programs of this nature but by the same token I am not in a position to remark on what would be the appropriate sum. I understand this is the amount of money that has been used in the last year or two for this particular grant whether the populations that it is serving are increasing or decreasing, whether these problems are increasing or decreasing is something that I do not have knowledge of at this time. That type of capability within the department was not apparent to me when I came into that responsibility. I would hope now that we have external administrative support unit people out in the province and available to monitor some of these activities, that that type of feedback will come to me and I will be in a better



position to help assess this type of situation.

By the same token, Mr. Chairman, I would assure the Member for Fort Rouge that school divisions that have programs of this nature and have them ongoing and have them operating, that liaise with the department concerning these programs will find that we are certainly sympathetic to what is happening there and I would hope in a position financially to support worthwhile programs that are ongoing in the community.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, let me take advantage of the expression of sympathy that the Minister has given us and provide him of an example of how the ability of the schools to respond to a problem is stymied by the lack of any available support or any indication of support. There is a school in my constituency which in the next five or six months will have built right next to it a new housing program which will bring in about 140 children, primarily low income children, and I expect if it follows the standard of other public housing projects, a number of them will be from single parent mothers and therefore the school itself has special conditions it must meet. A meeting was held to discuss the situation and we met with officials from Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation who are the sponsors of the project and pointed out to them that the addition of 120 children right next to that school will put enormous burdens on both the classroom space, the recreation space and on the school facilities. We wanted to know if there was going to be any ability through provincial sources to respond to this situation, that rather than having the school swamped or having it go into particular kinds of emergency conditions, would there be some ability of the school, Manitoba Housing, recreation departments, to work out a program where the facilities available to that school, perhaps the addition of a playroom or some additional space in the school, so that there would be community space for the children to use, where there would be additional space in the school for community purposes, where some extension of educational purposes would be available. We were told flatly that there was no such program available nor any ability to respond and that we were simply going to have to take it or leave it, and it was put up either you take the housing and forget it or we'll pull the housing back.

Now it seemed to me what we were simply saying is in this day and age of 1978 we were still using a 1950 style planning and implementation. We're going to simply lodge a major housing program without recognizing that it has enormous and significant impact on the school itself, and yet there was no ability to respond to that in any kind of way. And yet it was quite apparent that there was going to be special conditions in that school raised. I simply use that as an example, it's not an isolated one, it happens all the time.

Similarly, Mr. Chairman, in the case where a number of the inner city areas, there is tremendous pressure being put on day care facilities to find new space. Many of the churches which previously supplied space no longer do and I can name three major day care programs in the inner city of Winnipeg which are basically having to go out and find, if they are going to continue, some form of commercial space at enormous prices, prices that will be picked up I suppose — well I don't know who will pick them up because there isn't enough under the day care program to manage it.

When they got into discussions about the joint use of schools, again I think the school board officials indicated an interest and a willingness but there wasn't any way of doing it in terms of using those facilities again. There wasn't any planning or development going on in terms of how do you change or alter the facilities to respond to that particular problem. And yet it's again very apparent that there is a close and abiding connection between child care in this city and the use of the schools. And so we have a stated policy about joint use but there is no way of implementing that policy, there is just simply no wherewithal to make it work. It seemed to me that we are not in any intelligent and effective way looking at what's going on in the inner city of Winnipeg, we're not looking at the kind of children who live there or the kind of appropriateness of the educational programs. Rather we're assuming there is a kind of standard program that may make some adjustment on the edges but we're not really designing the educational programs to take into account the conditions and characteristics of the communities in which they exist nor the kind of children that live there.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, I go one step further. The community educational needs, I can again recount just again my own experience in my own area, where there is a very strong demand for educational programs on the part of senior citizens, which to my mind should be incorporated into the school system. Everyone is beginning to become a little concerned about the increasing number of people in the population who are retiring early or reaching the age of 65, still have a great deal of zest and energy and capacity, who want to put that to work and find places for doing it. Education and re-education is one of the major areas of doing it and again when you look at the opportunities they are very, very few, almost non-existent in this city. And yet that is becoming one of the major conditions that exist in the inner city of Winnipeg. Now it strikes me that you don't need to do an awful lot more monitoring to know that those exist. Those conditions have been around for a while and I am very surprised to hear the Minister say that he wasn't aware that there was anyone in his department who knew anything about them. I would ask the question — why not? What's the Department of Education been doing if it hasn't been coming to grips with that particular issue, which frankly I consider — (Interjection) — Well, whatever happened to them?

It is without question of a doubt, a serious and critical educational problem in the Province of Manitoba, the enormous pressures being put on in terms of inner city schools by the major changes going on in the population in that area and the pressure it's putting on the schools. It is fundamentally altering the ability of the schools to provide proper education and many of them will simply admit that they can't do anything more than provide a degree of custodial care because their educational



programs aren't designed to fit those needs.

I can only suggest, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, if there is no one in the department at this point in time who is cognizant any of those problems, then we'd better find them pretty quick and I'd be more than pleased to supply him with all the information he needs within the next day or so that he can get busy on it and not wait another year to respond to the problems.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the Member for Fort Rouge brings up two or three rather interesting areas and I would hasten to assure him that I am sure we have people in the department with the capability of consulting with the School Division in question on these particular need areas. In all fairness to the previous administration, I would suggest that they were doing some of this too, and I would also assure him that if the school division in question has programs or requires programs in that area and proceeds to approach the department, that we would be more than willing to work with them to some dissolution of the problem. I am sure that this has been going on to a certain extent. The Member for Fort Rouge suggests that it has been very peripheral, that it hasn't been very effective nor has it been meeting the needs as he sees them. If that is the case then more has to be done in that particular area. That certainly has not been the message that I have been receiving from any particular school division to this point. When we receive that particular message then we will certainly respond to it and be prepared to work with them to some solution of the problem.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I would suggest again to the Minister that sometimes in the great world of public affairs, it's not always the school divisions which are going to bare those messages to you. I guess that's why we have a provincial Legislature.

**MR. COSENS:** Why not?

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, he wants to know why not. Because I think in many cases there is a certain degree of inertia in the recognition of those problems, that the school divisions themselves have their own particular internal politics that are being played and that if you look at the history of funding within the City of Winnipeg for the last seven or eight years, both on the city side and the school board side, you will find that the ratio of expenditures is highly biased towards the outer areas and not to the inner areas. I would only have to refer him to the Capital Budgets; if he looks at the kind of Capital Budgets in the schooling that is going on, you will see a tremendous discrepancy in those kinds of areas.

But the point is that we have a Provincial Department of Education and I think it is just as important to respond to the messages that are received across the floor because in many cases they may be coming in in a more direct way than through the divisions. I won't labour the point because I think that the Minister obviously has had a lot of things that he has had to contemplate in his short tenure so far and I would only perhaps stand notice that this is a problem that is not peripheral by any means and I didn't mean to impute that; I think that it is central to what is happening in education in the province. I think there is a tremendous breakdown in many parts of the educational system, not for lack of effort on the parts of teachers or school division officials or anything else, it is just that we haven't really come up with the appropriate kind of schooling approach. One of the reasons we haven't is that the funding system in itself has been a little bit of a straitjacket, that because, as the Minister well knows, when jurisdictions rely upon a high proportion of their funding from other levels of government, they tend to tailor their programs to meet those criteria. Until we are able to adjust the funding formulas for schools to make it more flexible and more responsive and not simply have the school divisions responding to what they see as the perceived criteria of the school division, then you will not have the same degree of imagination and creativity in these areas.

I would also caution that I am not saying that it is a cheap way of doing it but I would say that it is cost-wise in the long run because I would bring to his attention a study by the city police department which shows that if you want to look at correlations — it is a good statistical way of looking at things — that the highest proportion of delinquency or those who are arrested or apprehended for delinquent actions, are those who have run into a severe degree of trouble in the schools, that they have left school, become discipline problems or whatever it may. When you trace that one step further, the school divisions tried a delinquency program a couple of years back, they found out that oftentimes it wasn't that kids were just naturally bad and were just kind of mean, miserable characters in the schools, that oftentimes they were leaving the schools at grade nine, because oftentimes the language barrier was very intense. You know, if you were coming in and you have been speaking, for example, a native Indian tongue all your life and have only used English in a very partial way and you arrive in a school division or a school that gears its educational needs to fairly kind of middle-class English standards that we have all been raised on, fortunately, and you were only understanding one out of two or three words that the teacher is speaking, it doesn't take you very long to get restless, to say, the hell with it, I'm getting out of here, what's the point in sticking around. And that is what is going on. So if you want to look at a lot of the kids who are inhabiting Headingley Jail and the juvenile delinquency institutions, you can relate a part of it to the inability of the schools to respond to that problem. I'm not putting the blame — because I am closely related to one of the teachers working in those areas so I know the kind of effort that many of them go through. It's an enormous effort but they get burnt out pretty quickly and they oftentimes feel frustrated by the degree of rigidity in the school



system of not being able to develop the kind of approach in the schools that would enable them to respond to it.

And the successes in those areas — I think there was an enormously successful program that went on in the Hugh John Macdonald school dealing with Portugese and Italian children, incorporating double-language programs in those areas so that they could move the transition. But in speaking to the principals and vice-principals of those schools, as I did last year, they said that again it was kind of a one-shot effort; it's not a continuing ongoing kind of commitment that has to be made. Again, the feeling is that there just isn't the way of designing the programs to approach it.

So I won't labour it any more than to give those examples and say that I would sincerely urge the Minister and his department to put that as the number one priority in terms of looking at what needs to be done in education. I think if we don't do something about it, respond to it, that it will become the source of all kinds of increasing problems that will show up in the fields of corrections and health and everywhere else. I don't think you can solve all the problems through the schools, but the schools are a very instrumental part of any response to the inner-city conditions and I think that they could play a very effective role if they can get both the wherewithal and the right approach incorporated.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

**MR. BOYCE:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can say, "Amen" to what the Member for Fort Rouge has just said because his problems are my problems in this area. But I would ask the Minister perhaps to take two questions as notice because I really don't know where the funds lie. There were two programs, and I draw them to the Minister's attention at this time, speaking about, you know, financial assistance to the divisions.

One of them was a program relative to vandalism prevention in the schools and I really don't know whether the funds were allocated through the Department of Education Winter Works, or that special grant that went to the school division. The Minister may recall that there was a program last summer . . . —(Interjection)— The Member for Seven Oaks says it is under Student Employment. Well, I would suggest to the Minister if he would perhaps take a look to see that . . . with the reduced number of students who are going to be employed, I think he would be well advised to continue this program because there wasn't a serious case of vandalism in the city schools last year and there already has been an incident this year and with idle hands getting into mischief, I suggest we might have a long, hot summer in this regard.

There was another program — I'm sorry I can't recall just exactly where the funds were — I think it was in the grant that went to the school division — it was relative to some of the problems that the Member for Fort Rouge was referring to relative to truancy in that a small group of people who had had difficulty finding employment were employed to develop a relationship with some of the inner city schools so that when little Johnny or Susan didn't appear at his school, he went and dug him out of bed. It was having some effect; it was a modest program but nevertheless I think it was effective in that it got some of these people actually attending school on a regular basis.

The Minister referred to funding of the Child Guidance Clinic. In responding to that suggestion that they will continue this level of funding, you know, this place has been in existence for quite some time. It has been understaffed, underpaid, underappreciated, everything else, and the money that is spent in this particular area is really not spent in my use of the word spending, because it is an investment. The benefits for that particular program come back just astronomical — a hundredfold would be understating it, I would think, Mr. Chairman. But here the Minister would be well advised to take the words of caution of the Member for Fort Rouge because the inner city is rotting at the rate of four blocks a year. The Legislative Assembly, for example, is in part of this area and if you look around from Main Street . . . —(Interjection)— Well, I could play with that one for a while but it is too late, Mr. Chairman. In this area, part of it is Fort Rouge and part of it is Winnipeg Centre, and the exodus of people who are of modest income has continued over the last several years so that in this particular area you have units — there is an article in the Free Press today about an elderly couple living for 25 years in one particular building on the third floor, paying a hundred and some odd dollars a month rent — but nevertheless we have places like this, suites that rent for \$1,000 a month — there is a great discrepancy in the income level of this area.

The Leader of the Opposition referred to the stratification of the school system. For those of us who have lived and worked and taught in the city school system it is becoming almost desperate in some areas, because the educational system is not just a language difference, it is a total cultural difference. We had a large influx of Italian people, other than the native people that the Member for Fort Rouge has mentioned, this is a continual influx of people from the reserves and from northern Manitoba and rural Manitoba, but we've had a large influx of Italian people into the City of Winnipeg, followed by a great number of Portugese and lately we have about 10,000 Phillipine people living in the City of Winnipeg. I have argued for years — I guess it was having been in government for a while — I thought it was a Federal responsibility also because the Federal Government, they fund the Citizenship Council and a few other things. But nevertheless, I don't think that it should fall on the school divisions themselves because there is a great difficulty with the families that come into a city like Winnipeg or any urban area in the United States or Canada, it is quite comparable, they come from different cultures and it isn't just the three R's that they have difficulty in learning, it is the parents are faced with their children and families growing up in an entirely different milieu than in which they were raised and it is almost a social worker problem rather than an educational or pedagogical problem.



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While the Minister has advised us that this is all that he was able to get from his colleagues for allocation to Education, and I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that I don't think he was one of the authors of the Conservative Party platform during the election relative to education, but with the two programs, Mr. Chairman, I would encourage the Minister to see that they don't fall down some crack. The Deputy Minister of Corrective and Rehabilitative Services has, I'm sure, the documentation relative to this because with the Vandalism Program there were four parties involved in it. There was the Winnipeg School Board, the City of Winnipeg, the Province and the Winnipeg Police Department. So the thing is well documented just exactly what happened on that.

But on the truancy problem, you know, it is a little bit late in the year to start worrying about truancy, but nevertheless come September it is surprising the number of youngsters who aren't in school. It is well over 1,000 on any particular day in the whole City of Winnipeg, the last figures to which I had access.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, I would just point out through you, Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Fort Rouge, the old Montcalm School on the corner of Tecumseh and William was turned over — the old facility was turned over as a day-care centre a couple of years ago and it is operated between the school division and the Health Sciences Centre, so inroads have been made in working out some of the problems there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Clause 3—pass - the Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume that this is the section where school transportation grants are covered and in this respect I was wondering if the Minister could clarify whether in fact there is a difference in the type of school transportation grants given to urban school districts as opposed to rural school districts. Could you clarify whether in fact there is a difference in the grants?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, in regard to transportation, the regulations here, of course, do differ between cities, towns and villages and rural areas. Students outside of town, city and village boundaries are transported to school depending on the distance they live from their particular school, whereas in the cities and so on, the transportation is only provided for children with special needs.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Yes, in that connection I think we do have some particular problems that I think should be considered by the Minister. Earlier this afternoon I had raised the problem of some schools being overutilized and some schools being underutilized and this occurs because it's difficult to project what the exact enrolment is going to be. You might be out one or two years and yet you have a Capital structure there in place, and this problem arises usually in school districts which are urban where you're having some growth taking place — either an urban centre in rural Manitoba, or more likely a city school district — and in this connection I think that there would be far less pressure on school districts to meet the projected need as put forward by land developers and housing builders for a new sub-division if they felt that somehow they could wait and see what the actual situation is that develops, and in the interim bus children to schools in the older parts of the city or they older parts of the school district which, in many respects, are being underutilized.

So I would hope that there would be some consideration given to the whole question of transportation grants for urban school divisions to better make use of the existing Capital facilities in place in a school district. I know that that is certainly a problem in the school district in my constituency, and I think it's probably a problem in the Winnipeg School Division No. 1. I'm certain that there are schools that are being underutilized while at the same time there are schools that are bursting at the seams. So I think that some utilization of internal bussing would be beneficial, would save us money, and would secondly prevent a school district in being caught in the horribly embarrassing position of having white elephants strung out in new sub-divisions that really haven't taken off.

Secondly, I think that there should be some greater controls put on the provision of transportation grants for rural sub-divisions and for rural school districts. What's been happening in rural Manitoba is that there is this pressure for people to proceed with strip development and I see that the Minister, who is, I guess, Chairman of the Committee on Land Uses here, and I think this is a problem that they will have to deal with, and that is the strip development taking place. People want suburban land, they want their five acre or ten acre plots and they buy land along road allowances and they have it strung out and if you have more than three or four people on a road that have children going to a school you send a bus up there and you pick up children. And the problem with that is that it is horribly expensive, I think. It's a horribly inefficient way of providing access to school facilities for children.

And although people like that rural type of life I think that we have to look carefully at what the implications will be on an operating side, for not only the school district but for the municipality as well, because when people get caught in that position they find that their taxes start going up and



they start complaining and they blame government for the problem when, in fact, the problem is of their own creation. It is very difficult providing the same level of services or the same accessibility to schools that people formerly living in urban areas, who have gotten use to this type of service, and it's difficult providing that type of level of service to them when they pursue strip development in constituencies like Springfield — the one adjacent to Transcona, for example — I've noticed that that is a large problem. It's a problem in St. Andrews as well — St. Clements — and I think that that's something that we're going to have to look at very seriously because it's something that is absorbed in part by the general taxpayer of Manitoba, and I would hope that the Minister would take those two points under advisement and reconsider providing some types of urban transportation grants to city school districts if they're trying to maximize the utilization of their existing facilities.

And thirdly, he should review the extent to which transportation grants are given to rural school districts if they do not, and their municipalities do not, or the municipalities in which they exist, do not undertake a sounder physical planning, land-use planning, and try and prevent themselves from getting caught in the horrible situation of very high operating costs.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the remarks from the Member for Transcona. His first topic, of course, deals rather closely with the one he mentioned this afternoon, which is the problem, of course, of providing new school facilities in growth areas and the matter of projecting so that these buildings will be fully utilized not only for five or ten years but for more years than that hopefully. As we all know the investment is considerable and to build a building that will only last or be utilized for some ten years is hardly a very profitable enterprise. I can assure him that this topic of bussing to try to overcome some of these problems in facility utilization is one that we have been considering and will be considering at some length. There are other jurisdictions that have been using this partial answer to the problem and I think it would be worthwhile to take a very careful look at what some of the repercussions of that type of program have been in those areas.

On the surface it would appear like an easy answer to a problem. I would suggest to the Member for Transcona from what I can gather it isn't always the easiest answer — I see the Member for Seven Oaks shaking his head — I believe he has looked into this area also but, nonetheless, there is certainly some merit and it is certainly worthy of consideration.

The other problem that he mentions, of course, is much broader than the whole area of education — the movement of people from the urban area out into the rural. The idea of limiting this and so on somehow smacks of infringing on the basic freedom of the individual in this country to live more or less where he wishes. The fact that he is prepared to pay more for that privilege in the way of taxes, I think may counterbalance to some extent the fact that the services that have to be supplied in those cases are also a little more expensive. I agree that it's a rather frightening thing if you look around the large cities in this whole country and see what's happening, not only from an education point of view because it does put certain stresses and strains on the educational systems outside the cities — in that 30 mile or 40 mile perimeter outside most of the major metropolitan areas — but for many other basic reasons as well that have to do with town planning and all of the other topics that tie into that whole broad area.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member for Transcona bringing these two points before us. I think they certainly are areas that government generally is going to have to look at. I hope they don't look at it after the fact because that's too late and certainly will cause all sorts of human harm and with all sorts of other connotations that are very undesirable, so I would thank the Member for Transcona for bringing these to our attention.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to pass comment on the Minister's statement that restrictions on rural transportation grants may, in fact, constitute a form of government infringement on peoples' right to live out in exurbia in a sense. The difficult problem with that is the local person choosing to live out in exurbia is not footing the entire cost of that decision; it's the general taxpayer of Manitoba who foots that in part through the transportation grants, and when we are in a period where user fees are being brought in for public transportation in urban centres then I think that maybe — although I'm not a great fan of user fees generally — maybe in this particular instance, because really it's a nice way of life for those few individuals who can in a sense afford exurbia, but if they want to pay the full cost of it, fine; if they expect some other people to subsidize a good portion of it, and I would suggest that this is going to be an increasing cost as opposed to a declining cost because not only do people want good collection of school children in a sense they also want garbage collection, they want police protection, they want fire protection, they want a whole bunch of other things — telephones, hydro, a whole bunch of other services equal to the city services — frankly, I think are horribly expensive to provide to a very diffused population.

The other matter I wanted to raise in this connection was whether, in fact, the schooling nutrition program fell in this appropriation. Just for the record the Minister has said yes, it does fall into this appropriation. What was the level of the school nutrition program last year? Who did it apply to and was it a grant to a particular school division and what is its present status this year?

**MR. COSENS:** Last year, Mr. Chairman, some \$169,600 was spent on the school nutrition program. This particular year we have budgeted \$169,600 for that program, and I understand that I will have to return the particular award that CBC gave me — I believe it was an Oscar — for supposedly taking the



food out of children's mouths. I would suggest that I can return that award to them now because that was not a correct assumption on their part.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, you know, I think that on the basis of the Honourable Minister's response I think he's entitled to give them back 92 percent of that award and perhaps keep 8 percent of it in the light of the fact that the present grant this year doesn't allow for the 8 or 9 percent inflation that certainly is occurring this year and, even in the particular case of milk, for example, we're all aware that the price of milk is going up, so I think the Minister probably deserves 8 or 9 percent of the award but certainly not any more.

At the same time I understand then that that is a grant that is provided by the Department of Education to Winnipeg School Division No. 1. It is not, as the Task Force suggests, going to be administered by the Department of Health and Social Development at least for the purposes of these Estimates that we are considering right now. As far as I could tell the school nutrition program consisted of a school lunch program. I assume that that's what the program consisted of — is it breakfast — could he describe the program a wee bit because I do think that this is an important area.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, as I understand the program I don't think it was the same program in all situations but basically it started out as a breakfast program in areas where the feeling was that children were being sent to school without any breakfast. That, of course, has applied in all of our homes at some time if we've had teenagers who have a tendency to rush out of the house sometimes without adequate — but we are talking, and I'm talking quite seriously, Mr. Chairman, about younger children who were coming to school from homes where they had not been provided with any nourishment in the morning and, as I understand it, the school nutrition program was providing some form of breakfast. Now whether this extended into a lunch program, as I've had some indication it has in some areas; this, I don't think is a general factor — it varies from school to school in situation to particular situation.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Thank you. I thank the Minister for his response. I frankly don't think that this program is sufficient. I think it was a good start. I think it got people aware of some of the problems in this area, but I do think that we need more education in the whole area of nutrition, and I think we especially need it with children, I think there is a great tendency for children to want to drink a Coke instead of milk, and that's the problem with a lot of us. It's a problem with older people but certainly I think the best place to provide better education on this is in schools and I would have hoped that the Department of Education would see fit to do some work in this particular area. I don't think the development of school nutrition education programs that are somewhat better than we have had in the past is something that really is a great expenditure. I think that the value to society from this type of social investment that government makes is very high indeed although it frankly is difficult to quantify the exact benefits, but I think the benefits to society would be very great from doing some innovative work in this particular area. I do think that some innovative work was being done by the Health Education and Social Policy Cabinet Committee which was made — what was it, unoperational or inoperational — by the new administration.

So, I would hope that not all the files have been destroyed, in fact people look at some of the studies that were being done, especially by a person called Dr. Zak Sabry, and that the department will look into those studies that were being done and would think about undertaking some educational programs so that we might see something forward possibly through the course of the year or certainly no later than next year's estimates.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we pass this item I wanted to get clarification on a point that the Honourable Minister made this afternoon, and that was in the amount of some \$11.6 million recoverable from Canada. I believe he did itemize that amount and one of the items in that list I believe was one covering Bilingual Education. Can the Minister confirm that and tell me what the amount was again?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** I'll have to take a minute to find that in my book. Mr. Chairman, the bilingualism recovery from Ottawa was some \$2,900,000.00.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I then refer the Minister's attention to the next page, appropriation 4.(g), where there is another amount recoverable from Canada of \$1.233 million. Could the Minister reconcile these two items for me and tell me if there is any duplication there or why they're split, and just what the difference is?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for St. Vital, the item that he refers to is covering school grants for French Francais programs, for immersion programs, and for French core programs. The bilingualism term used here I suppose is a misnomer in the way I am using it here, it



should be grants for French instruction — might make it a little more clear in this situation whereas the topic he refers to on the next page are the annexes under the bilingual agreement covering a variety of French programs other than what we would think of as school programs, grants for special types of French programs, grants to send people on courses, a whole variety of different types of French programs that come under the appropriation over in 4.(g). So if you make that distinction what we're referring to here under the recovery item is for the actual classes in French, Francais, or in immersion courses in the schools or the core French program, in other words the second language French program in the schools.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't want to discuss 4.(g) out of sequence but since the Minister tells us that 2.9 of this amount for grants is recoverable from Ottawa, can he tell us what the total amount of the grants is. In other words, how much it is costing Manitoba and also does the administration of this department come under the total amount of grants or does the administration come under 4.(g) on the next page?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, the administration comes under 4.(g) under the BEF department. Regarding these grants, the grants certainly equal the amount that is paid out, in other words the recovery from Ottawa, from Canada, covers practically in totality the amount of money that's paid out in French grants.

**MR. WALDING:** I take it from the Minister's remarks, Mr. Chairman, that he is telling us that he expects some \$2.9 million in grants to be paid out in this year. Can he tell us what the comparable amount was for the last year?

**MR. COSENS:** My information is that it's 2.588 last year, and it's 2.900 this year.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, is that the amount that was in the estimates book last year or was that the amount that was paid, or are the two the same?

**MR. COSENS:** I would have to check that information out, Mr. Chairman, before I could answer the Member for St. Vital. I will get that information for him.

**MR. WALDING:** One final question, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister could provide me with a breakdown as to how these grants are paid and on what basis? I don't require it now, perhaps he could provide it for me before we get to 4.(g) some time during his estimates.

**MR. COSENS:** I'd be quite prepared to provide it when we get to 4.(g), Mr. Chairman, if that meets the approval of the Member for St. Vital. We'll be discussing the whole French area at that time, so I could provide that information when we get there.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.—pass — The Honourable Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Minister was discussing with the Member for Transcona, the school food program, and I understood him to say that there was, I think within \$500 difference between this year's allocation and last year's —(Interjection)— the same amount exactly, for which he takes credit as being a program that is continuing. I want to know whether the amount for last year was the amount allocated or the amount spent.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe I said it was the amount spent.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't deny that the Honourable Minister said it, I just hadn't heard and wasn't sure. I do look at Page 151 of Hansard where the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks tried to get the Minister to commit himself that the program was not being phased out. The Minister kept saying he would discuss it during the Estimates, but finally said, "As far as the program is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I am sure provision has been made for these children who are of concern to the member." And the Member for Seven Oaks then asked, "I wonder if the Minister could clarify that statement that provision has been made? Could he tell me by whom that provision is being made?" and the Honourable Minister did not reply. I want to ask him now directly whether he believes that the same amount in this year will provide adequately to make provision for those children who are of concern of the program?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, on the best information that I have on the number of people involved in this particular situation, I don't think undue hardship is going to be created by this particular appropriation.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, if we were talking about undue hardship then that would be the words of the Minister, and possibly the Conservative Party. If what the Conservatives are looking for is just to be beyond the brink of undue hardship, we'd better discuss it. The Honourable Minister said, "based on the number of children for which provision is made." Are there a different number this year than there were last year and to what extent are they less?



**MR. COSENS:** I don't have that particular information available at this time, Mr. Chairman, although I understand that this is the amount that Winnipeg did expect in the province's share.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, it's unfortunate the Honourable Minister does not have the information with him. He did say during the question period back on March 27th, quite a long time ago, that he would be prepared to discuss this during his Estimates, so if he doesn't have the answers as to the number of children it would be a little more difficult. But it still is odd to me, it strikes me as odd, knowing the difference in the cost of food between last year and this year, for the Minister to be sanguine about it. I would suggest to him that we don't discuss undue hardship, but talk about even comparables — last year's provision and this year's. Does he believe that that is adequate in view of the fact that we know that there is a large increase in the cost of food. If he's not aware of it, it is fortunate that he has beside him the Minister of Agriculture who should be even better aware of it.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I would only repeat for the Member for St. Johns, that this particular amount I understand to be the share that was expected by Winnipeg of the provincial government.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, I thank the Minister for that and I guess we'll have to leave it at that on the basis that the government did not make the decision as to what is adequate but rather is paying the share requested by the Winnipeg School Division, and I pause because the Minister did give an assurance that provision has been made for these children. So on that basis, I now understand that is to match what was requested by the school division, and not his own judgment as to what was an acceptable amount.

Mr. Chairman, I confess that I had been confused by these figures that were given to us today by the Honourable Minister because the \$8.6 million which he threw into these figures under this item were in my mind, with good reason, allocated to Paragraph 8 where that money clearly shows up. The Minister agrees that the \$8.6 million did not show up in the estimates figure as prepared by his department, or if not his department, by his government. So now we understand that the increase is not as shown in the estimates but is substantially less, that is there is not that much proportionally of an increase in the item under Paragraph 3 that we were discussing today. And having learned that that is the case and that in this case, \$8.6 million was spent last year that was not allocated to this item, I must ask the Minister whether we have already covered any items or we have yet to cover items other than Paragraph 8 where there is an expenditure of capital funds.

**MR. COSENS:** Yes, I would say this was the first instance where we have encountered that particular situation, Mr. Chairman, and as we proceed through the estimates and encounter others, I will bring them to the attention of the Member for St. Johns.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure that I understand why we have to wait for that. The fact is that these figures are misleading and I should think that the Minister should take the earliest opportunity to give us the information rather than to make us wait expectantly to learn as we go along. If the Minister wants to deal with his estimates and he does have misleading information in the Estimates book, let him clarify it now.

I don't know if he understands what I mean by misleading, but if he looks at Item 3, he will see what was authorized or voted on last year and what he wants to have voted on this year. And then he informs us that what was voted on last year was \$8.6 million in excess of what is shown in his left hand column, so he'd better understand that his figures are misleading. For the total department, the grand total, it may not be so, but the fact is that it is so in this figure. Now I know why the Minister of Agriculture is sitting beside him, he's been through this, and he knows the experience. So I would plead with the Minister of Education to give us the information that he has as soon as he has it, like now, and not make us wait for it to come in other ways.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I was inquiring from the Member for Seven Oaks about the figures he wrote down about this year's expected expenditure and last year's actual expenditure and I gather that the change in formula makes it more difficult to draw a proper comparison. So, I want to ask the Minister, when he has a per-pupil grant of close to to \$55 million, just what comparable figures last year made up the same kind of grant that is now called Per Pupil Grant of \$55 million?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, that particular figure last year — and it was made up of two grants but we have them lumped here so that they are comparable — was \$48,118,605, as compared to \$54,805,920.00.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** The Honourable Minister said that there were two figures. Is \$48 million the total of the two?

**MR. COSENS:** Yes.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I asked this afternoon, and I have to ask again, that the Minister give us both columns because he gave us a detailed breakdown of the financial support



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totalling \$196 million and in spite of the fact that we asked for it, he has yet to give us the complete itemization of the figures that total \$186 million which he says was spent last year. We still don't have that.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I would be very pleased to provide that information. At the time, I understood that the Member for St. Johns just wanted it for this area of capital that comes under the Foundation Program. I'll be pleased to go through the figures for 1977, voted under the Foundation Program . . .

**MR. CHERNIACK:** May I interrupt, Mr. Chairman, it's not the Voted, it is the Actual that I was looking for.

**MR. COSENS:** Under Salary, \$80.321; under Transportation, \$13.039; under this Capital area which I believe I have given to the Member for St. Johns once, I'll go through it again. Under Capital, for Buses, \$2.496 million; Debt Servicing, \$25.076 million; Other, \$7.5 million; Vocational Equipment, \$750,000; Print and Non-Print, and this is based on \$16.00 per pupil, \$3.534 million; the Vocational Grant Per Pupil, \$3.166 million; the Per Pupil Grant that the Member for St. Johns referred to a few minutes ago, \$48.118 million; the Library Grant . . .

**MR. CHERNIACK:** May I interrupt?

**MR. COSENS:** Yes.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, does the per pupil of \$54 million compare with the total of \$51 million of the Vocational and Per Pupil? The Honourable Minister said that there are two figures that made up last year's per pupil.

**MR. COSENS:** Yes, I think the Member for Seven Oaks understand that particular grant.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, we are right on the point and I'm sure that the Minister doesn't mind, or I hope he doesn't. The Vocational then, of \$3.166, that would be opposite the figure of \$3.039 million would it, for this year?

**MR. COSENS:** That's right.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** It's a drop then.

**MR. COSENS:** Following the Per Pupil Grant we have the Library Grant Per Pupil and this amounts to \$917,640; the Small Schools Grant of \$483'300; the Declining Enrolment Grant, \$550,900, that's opposite the \$506,450; Transfers 1977, \$5,109 compared to \$6,263 this year; the Administration Finance Board Salaries and Expenses, \$90,000 in 1977 and \$339,000 in 1978; the Interest Charges under the Public Schools Finance Board area, \$600,000 in 1977 and \$650,000 in 1978.

That, Mr. Chairman, I believe totals \$186.651 million.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate that. I have an item, Special Needs - Equipment, the last item I have, is that not correct?

**MR. COSENS:** Pardon me, that is \$40,000 in 1978 and it was \$80,000 in 1977.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** I thank the Honourable Minister for the information. I now have a much clearer picture.

Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with the Renovations and Repairs and ask the Minister about how he deals with school divisions in this regard. As a matter of fact, I generally would like to refer again to Hansard, Page 38 and 39 and I have two interesting comments on them. That was way back on March 21. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland asked a question of the Minister whether the Conservative Government had in its employ people who are secretly evaluating the financial administration of school boards and school divisions in our province. That was a question which was not answered. And on the next page there was a question by the Honourable Member for Elmwood: "Could the Minister then explain his comment in a press release saying that the department does not intend to be reduced to a grant-paying agency? How does that relate to his comments vis-a-vis school boards?" Where the Minister had previously on the same page referred to having confidence in the ability of boards.

The Minister then said: "Let me, in answer to the member's question, say at this time that our directions in that regard will become quite evident when we go over the Estimates." Which is what we are doing today, Mr. Chairman.

I would like the Minister to clarify whether there is any change in procedures in dealing with the school boards this year than what there was last year, in general in relation to grants, and in specific, in relation to the renovations and improvements to buildings?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, in answer to the first question, I can't account for how school boards



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were dealt with last year but I really am not aware of any great departure or any departure in fact in the method in which we are dealing with school boards this year. The remark that the Member for St. Johns mentions that I had made, and I forget the occasion, that I didn't want to see the Department of Education be relegated to a mere grant-paying agency, of course I think is readily understood that the Department of Education has to be much more than that. It has several other functions beyond just paying out grants. That is an important part, no doubt, of its function, but I would suggest that the whole program function, for instance, is another very important area and there are countless others.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate those comments. I'm interested to learn — I'm not sure that I am pleased to learn — but I am interested to learn that there is no change that he is aware of between the last administration and this administration in dealing with school boards. He says he doesn't know how it was done before he came in, but then he does know, he must know because as I said earlier, he has access to knowing how the department was set up previously to deal with school boards.

So, incidentally, when he responds to my specific question which deals with the renovation and repair of schools which is a particular concern of mine because I have just started a correspondence with the Honourable Minister in relation to Champlain School in my constituency — when I say just started it is just an indication to him that I don't intend to let it go — but I wanted to know just how the department deals with requests from school divisions for moneys for Capital renovations, and in the light of the fact that he has cut his budget from last year's actual of \$70.5 million to this year's \$5.5 million. While he is on his feet, maybe he will tell us about all the waste and mismanagement that he has found in this aspect of his department from the previous government.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, of course, Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. Johns is well aware that requests for school renovations and so on go to the Public Schools Finance Board where these are evaluated by the officials within that department and recommendations are then made to the school division and the matter is proceeded with.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, that was one of the two questions I asked and to deal with that again, if the Public Schools Finance Board is involved in assessing the need and approval of requests, then how is it that the Minister knows in advance that the requests will be about a 25 percent reduction in his budget? How are they going to manage to work out the requests that they are going to have, based on a 25 percent reduction?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that the method that this has accomplished is probably very much something that people involved with buildings are aware of, that when you are dealing with older buildings, the staging of the renovation process is something that is quite possible. You can renovate all of the building in one year or you can renovate parts of it each year and stage this total renovation over a matter of three years as opposed to doing it all in one year. I would suggest to the Member for St. Johns that in a year where we are attempting to practise some restraint, that that type of staging will no doubt take place where it is possible.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Mr. Chairman, can I now assume that the Minister has given instructions to the Public Schools Finance Board that they are to stretch out the staging of this work beyond their previous practice?

**MR. COSENS:** It is a little difficult, Mr. Chairman, for me to evaluate the previous practice as to what type of staging went on. I know for a fact that there was some staging that had been carried on previously. I happened to work in a building that had rotten window casings and so many of these were replaced each year. I would suggest that this is the sort of thing that will be carried on in this particular year.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, Mr. Chairman, we have yet to learn how it was that the item seemed to have grown from the \$6 million that the Member for Seven Oaks knew of and the \$7.5 million that the Minister has reported on, but he did undertake to get us that information and I am sure he will do so and probably we will have it tomorrow so that we can consider that.

But the Minister says he doesn't know how to evaluate what was done before. I must tell him that I was not too happy with what I learned about the way it was handled more recently under the previous government in relation to this specific school that I was speaking of, the Champlain School. I know the school quite well; I know it is an old school; I know that it is an elementary school that services a fairly small neighbourhood and I also know that the parents were allowed by the Winnipeg School Division to draw up their specifications of what they wanted. They wanted a community gymnasium and replacement of a library and pretty elaborate plans and when that was taken up by the Winnipeg School Division, as far as I could tell and I was not privy to it, but as far as I could gather, it was sent from the school division to the Department of Education with a request for approval. What bothered



me about that was, I gather from the formula that operates, that the Winnipeg School Division would be given an allocation of a certain sum of money which it would then borrow from the School Capital Authority and it would be repaid over a period of years by the Department of Education. I think that the school division would be less inclined to be concerned about the amount of cost involved in the change as long as it was being paid for by the government.

Well, as far as I could gather, there was a hands-off attitude by the then Minister of Education who said, "Well, there is a Public Schools Board that is working with it and I will not be subject to pressures of any kind. Let them review it and let them make the recommendation." And then I found that they had made a recommendation to the Minister not to proceed so he didn't proceed. When I looked into it, I came to the conclusion that their appetites were just too great and that their request was more than I thought they ought to have requested initially. I went back with the knowledge of the former Minister of Education and the people in the school division, I went back to the community people and I convinced them that they were asking for too much and getting nothing and I suggested to them that they should ask for what was not only reasonable but, I thought, pretty necessary. After quite a long time, and you know, Mr. Chairman, how you can get bogged down with red tape in any operation, finally the school division came up with a new proposal and sent it to the Public Schools Finance Board, I gather months ago.

When I wrote to the Minister recently, he replied and said that it was being looked at, in effect that was what it was.

Well, I wanted to know then whether there is likely to be a greater delay in this matter being processed because of the reduction in the budget, or whether it will still go ahead and be processed and at least a decision would be made which could then be translated into time, or whether they will just sit on it without money. And that is really what I am getting at, as to how they will work? I say that with the concern I have that the Public Schools Finance Board may be somewhat remote from the Minister of Education, although I think that the gentleman sitting right in front of him knows a good deal about the Public Schools Finance Board and maybe it is not as remote as it might have been on other occasions.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, in regard to the particular case that the Member for St. Johns mentions, I have not received any recommendation from the Public Schools Finance Board regarding that particular situation, as yet.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** That is the very point I am making, that since their budget has been cut by 25 percent, I'm concerned that he may not get a recommendation. I would much rather that they made a recommendation and carried with it a sort of priority saying, yes, this should be done but it should be spaced over two or three years, whatever they are doing. If he is cutting their budget, then I think that at least he has the responsibility of being faced with the decision as to the phasing of it. I am very much afraid that it gets bogged down in the administrative morass and I say that knowing that I believe it was bogged down in the administrative morass under the previous government. So I am not picking and choosing sides as to governments; I am talking about that aspect of the work. I don't know whether they are understaffed or whether they have just a slow way of operating, but I was critical of the length of time it took for them to make decisions.

Having said that, I don't think the Minister can respond, so I come back to my second question. Where in this No. 3, which is probably the largest single item on the Public School side, in the education side of his department, was the waste and mismanagement of the previous government?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, in 3.(a), we are dealing with grants to school divisions, financial assistance to school divisions. Many of these grants are laid out very carefully under regulation, and many of these grants are predicated directly on the number of authorized teachers, on the number of pupils, on the enrolment and although this is a rather large item, I would suggest that there is not a great deal of room for particular waste or mismanagement in this area.

**MR. CHERNIACK:** Well, that is very helpful, Mr. Chairman. I am looking at last year's to get an idea of that side of the department and I find that in last year's Estimates which are the preliminary estimates approved of, the Department of Education had a total expenditure authority of \$192 million, of which Item 3 was \$180 million, so that clearly this is over 90 percent of the total budget of the Department of Education, of last year. —(Interjection)— If my arithmetic is wrong, it could be corrected, but I see \$192,600,000 of which Item 3 is \$180,000,000.00 —(Interjection)— Well, but I said without the Supplementary. All right, then, if it was not 90 percent, it is 87 percent or 94 percent. The Minister confirms that in this item we are dealing with, this resolution, Item 3, there is no waste or mismanagement that he is able to point a finger at.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** One final small item with respect to this appropriation. Has the Minister received a Brief from the Transcona Springfield School Division regarding the Winnipeg Special Equalization Fund that my colleague, the Member for Logan, referred to previously and the Minister said was being looked at?

**MR. COSENS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Have you had a chance to reply to that submission yet from the Transcona Springfield School Division, and will you undertake to consult with them before any final changes are made with respect to the Winnipeg Equalization Fund?

**MR. COSENS:** Most certainly, Mr. Chairman. Consultation is something that I certainly believe in, and the different parties that are affected by any drastic change I feel should be consulted.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Final question in this respect, Mr. Chairman. Does that then mean that you don't expect any major changes until next year's estimates with respect to that, if any major changes are forthcoming?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, certainly this year's Estimates are set, Mr. Chairman, so anything that would be changed would have to be changed next year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 3.—pass. Resolution 43: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$206,434,200 for Education. Financial Support — Public Schools \$206,434,200—pass. Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

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

### IN SESSION

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Radisson.

**MR. ABE KOVNATS:** Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Springfield, that the report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks, that the House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried and the House stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.**