

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 11 March, 1982

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. D. James Walding (St. Vital):** The Honourable Member for Virden.

**MR. HARRY GRAHAM (Virden):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise at this time on a matter of the privilege of the House.

On January 8th, Government Information Services released the names of six members of this Assembly who are appointed Legislative Assistants — and I won't go through the whole works — one of whom, it says, Brian Corrin, MLA, Ellice, is the Legislative Assistant to the Premier and to Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Eugene Kostyra to help monitor implementation of rent control.

I refer you to Hansard of Thursday, March 4th, when the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye asked a question to the Minister of Urban Affairs. "I wonder if the Minister could inform the House whether or not the Premier's Legislative Assistant has access to files in his department?" at which time the Honourable Minister replied, "No, Mr. Speaker."

I refer to the unedited transcript of yesterday's Question Period, where the Honourable Member for LaVerendrye said. "To the same Minister a supplementary question: Since the Premier's Legislative Assistant is working on material pertaining to the Minister's department, could he inform the House whether or not the Legislative Assistant to the Premier has access to files dealing with his department?" The Honourable Minister replied, "Mr. Speaker, yes, the Legislative Assistant assigned to me by the Premier does have access to files and discussions related to the proposed Rent Control Program."

Mr. Speaker, I realize the Minister may have erred, but we do have a committee of this Assembly that deals with matters of that nature, so, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tuxedo, that the matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges and Elections.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Will the honourable member send me a copy of the motion please?

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

**HON. ROLAND PENNER (Fort Rouge):** Yes, the question has been raised as that of the privilege of the House. There has nothing been said, and I'm waiting to hear what privilege of the House has been breached? What matter there is to refer to the Committee?

I have not heard anything that suggests that the privilege of the House, which is invoked very very rarely, has in any way been entrenched or touched upon, or tampered with by any statement that has been made inside the House, and what has been referred to by the Honourable Member, in any event, whatever interpretation he may care to put upon those statements, are statements made in the House.

They're not questions of privilege of the House in any way, as far as I can see. I would like to have some clarification. I don't see a matter to be referred.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Opposition House Leader wish to advise the Chair?

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, the Member for Virden was preparing the motion, I thought perhaps that you wanted to see the motion before proceeding?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would like to see the motion as soon as it is prepared.

Before I put the motion to the House, I'll make a ruling on whether it appears to be a matter of privilege or not. For the benefit of the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain, the Opposition House Leader, the proposed motion deals with the misleading statements of the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs and suggesting the matter be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Does the Honourable Opposition House Leader have a comment to make?

**MR. RANSOM:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Very clearly, in view of the fact that statements made by Ministers in the House must be accepted by members of the Legislature as being factual, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Urban Affairs has made conflicting statements; on the one hand saying that the member, the Legislative Assistant to the Premier, had no access to files in his office, and when the question was placed again, Mr. Speaker, the answer was yes, that he did have access to files, at least to some files in his office.

Mr. Speaker, those two answers to the same question, one or the other has to be misleading to the members of this House, and the Member for Virden has raised the matter of privilege and that it be referred to the Privileges and Elections for resolution.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

**HON. EUGENE KOSTYRA (Seven Oaks):** Mr. Speaker, before ruling on the advisability of the motion, I should clarify, I do not see any contradiction in my remarks to the House. The first question that I was asked was as Minister responsible for Urban Affairs, the Minister of Urban Affairs, whether or not the MLA, the Legislative Assistant, had access to my files as Minister of Urban Affairs, and I answered "No, he did not."

The subsequent question in yesterday's question period was as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, whether or not the Legislative Assistant, the Member for Ellice, had access to my files —(Interjections)—

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please.

**MR. KOSTYRA:** I think the problem is, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite have —(Interjections)—

## SPEAKER'S RULING

**MR. SPEAKER:** I'm really unsure whether the matters complained of do in fact constitute a breach of the privileges of the House. We have heard from the Honourable Minister, which would seem as an explanation to take care of the point that is concerning the Honourable Member for Virden.

Since the Speaker is required to make a judgment as to whether there is a prima facie case of a privilege involved, I am satisfied with the statements made by the Honourable Minister of two departments, and I would therefore rule that there is no matter of privilege before the House.

Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**HON. BILL URUSKI (Interlake):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour to present the 1981 Annual Report of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation giving Manitobans a decade of very good service.

Mr. Speaker, I also have the privilege of tabling reports; the Manitoba Milk Prices Review Commission Annual Report 1980-81, the Annual Report of the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation, year ended March, 1981 and the Annual Report 1980-81 of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

**MR. KOSTYRA:** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of tabling the Twelfth Annual Report of the Manitoba Arts Council. — That's the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Historic Sites, in case there's any problem.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Notices of Motion. . . . Introduction of Bills . . .

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before we reach Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery on my left where we have 26 students of Grade 6 standing of the Tyndall School. These students are under the direction of Ms. Stefansson. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Inkster.

On behalf of all the members, I bid you welcome this afternoon.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, the question is to the Minister of Finance. In his press release of March 9th, the first paragraph reads as follows, "The Manitoba

Government intends to increase its 1982-83 spending program by 14.4 percent over the latest forecast of actual expenditures in 1981-82 according to Estimates tabled in the Legislature, Tuesday, by Finance Minister Vic Schroeder." My question to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, is can he explain to the House how on the basis of the information tabled in the Legislature on Tuesday it is possible to calculate a spending increase of 14.4 percent?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Finance.

**HON. VIC SCHROEDER (Rossmere):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 14.4 percent was arrived at on the basis of a calculation of the amount that we expect will be spent in 1981-82, and about 14.4 percent more than that is the amount that has been tabled for this coming year.

I should say, Mr. Speaker, that sometimes these amounts vary. In 1981-82, there was a certain amount that the government at that time thought there was going to be an increase for from the previous year. That amount, of course, was exceeded substantially in that year, because the actual preliminary amount we are heading to for the previous year is more than 18 percent. In 1979-80, just for example, we started out with a 5.5-6 percent print-over-print increase, and that group that considered themselves to be such great administrators came in, not with a 5.5 percent, not with an 8 percent, not with a 10 percent, not with a 12 percent, but a 13.9 percent increase, Mr. Speaker.

That group, last year, when they brought in their Estimates — the Member for Turtle Mountain, when he brought in his Estimates, was \$80 million shy — and we were required to pass a special warrant to make sure that we covered the spending that they had started out for the previous year. So, Mr. Speaker, the short answer is, it was a simple calculation based on the increase over expected spending.

**MR. RANSOM:** Somewhere within that rambling answer, the Minister has confirmed that in fact the information which he put out, the 14.4 percent figure, cannot be calculated from the information tabled in the House on Tuesday. Will the Minister confirm that the method of presentation used by him, in the press release, is inconsistent with the proper and accepted practice of presenting Estimates of spending that have been followed this government for years?

**MR. SCHROEDER:** Mr. Speaker, the question is, what is more accurate, looking at next year's spending based on what happened last year, or based on what they thought would happen? I would leave that up to the public to judge, but I would suggest that if a government comes along and says in 1981-82 that they expect a 12 percent increase and when, in fact, their increase is at 18 percent; that when we are looking at the next year's Estimates, surely it is more logical to look at what was spent than what they suggested would be spent. That includes going the other way around as well.

There are many areas in which they said they were going to have far greater spending than they actually spent. They said they were going to spend \$20 million on child related income support. How much did they

spend? Was it 12 million? How much did they spend on assistance to seniors as opposed to what they said they were going to spend? So, what we did was we took their fairy tales, we put them aside and we started talking real dollars to real dollars.

**MR. RANSOM:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the First Minister. In view of the fact that the First Minister is now responsible for Information Services, will he accept responsibility for the misleading information that's presented in this press release?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**HON. HOWARD R. PAWLEY, (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, I accept responsibility for Information Services. I want to say to the Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain that the release that he makes reference to is not misleading, that if he had listened carefully to the Minister of Finance he would have seen indeed that his explanation, his response, was indeed more accurate than has been the practice that the former Minister had performed in past in his responsibilities.

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

**MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER (Emerson):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister indicate whether the role of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation has changed in regard to land held by MACC, or are they still tendering the lands as was previously done?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** No, Mr. Speaker, there are no lands being tendered at the present time.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** To the same Minister, Mr. Speaker, has the role of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation been changed regarding the borrowing of monies for farmers that apply regarding the purchase of lands?

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, our government is going to be undertaking a full review of the policies of the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation and when that review is done, I'm sure the honourable member will be advised like all other honourable members and Manitobans alike.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** To the same Minister again, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate what is happening to the applications that have been made in the meantime?

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should be advised that MACC funds had expired by the end of the year. They didn't last, in terms of the Estimates of the former administration, so there was a lack of funds provided for MACC in the lending and the credit program, Mr. Speaker. As a result there were many applications that were held and pending. We did make arrangements to provide extra funds to

provide for the none repayment by MACC to the government, and as a result some of those applications are being looked at and there are further funds being provided in these Estimates, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister confirm that lands tendered for sale, held by MACC and tendered for sale prior to the election, that those sales have not been proceeded with?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, when we were advised that a number of the applicants who tendered for the sale wished to lease the lands because they had difficulty in obtaining cash funds in order to purchase those lands, there was a preference in a number of the cases, in fact half of the cases that we were made aware of quickly; as a result, we indicated that we would not proceed with those tenders.

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

**MR. GRAHAM:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. To the same Minister of Agriculture, in view of the fact that spring is rapidly approaching, and it does take farmers a fair degree of time to make their plans for the coming year, will the Minister advise this House when decisions will be made on lands that are presently being held by MACC, when the farmers will know what is happening with it? It is important, and there is a time period that is very critical.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I would like some clarification from the Honourable Member as to which lands he is referring to.

**MR. GRAHAM:** That are held by MACC, that are not under tender or not presently lands that are — where MACC has a long term agreement on them.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of any areas that MACC may be having a problem of leasing lands out. If the member has any specific cases in terms of lands that are available that have not at this point been leased out, lands that have not been tendered, I'd be pleased to hear from the honourable member to have that looked into, and look into it further.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Mr. Speaker, I'm referring to lands, some of which have been tendered and which the government has not accepted the tenders, those lands will be sitting vacant unless some decisions are made very quickly.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the land — now the member is getting back, he first referred to lands that weren't tendered, now he refers back to lands that were tendered. Those lands where the tenders were not accepted, Mr. Speaker, will be offered for lease pending the total review of MACC policies.

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

**MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina):** Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the Minister of Agriculture then confirm that instructions have gone down from his office to MACC not to accept any applications for long term mortgage funding by the Corporation to purchasers of farm land?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the shortage of funds in terms of MACC, I have asked the Corporation not to allow monies to be used for purchasing of land, but to deal with the crisis cases of farmers needing short term operating capital, as has been suggested by Members of the Opposition.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the Minister of Agriculture, he indicates a shortage of funds, and has indicated to us that he will be approving more funds for MACC, and in view of the fact that mortgage applications take some time of review by MACC, does he not consider it imprudent, in the light that funds will be available for the purchase of land, to not have applications proceeding now since those new funds will be available as of April 1st.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I don't accept the member's comments about being imprudent. Mr. Speaker, what we are finding now is lands where monies were extended for loans and purchases of lands by farmers, we are finding now that those farmers who did purchase lands, as a result of the increasing costs that they're faced with, many of those lands — the farmers are in the process of being foreclosed and we are ending up having those lands back which we have already provided funds for and interest rates for. So we have to review that policy very closely, Mr. Speaker, and that's what we're intending to do.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Then, Mr. Speaker, I take it, following from the Minister of Agriculture's answer, that his review will probably recommend that a greater reduction in the interest rate be made available to long term land lease holders, land purchasers under long term loans.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I hope the honourable member will be a bit patient, the review will undertake and look at various aspects of the credit lending process and farm lending funds in this year, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. STERLING LYON, (Charleswood):** Mr. Speaker, following upon the questions to the Minister of Agriculture, could the Minister of Agriculture then confirm to the House what I believe he has been trying to the House, that the reason for the suspension of Manitoba Agricultural Credit mortgages is a financial, or a

fiscal reason, rather than one relating to any opposition that my honourable friend or the government might have to private ownership of farmlands?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, there are lending institutions in the Province of Manitoba which will and have been, both Federal and the banking system, which have provided loan capital to farmers. Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing, for the Leader of the Opposition, the lending practices and the loan funds of MACC, and in terms of what the review will come up with and how we will establish our policies, that will be a matter of time, and take its course.

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there are special loan provisions that apply by way of reduced loans for young farmers purchasing land, which one would think be an altogether desirable policy supported on all sides of the House, will the Minister of Agriculture confirm to the House that his review is one based on the fiscal shortage that he said he contemplated, rather than any antipathy that he or the members of his party have to private ownership of farmland?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, we have no such antipathy. Mr. Speaker, we want to review the entire policies of MACC, both from the financial and the policy point of view. Mr. Speaker, where will we get the best use of our dollars in term of allowing the transition of farmland from one generation to another? That's what we will be reviewing to make sure that we can provide a viable alternative, which basically has been removed from many farmers by the way the Land Lease Program was run by the former administration in terms of increasing the lease rates and actually forcing farmers into purchasing land, who would have been much more desirous and who have wanted to lease the land, including those that were just recently tendered prior to the election.

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, my honourable friend was doing quite well part way through his answer when he said there was no antipathy on the part, Mr. Speaker . . . Are we in a Union Hall, Mr. Speaker, or in the Legislature?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition shall proceed.

**MR. LYON:** Watching my honourable friend, we could be anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that he was getting along so well when he was saying that there was no antipathy on the part of the government to private ownership, would he now clarify what he said thereafter when he said that they were looking for some alternative use or alternative means of financing or an alternative form of land holding or whatever his term was.

Has my honourable friend ever found any option that is better than private ownership?

**MR. URUSKI:** I don't know whether the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, is aware that to get into farming is nigh and impossible today unless you have huge sums of capital, and if the Leader of the Opposition doesn't realize that, I think he'd better go out and talk to the farmers of Manitoba.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin-Russell):** I had a question for the Honourable Minister of Co-operative Development, but I'll ask it of the Minister of Agriculture.

I wonder can the Minister of Agriculture advise the House if he or the Minister of Cooperative Development or the Minister of Economic Development have met with the 25 workers that are laid off at Rosburn and Pilot Mound cheese factories?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, we have had communications with the union of the workers who have been involved in the layoffs. We also have had communication with the General Manager and the President of the Board of Directors.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Honourable Minister will proceed a little farther with his answer and advise the House and the people of Rosburn and Pilot Mound what was the result of those meetings.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that there are meetings going on between producers and the Board of Directors as well as the workers who are involved in this to try and make sure that those plants are reopened in terms of the problems that MANCO has been faced with.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll ask my next question of the Minister of Economic Development. I wonder if the Honourable Minister can advise the House if she or her department have taken on the task of selling some of the surplus cheese that rests at Pilot Mound and Rosburn factories?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Mr. Speaker, the Member for Roblin should be aware that our Marketing Branch in our department has been involved and is continuing to be involved in trying to assist with the selling of the cheese on behalf of Manco.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G. W. J. (Gerry) MERCIER (St. Norbert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the First Minister. Is it still

the First Minister and his government's position that with the new Constitution soon to be patriated, that he and his government will never use the override provisions embodied in the new Constitution?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable First Minister.

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I've indicated on different occasions that we would have preferred the Constitution in the original form, one indeed that did not provide for provinces to have the opportunity to override the basic principles enshrined within the Charter.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Premier had previously stated that he and his government would never use the override provisions embodied in the new Constitution, would he answer the question and indicate whether or not that is still his position or whether he wants to leave open the option of using the override provisions in the future?

**MR. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, on the basic principle, the Honourable Attorney-General indicated only a few weeks ago, it's certainly not the intention of this government to use the overriding provisions that are provided for within the new Constitution.

The basic rights that are provided for in respect to that Constitution, I think are rights that every Canadian would want to see and would hope and would expect would be lived up to by each and every one of the provincial jurisdictions within the land.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, could the First Minister answer the question? I don't care what the Attorney-General said. I'm asking him. Is it his position that the government, this government, his government, never wishes to use the override provisions in the new Constitution in the future or do they wish to leave open that option, and I'm asking the First Minister. I would hope the First Minister could speak on behalf of his government.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable House Leader on a point of order.

**MR. PENNER:** Yes. The Honourable . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Order please.

**MR. PENNER:** A point of order, if you don't mind. The honourable member should know that he may not prefer the answers . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Pardon me. The Honourable Attorney-General may continue.

**MR. PENNER:** Ambitions, Mr. Speaker, should be made of sterner stuff. The honourable member should know that he may not be pleased with the form of an answer, but once the question is answered, to ask the same question again and again is contrary to the rules of the House. I would refer him to Beauséne, and if he would look at Beauséne — I would hope that he has a copy handy — then it is quite clear that repetitive questions; that is questions of the same kind may not be asked again and again and again.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is any point of order, and I've asked my question of the First Minister and I would ask him if he would kindly respond.

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

**MR. GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a question of the Honourable Minister of Government Services.

Several days ago, I asked him a question regarding the amount of space in this building that is assigned to the Office of the First Minister. Could the Honourable Minister provide me with the answer today?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

**HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the member would clarify whether he would like it in metric or in the Imperial measure.

**MR. GRAHAM:** I do have difficulty with metric, but if that is the only method by which the Minister will provide it, I will accept it in metric.

**MR. USKIW:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I have not yet had a report from my department, but I will furnish the information when it's available.

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

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the First Minister or the Attorney-General, in the light of the questions by the Member for St. Norbert, if the government is preparing a list of those Statutes of Manitoba that will be overridden by the Bill of Rights when the Constitution is patriated?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I'm pleased to be able to advise him and the House that I am authorizing a project whereby during the course of the summer under the direction of some of our professors of Constitutional Law in the Faculty of Law, a close study will be made of some of the principal public statutes of this province to try and identify those areas where in fact there might be a problem raised as between the Statutes and the Charter, and to be able to recommend remedial action to the government for ultimate reference to the House.

The question was a good one and I hope the answer satisfies the Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. LYON:** Mr. Speaker, is the Attorney-General aware of the fact that the Province of Quebec had embarked upon such a study and gave it up after they got, I think, to well over 100 Statutes that they found they were going to be impacted or adversely affected by the Bill of Rights. Is he aware of that fact?

**MR. PENNER:** I was not aware of that fact and it may be that a particular study in the Province of Quebec reflects the position that the Province of Quebec takes towards the Charter of Rights, which is not the same position as this government takes.

In any event, I am also aware of the fact, and I trust that the Leader of the Opposition is as well, that the Federal Government has on its own, relative to Federal Statutes, employed the services of a number of leading constitutional authorities across Canada to undertake such a study of Federal Statutes, and has not run into the kind of difficulty which he identifies as having been a problem in Quebec. I hope it will not be a problem here. Certainly what we will do is give priority to the leading public Statutes which interfaces with public most frequently, the quasi criminal Statutes such as The Liquor Control Act and The Highway Traffic Act — or those kinds of Statutes in which if there are to be problems — they are more likely to be found.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, to the Attorney-General, in view of the concerns he has expressed particularly about freedom of information, would he undertake to immediately upon receiving that report — a summer project — to table it in this House if the House is in Session or to immediately distribute it to all Members of the Legislature if the House is not in Session?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to give that undertaking, certainly. There would be no reason whatsoever why a study of that kind undertaken with the public funds and of public importance should not be made available to Members of the Legislature immediately upon its receipt.

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

**MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the environmental and socioeconomic impact statements for the proposed aluminum smelter in Manitoba were to have been completed by December 31, 1981, could the Minister advise the House as to the progress of the preparation of these statements?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

**HON. WILSON PARASIUK (Transcona):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the work is progressing on that but when we met the senior officials of Alcan, including the new President for Alcan Canada, we decided that we would conduct the first joint review of the whole smelter concept and that the environmental impact and socioeconomic impact reviews which were a bit behind schedule, would in fact be postponed without prejudice or harm to anyone, that was the decision that was arrived at by both parties. But it is certainly

the intent of the government and of Alcan I would assume, that the environmental impact studies and the socioeconomic studies would indeed proceed probably a bit later and that they would be conducted in a public manner.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these impact statements take a great deal of time and preparation, a great deal of technical expertise involved both on the environmental and the socio-economic aspect, why would these studies be suspended pending the review that is being done jointly by the two parties?

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Speaker, the point is that they aren't suspended. They were a bit behind schedule and work is proceeding on them but they certainly aren't being suspended, they are being proceeded with. They are going to take a bit more time than was originally envisaged.

**MR. FILMON:** Mr. Speaker, could the Minister then advise the House if it is still the intention of the government to proceed with the public hearings before the Clean Environment Commission and the proposed Socioeconomic Review Commission to allow the public to participate fully in the extensive review of all the environmental and socioeconomic matters pertaining to a proposed aluminum smelter when and if the government and Alcan decide that this project will proceed?

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. RANSOM:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy and Mines. Is the government undertaking its own feasibility study with respect to the establishment of an aluminum smelter in the province?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Speaker, what we are doing is conducting a joint review of the aluminum smelter proposal. In conducting that joint review, Mr. Speaker what we are looking at is the state of the aluminum industry in the world and in North America and we are doing that on a joint basis. Frankly what we are trying to do is get a much better understanding from a provincial capacity point of view of the aluminum smelter; that was advised by consultants to the previous government that it should have been done. But frankly it wasn't done and we are just taking the opportunity now to avail of ourselves of that information.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the announcement yesterday that the National Hockey League had found that Paul Gardner of the Pittsburgh Pen-

guins had deliberately struck Doug Smail of the Winnipeg Jets over the head with his hockey stick and broke his stick, would the Honourable Attorney-General be prepared to review prosecution of Mr. Gardner in view of his charges against Jimmy Mann of the Jets?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I am not one who is bound to act as some sort of super referee and blow the whistle. I should point out that there were instructions, a question of policy issued in 1974 by the then Attorney-General, now the First Minister, and adopted by the police. Subsequently the Attorney-General who preceded me, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert who answered the question, not only followed that policy but on February 1, 1980, announced it in a speech to the Manitoba Bar Association.

I have simply followed that policy. The Crown Attorneys and the police are quite clear on what their instructions are. I am quite content to leave law enforcement where it belongs. The charge that was laid and upon which I will not comment either expressly or by implication was based on a police report as it should have been.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. RANSOM:** My question is for the Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister concur in the action of Manitoba Mineral Resources in selling three of the eight oil wells in which Manitoba Mineral Resources had an interest.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice.

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

**MR. ORCHARD:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System. Has the Minister in his role as Communications Minister made known to the Federal Communications Minister that he endorses the provincial policy adopted at a Provincial Communications Ministers' meeting in regard to the ownership of satellite earth receiving stations, the satellite dishes and endorses the open skies policies and has he communicated that concurrence with that policy to the Federal Minister?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

**HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East):** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have for various reasons not been able to sit down myself to discuss matters with the Minister of Federal Communications, the Honourable Mr. Fox. However, there have been representations made to the Minister by my staff and we have indicated our concerns about adequacy of television

services for the people of Manitoba.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that answer from the Honourable Minister, but I would just like to paraphrase my question. It was a given undertaking by the Federal Minister that he would liberalize the ownership requirements of satellite earth receiving stations and he has done that in a December 31st, 1981 press release which, from my recollection of the undertaking, is far inadequate of what was agreed upon by the 10 Ministers to whom he made that commitment. I am anxious to know whether the Provincial Minister now has indicated to the Federal Minister that liberalization is not nearly as was suggested to him by 10 other Provincial Ministers in September of 1981.

**MR. EVANS:** The short answer I suppose is no, but I would like to advise the honourable member that there has been an effort made on the part of Provincial Ministers of Communication to meet again as soon as possible with the Federal Minister. For one reason or other, it's been very difficult to find a time that's been suitable for the Honourable Minister Fox.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the Minister has not had the opportunity to meet personally with the Federal Minister, I wonder if he might undertake to make presentation by letter to the Federal Minister indicating the province's displeasure with his announced liberalization program of earth receiving satellite stations which is very restrictive to Manitobans who want to avail themselves of new and upcoming technology in satellite television reception.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to look into that matter.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, I guess, in charge of water services in the province. I've been advised in the last couple hours of the extreme water shortage in the Town of Gilbert Plains and, in fact, I'm told by the Reeve and Mayor that they've had to cut off the supply to the farmers who have been drawing from the town supply. I'm wondering if the Minister and his staff would be kind enough to contact Gilbert Plains and advise them of some way to alleviate the problem because they will face an extreme water shortage by Monday, I am told.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

**MR. URUSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Manitoba Water Services Board is under the Department of Agriculture and I'll certainly take that question as notice from the honourable member and have someone look into it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before we proceed to Orders of the Day, I wonder if I might make a correction. I've just

been advised that the group of school students who were in the gallery are from Tyndall School, but Tyndall School is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Government Services, not the Honourable Member for Inkster and I apologize to both members and to the school group involved.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READING — PUBLIC BILLS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order for Return. Adjourned Debates on Second Reading.

The Honourable House Leader.

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, would you please call adjourned debate on Bill No. 3?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Adjourned Debate on Bill No. 3 at Second Reading. (Stands)

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

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, would you please call the adjourned debate on the proposed motion, Bill No. 4?

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General, Bill No. 4. (Stands)

**MR. MERCIER:** I might just mention the House has, in the past, dealt with Bills generally on Wednesdays and Fridays and if the Honourable Attorney-General wishes to change that practice perhaps he could so indicate.

**MR. PENNER:** I have no desire to change the practice. I'm sorry, I didn't quite get the response of the Member for St. Norbert. I wonder if he wouldn't mind repeating it.

**MR. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, during the past four years I think it became the custom of the House to deal with Bills on Wednesdays and Fridays. If the Government House Leader wishes to change that practice perhaps he could so indicate and I would be prepared to deal with them on the days . . . —(Interjection)—

**MR. PENNER:** Yes, I'll respond to that tomorrow —(Interjection)—

Mr. Speaker, we'll discuss —(Interjection)—

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**MR. PENNER:** We'll discuss the matter. I will consult as I always hope to with the House Leader of the Opposition and I'm sure that we'll be able to work out a satisfactory way of calling Bills so that they may be debated when the House is ready to debate them. But just for the record, in any event, let me ask you to call, Sir, the adjourned debate on Bill No. 5.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Second reading, Bill No. 5 on the proposed motion of the Honourable Attorney-General. (Stands)



**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Attorney-General.

## SECOND READING GOVERNMENT BILLS

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, would you call the second reading of Bill No. 7?

### BILL NO. 7 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE ARTS COUNCIL ACT

**MR. KOSTYRA** presented Bill No. 7, An Act to Amend The Arts Council Act, for second reading.

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister.

**MR. KOSTYRA:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have notes on the introduction. Mr. Speaker, I am sure most members are familiar with the work of the Manitoba Arts Council which was first established in 1965. It is an important agency of the government which supports arts in the province.

The amendments before the House today are of a housekeeping nature, but they are significant in that they will strengthen the ability of the Council to deliver cultural programs in Manitoba. The Bill does not affect the general aims and objectives of the Council. The principal amendment is to expand the size of the Council from its present membership of 12 to a maximum of 15 members. This is necessary, in part, because of the increased time that is being demanded by members of the Council to review applications and to make decisions pertinent to the Council's work. At the same time, increasing the number of persons will not make the Council unwieldy and will in fact add to its efficiency; by having three more members the work can be more evenly distributed. In addition, the increase in size will allow for a broader cross-section of people to be appointed to the Council.

To familiarize honourable members with the work of the Council, the Council's Committee screen applications for financial assistance. The Committees meet separately with groups or individuals seeking aid from the Council. The Committees, in turn, advise the Council which then assesses each application and awards the necessary grants. Funding from the Council is often only part of the funding an art agency receives. In general, the Council promotes the study, enjoyment, production and performance of works in the Arts in the province. On that basis, it makes grants of assistance to performers or scholarships or loans for study or research in the Arts. It may also make awards to Manitoba citizens for outstanding accomplishments in the Arts.

Other amendments includes changes to Section 4(1) and 4(2); these deal with council appointments and are repelled.

A new section is recommended; it provides for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to fix the term of council and appointments. In this way there will be a rotation of the members of the council so as to ensure renewal as well as continuity. A limit will be placed on the length of service of a member which does not now exist; in spite of this, members terms may be renewed.

We hope these amendments will ensure the quick filling of vacant positions; new appointments will be made regularly.

The final amendment involves changes to Section 5; it is repelled as it has reference to first-time members and deals specifically with members appointed in 1965 and confirms the name "Manitoba Arts Council." The substitute clause confirms the name "Manitoba Arts Council."

Mr. Speaker, this briefly summarizes the changes presented in the bill, I commend it to the House and I await response from the honourable members.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

The Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. GERRIE HAMMOND (Kirkfield Park):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Gladstone, that debate be adjourned.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

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

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you call the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of the Honourable Mr. Schroeder, that the House will at its next sitting resolve itself into a Committee to consider Ways and Means for raising of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MOTION presented.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

**MR. RANSOM:** Stand, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance that, Mr. Speaker, do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

If I might just on that, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there is no Private Members' business to be transacted in the Private Members' Hour, I would like to ask leave of the House to continue in Committee of Supply, if the motion carries, until 5:30 p.m. Mr. Speaker, if that's agreeable perhaps we could also, with the agreement of the House, adjourn the House now so that we do not have to recall the Speaker at 10:00 p.m. to adjourn the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House Leader is asking for the Leader of the House to forego Private Members' Hour and continue with Estimates Debate this afternoon and this evening at 8:00 p.m. and for the House to adjourn immediately after passing this motion.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the

Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Flin Flon in the Chair for the Department of Community Services and Corrections; and the Honourable Member for The Pas in the Chair for the Department of Natural Resources.

**MR. PENNER:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to move the adjournment of the House, seconded by the Honourable First Minister, and in so doing just to announce that the Estimates in the House will be Community Services and Corrections, and in Committee, Room 254, Natural Resources.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. (Friday)

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas):** We are meeting as a Committee; the first department is the Department of Natural Resources and we'll start with comments from the Minister.

**HON. AL MACKLING (St. James):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume that I will be able to make my comments from my place here at my seat rather than standing at the far end. The custom is a little new for me, but I adapt reasonably readily.

First of all, I want to indicate my pleasure, Mr. Chairman, at this opportunity to acknowledge the work of my department. This department, as members will appreciate, has a great diversity of interest ranging from various forms of natural resource, continuing resource, within the province.

The Estimates of this department had been prepared long before my appointment as Minister. There had been some review of those Estimates by my colleagues prior to my appointment, but I think it's reasonable for me to suggest to you that with the exception of some relatively minor amendments, I understand that really the Estimates of the department are relatively those Estimates that came forward from the previous administration because in this department there is not a great deal of, I don't think, high political profile to many of the matters. There are a great many areas where there is sensitivity because of the diverse interests that are affected by the use of natural resources. There are problem areas and I'm sure that some of these areas will be discussed during the course of my Estimates, and I will appreciate the constructive criticism that members can bring in respect to my Estimates. I will not be defensive about them. I'm sure that there'll be times when I may feel that I'm being defensive, but I want to learn particularly from my colleague, the former Minister, in his role as critic because I think that he has an understanding of the department that I don't have at the present time and I'll quite candidly acknowledge that.

To give you an indication as to what my department has indicated may be of interest by way of opening remarks; it's been indicated to me that this year will see the initiation of a Vacation Camping Program as a pilot project. Manitobans will book sites ahead of time

to ensure space and Manitobans will be encouraged to see the province and will be able to book several sites in sequence. I'm also advised that there will be expanded opportunities for seasonal campers by some 25 percent in response to rising energy costs.

I'm also advised that the Fire Prevention Program is being accentuated with a major commitment to fire attack crews and helicopter bases; three in number, possibly others to reduce forest fire losses currently in excess of one million acres per year.

I'm also advised that there will be added staff provided for in the Estimates to the Water Resources Branch which will reflect our concern to protect our ground water systems and improve on ground water licensing.

We will also be working to improve a protection level through dyking of the Red River communities in a joint federal-provincial program. A more active program of public contact by Natural Resource field staff is being initiated. We will also extend users surveys from parks to other resources, we will increase retracement surveys. This is re-establishing the basic survey foundation of the province.

We also plan to provide some improvement of facilities at the Oak Hammock Marsh and work on the implementation of the 20-year forestry plan, now in report form, will begin in 1982-1983. We are reviewing Wildlife policies in order to rationalize the industry.

As members know we are pursuing actively the question of the proposed Garrison Dam and diversion of Missouri River water with rigour. I might say, in respect to that latter matter, there have been further communications with Ottawa. I expect to be able to confirm the relationship, or the detailed arrangements between Ottawa and the province in respect to that matter hopefully yet this week. Now, Mr. Chairman, that in very quick outline form indicates some of the highlights of what my staff perceives to be, new initiatives or added initiatives within the department. They are not, as I've indicated, very large in scale; basically the work of the department is an ongoing one. I think that with those few words I will be happy to review the details of the Estimates.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is customary for the critic to respond and I'm wondering if the Member for Lakeside would like to respond at this time.

**MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside):** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that we're all learning new roles this time around, myself included, although perhaps it's more a matter of remembering. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Minister's opening comments, I think, it ought to be said right at the outset that it's obvious to me that the review of these Estimates by the Opposition will be somewhat different than in fact has been the case in the last number of years for several very obvious reasons — some that the Minister has already alluded to.

The first instance being, particularly in the department such as this, the change of administration coming when it did, meant that a substantial amount to a very large degree, the Estimates were those that were in relative form of preparation progress by the previous administration. While there's always room for critical comment about the way any department

spends substantial amounts of public money, I caution my own colleagues on this committee that before they get too carried away and heavy-handed in the criticism of this administration or this Minister, I'll be ducking out of the back door, because in many cases they will indeed be some of my programs that you will be reviewing. There may be every reason for that review.

The other reason of course, Mr. Chairman, is the fact — and I say this only in a kind way; and that is, that the particular minister, as indeed all Ministers are new to the sets of Estimates that will now be going under review for the next two or three months, four months, and I don't say this unkindly, but this Minister is particularly new to the Estimates of this department and has had only a very short time to familiarize himself with them. So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend to you — perhaps the Committee can take that under consideration.

It has been the practice in the past — I'm looking around for some of us, well, the Honourable Member for Concordia is here that would recall and certainly some of our honourable members — where we have gone at these Estimates in very minute line-by-line form and worried about the SMYs in each little division of each little department and it's not my intention to conduct the reviews in that way. The department falls naturally into the different divisions; parks, forestry, water resources and we would like to discuss with the Minister the spending intentions, future intentions, of the Minister as he sees them so we would look for, in many cases, the Minister's direction that he intends to — or as he sees himself — giving to his department. Indeed, we will be offering our advice particularly from some of the rural members who have a very specific, very immediate concern about some of the water related problems, some of the land related problems, some of the wildlife related problems that are all under this very far reaching department.

But, Mr. Chairman, I think maybe if we could just establish a rule. What I'm in other words suggesting is that we can reserve either at the beginning of each division and have that general discussion where all members can participate in I give you my undertaking — at least I think we can give our undertaking — that we will then not rehash the whole issues on every line-by-line subject matter.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is the will of the . . . ?

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I think that would be very useful. I think we could have a general discussion fairly freewheeling as to each number on the list. I assume that the Honourable Member for Lakeside is referring to each number so that we could deal with each area; water resources, parks and so on and it could well be that from time to time we'll have staff that then won't be required once we've dealt with Water Resources or Parks or so on. That's certainly acceptable and helpful.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I have no particular remarks to make with respect to the first division before us, the Executive Administration. I would ask the Minister perhaps to take this opportunity to introduce us to the

new senior staff in the administration of the department. I see a new person by the new Deputy Minister beside him. I understand there were some other vacancies in the senior levels of the department. I'm speaking at ADM Director's Level — if he can perhaps advise us of some of the positions that have been filled recently in that regard in the Administration section. Other than that I assume, by simple arithmetic, looking at the figures of \$350,000 or \$349,000 to \$360,000 being merely inflationary costs of operating that office and that there have been no fundamental changes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Lakeside, it's customary to move on to 1.(a)(2); we'll leave this one for the end.

**MR. ENNS:** That's good enough.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We can deal with that at the end of the presentation.

**MR. ENNS:** I'm not not going to worry about how you want to do it, we're just going to talk. I don't really worry about whether we're talking on Salaries or Other Expenditures or Grant Assistance, when we're finished talking, then you can just zip and get them all passed.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** So we'll move right into 1(a)(2).

**MR. ENNS:** Right.

**MR. FOX:** On a point of procedure, Mr. Chairman, in the past the practice has been that we deal with the Minister's Salary as the last item and that's a free-wheeling debate. The Member for Lakeside now has suggested that we have a certain latitude in the debate on every item. I see the Minister has no real objection, and I believe that the Committee should operate as informally and get as much information as possible. The only problem I have with it, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that if we don't have some kind of a format, we're going to freewheeling forever and a day and not get done. Now, I'm prepared to accept the assurances of the Member for Lakeside, but I want to make it specifically clear that we are not just going to dilly and dally and just have a freewheeling debate, that we will try and get the work of the Committee done. I just make that as a matter of procedure so that the members of the Committee are aware of it.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, on the same point of order, I want to assure the Honourable Member for Concordia when I say that we want to have a general discussion I don't mean a freewheeling debate. I think if we are dealing with item of Parks, the discussion will be relative to parks; if we're dealing with Water Resources, they will be relative to water resources; not in other words, use the privilege of the Minister's Salary debate which can range over the whole department.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** On that point of order, Mr. Chairman, I

would assure the Member for Concordia because he has sat here for some years, the past four at least, and he knows all about dillying and dallying in these Estimates. I can assure him that the party in the Official Opposition now will not carry on the way that the previous Opposition did in Estimates.

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

**MR. WARREN STEEN (River Heights):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to point out to you and to the Member for Concordia that the Member for Lakeside did say that the Minister has only been in this portfolio a short time and we, on the Opposition, know that the previous Minister did such an excellent job in this department that we don't really see too many areas of fault within this department. I am sure that if the Member for Concordia goes along with you, Mr. Minister, and the Member for Lakeside that you will see that this department will go through very very quickly if we go on an informal basis.

**MR. FOX:** Mr. Chairman, I have no objection, and as I indicated in my remarks on the point of order that I accept the word of the Member for Lakeside. As far as dillying and dallying is concerned, the Honourable Member for Minnedosa knows me full well; he knows I've always been the person who has been most brief in whatever he had to say, but direct, and that's why I did indicate my point of order because I wanted to make this Committee aware of what we are doing and how we should proceed, so that we are not at cross purposes or at a misunderstanding.

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

**MR. ENNS:** If I ask the question, can we proceed with Estimates then?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We'll proceed then with 1.(a)(2). (Agreed)

**A MEMBER:** This Committee has only produced one fist fight in fourteen years.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member from River Heights.

**MR. WARREN STEEN (River Heights):** Mr. Chairman, on 1.(a)(2) perhaps the Minister can do as the Member from Lakeside asked, introduce new department people and give us an overall of the Executive Administration of the department. I think the Member from Lakeside said that, in his view, that the increase in expenditure was primarily the increase in costs. There was no drastic changes. Is that true Mr. Minister?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, 1.(1)(2) is limited to the Deputy Ministers Office and the Minister's Office, as I understand it, and there's been no change in positions there, and funding. It's just a matter, as the Honourable Member for Lakeside has indicated, what we have to face the usual inflationary pressure in respect to dollars.

I might, though, introduce you to the Deputy Minis-

ter, Mr. Nick Carter. Nick, would you stand up and maybe introduce Bill. Nick, would you introduce Bill too please.

**MR. NICK CARTER, Deputy Minister:** This is Bill Podolsky, who is the Director of Administrative Services.

**MR. MACKLING:** I'll be calling upon the Deputy Minister to introduce other staff as they are involved in the estimates from time to time. Any other questions under 1.(a)(1)?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I was aware that the department was in the process of either filling several other senior vacancies within the department. I appreciate that we'll be perhaps meeting them at a later date, but can the Minister indicate in general terms, has a Parks Director been appointed as a ADM, has the positions of — what assistance in terms of Assistant Deputy Ministers does Mr. Carter have with him in the staff component at this time?

**MR. MACKLING:** The two ADM's are Derek Doyle, whose responsibilities focus on the Parks' activity and beyond, and Dale Stewart, who is an Assistant Deputy Minister as well. They will be here later on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are there any further questions on 1(a)(2)?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)(2)—pass. We'll move on to 1.(a)(3).

**MR. ENNS:** Where are we?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)(4). The Member for Morris.

**MR. CLAYTON MANNES (Morris):** Yes, could the Minister give us some indication with the Grant Assistance is being directed.

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

**MR. MACKLING:** That \$20,000 item, is it?

**MR. MANNES:** Yes.

**MR. MACKLING:** That is a grant to the Natural Resource Institute, a faculty of the University of Manitoba.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(b)(1).

**MR. ENNS:** You know, again, the Manitoba Water Commission has been around for some time. My understanding is that currently we are without a Chairman; I would ask the Minister to confirm that, and what his thoughts are with respect to the staffing of the Manitoba Water Commission over an extra period of time and any particular assignments that he may have in mind for the Manitoba Water Commission.

They have concluded different studies, from time to time, of which we are aware. Is there any listing of those studies that they had of entered into in this past year? I suppose the major one was the ground water

study which the Minister referred to in the House and which was tabled in the House just recently. I refer to my colleagues that they may wish to look at that report and ask any questions about that study at this time.

But, my specific question is, it is my understanding that the Chairman has resigned and I haven't been made aware of any replacement to date.

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the composition of the Water Commission Board has been under active consideration and I am recommending to my colleagues in Cabinet, the appointment of persons whom I don't think it would be appropriate at this stage, to indicate who they are. We are concerned to move fairly quickly on that, and I hope that certainly within the very near future to be publicly announcing the composition of the Board.

The Board will have some initiative to exercise very quickly, because we do have matters to refer to them. We are, as a department, certainly going to be following up, in connection with the report, the onground water. There are areas of concern that will be referred to the Water Board, if I can use the shorter form, very quickly, one of them being a concern with respect to the levels of the Plum Lakes, where there has been concerns for the adequacy of level of that area, the lake. Again, there are conflicting concerns about levels and the Water Board would be the appropriate vehicle to hear the interested parties get the advice and refer the advice to government.

**MR. DREIDGER:** Mr. Chairman, firstly, on my first opportunity, I want to compliment you as being Chairman, I had that opportunity to serve in that capacity, and I can daresay it is going to be interesting from time to time. Under the Water Commission, to the Minister, various reports have been referred to. There was a report that was tabled some time ago, regarding the levels of the flood gates here on the diversion. That report was made public at that time. The question I have is, has there been any legal action that has been commenced against the government because of the report at that time?

**MR. MACKLING:** Not that I am aware of, Mr. Chairman. I met with a group just recently who were again indicating, their concerns to government about the floodway installation. They claim that the installation is such that the effect is that when the dykes are operative there is a back-up effect of water. That creates a flooding problem. That issue, or that argument has been reviewed by staff, apparently during a number of administrations, and there hasn't been agreement with that proposition, but they continue to insist that there is an effect on the water flow and flooding. We have agreed that without prejudice we're going to look at the situation if and when the gates are made operative again this spring so we'll have an on-site look at it. The Legislature permitting, I'll endeavour to look at it, but it's not something that is new, it's a concern of longstanding and I for one have always had an open mind about problem areas and I'm prepared to look at arguments that are advanced, notwithstanding they have been dismissed in the past I am not saying there is legitimacy to that argument

but I'm prepared to look at it.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** The report that came out indicated that in the last various years there was only two years where there was a question as to possibly, you know, that the controls had not been operated properly, and this is why I raised the question of whether some legal action has been started on that. I understand the report indicated though that the operations of the floodgates had been within the jurisdiction done properly in the last years. I have had people from that area, which is now the area that I represent always indicated, without I think maybe proper justification, that there was additional backup when the floodgates were being operated, though I don't think the report verified that at any time except for a few years. That's why I raised that question.

I have one further question regarding the Water Commission. Is this the area where the Roseau River and the Garrison — would this come under this capacity, the heading here?

**MR. MACKLING:** I don't think that would. I think the concerns there would be conservation measures in respect to retention of water. I think the problem that we've been facing in the Red River Valley has been an accentuation of water level by substantial drainage south of us on the American side, and there have been concerns. I know that there was initiative under the part of the previous administration in respect to the Roseau River and the works that were under contemplation by the Americans and I think some changes were made and affected, but there still has been an over emphasis on draining water off the land quickly. That over-emphasis has occurred not only in the United States; it's occurred in Manitoba.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, just by way of help, and the Member for Concordia is not here, but to indicate to him that we don't plan to abuse the privilege of speaking generally. I think the whole matter of water resources in the province could be discussed under Page 94, Item 4, Water Resources, which is the main planning group for the diking concerns that the Member for Morris may have in the community that he represents; I would be happy to discuss the Garrison problems under that item. It could be discussed under several items, but I think if we, by common agreement, decide that's where we want to discuss it, then we won't be repeating ourselves. Is that of assistance?

**MR. MANNES:** Does that include ground water management too?

**MR. ENNS:** If you read the inscription for what that is "Provides for the short and long-term planning for the use, regulation, development and management of water resources in or available to the Province. Includes activities associated with the issuance of Water Power and Water Rights licences, designated area permits, subdivision approvals, flood forecasting and the provision of grants to Conservation Districts." That's an all inclusive item which I believe will give us the opportunity to make those remarks that we want to make at that time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I. (b)(1)—pass; I. (b)(2).

**MR. ENNS:** Well Mr. Chairman, just one comment. I note that there is a very modest increase here. I take it that has something to do with the fine administrative hand of one Bill Podolsky in the operation of this department. The department was attempting to acquire more computer hardware, computer capacity in the latter stages of my time that I was with the department. Perhaps just a comment on whether or not that has occurred, or how the department is coping with the requirements for computer time and computer work in the affairs of their department. Other than that, I have no comments. I note that the items here pretty well reflect the very modest inflationary cost increases through the department and I have no further comments with respect to the department.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to respond to that. I'm advised that there is computer use, but it's a very modest program and it's proceeding very carefully, very slowly.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(a)(2) to 2.(d)(1) were all read and passed. 2.(e)(1),  
The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Public Information Services. Mr. Chairman, in view of the interest that this administration has taken in the review and talk of reorganization of all various types of information services that are located in various branches and departments of governments; in light of the substantive changes that have taken place in the moving or the shifting of the Government Information Services Branch from the Ministry of Government Services to that of the Premier's Office, does the Minister care to speculate in any way as to whether this public information service, which essentially provides departmental information to its many clients, be they fishermen, be they hunters, be they park users, etc., etc., etc., — as the King of Siam would say from time to time. What I suppose I'm asking is, have the minions of the First Minister's Office gotten to this Public Information Branch and had they threatened their existence in any way?

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, I don't know who the Member for Lakeside is referring to. However, I'll be happy to invite any constructive criticism by anyone in respect to these human resources within the department who are trying to communicate or are involved in communication of programs. It could be that with a review of information programs within government, we could eliminate some duplication. I don't know, because I assume that we have similar communications staff within a good many departments, and it may be that, rather than buying separate equipment, we might be able to have some cost savings if there was more of a co-ordinated effort in respect to some areas of our concern. I think it's always wise to look at that sort of thing. I don't know what equipment is involved here or how essential is some of the work. I know that it's necessary to get program communicated to people; otherwise they can't benefit from it. I think it's always useful to have a look at program to see whether it can

be improved upon, or whether we can save money by co-ordinating that communications program with the activities of another department. We'll look at that.

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

**MR. DRIEDGER:** The concern, Mr. Chairman, that I'd like to raise under this area here is the flood information or flood forecasting. That would come under this jurisdiction, I would assume, because the municipal people along the river have always been very concerned about the flood projections or flood forecasts that have been coming out of the Resource Department. Sometimes, they have been not necessarily that impressed with the information from time to time; thought that it maybe was not on cue so to speak.

I'm just wondering, is the system of providing information to the municipalities along the Red River Valley regarding flooding the same as it was previously? Is there a change in it? Is there going to be an updating? Is the Minister contemplating updating this service to such a degree to make it more accurate so that the municipalities have a better idea as to what they're going to be faced with? For example, the first report that the Minister released some while ago indicated that there was not very much danger of flooding this year. However, the long range forecasts could have a bearing on it with either rain or snow storms, etc., especially upstream from here and if we could have a very current updating on this all the time I think it would be beneficial to all the people in the valley.

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I don't think there's been any change effected in the department. There is one staff person that has been pretty well full time, co-ordinating flood damage and regardless of their being relatively small floods, there's always some degree of flood damage that we have to look at and that person and other persons with the department are responsible for communications in this area.

It could be that we could improve upon our communications; I don't know. I haven't instituted any change in that, but I'll certainly be prepared to look at that. I think what we do is involve as many sources as possible including the Dominion weather people as well in compilation of this information.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** I would just like to further comment here under the Public Information Services especially again to do with municipal people that when building permits are being issued, I believe the resource people have a hand in indicating whether a building permit could be issued depending on location of it, the plan structure.

We've had that case especially in the Village of Niverville which is included in the flood prone area and where permits had to be approved by the resource department we found there is no permanent dyke around the Village of Niverville. As a result, what happened there because of the permits having to be approved by the Resource Department, we've had cases where a house has been built, there is a permanent dyke around it, and when applying for the building of a garage he found he had to build the garage, a car garage, four feet higher than the house.

This has created an embarrassing situation, I think

the previous administration worked with that. I would just like to draw to the Minister's attention that there seem to be some discrepancies in terms of the authority that the Resource Department has in approving these building permits in some areas and I would encourage the Minister to possibly look very closely and work with the municipalities to try and get some of these things straightened out. It's embarrassing when there's no protection for the house and you're going to build a car garage that much higher. There is confusion there and I just want to draw it to his attention; ask whether he would consider working with some of these municipalities and especially the Village of Niverville who found it very difficult to try and get this resolved.

**MR. MACKLING:** I have my Deputy and Mr. Podolski here and have taken note of that. My understanding is that lands contiguous to rivers and streams have been flood-forecasted. There are flood planes established and I'm sure that all the municipalities involved are aware of what lands are considered to be flood planes. However, we'll look at that if there's been a breakdown in any way of communication there.

**MR. MANNES:** Yes, a sort of a supplementary to my colleague's question on flood forecasting; in view of the fact that we haven't had much of a thaw time at all this winter, how often can we expect these forecasts? No doubt it may have even said on the first release; I don't know, but how often can we begin to expect them at this time?

**MR. MACKLING:** I would assume and I can't give you the specifics on that. I think that if the first forecast had been one where there was some apprehension, then the department would have requested more frequent returns. As it is, the return that was made was very positive; that is that there was not likely to be a flood unless conditions changed dramatically. Now, if between now and breakup there are heavy snowfalls or we get a lot of rain, then I think that the department staff will bring forward a further report, but outside of that there may be a monthly report. If something occurs that will indicate the situation has changed dramatically for the worse, I think the report would be coming more quickly. As far as I know, there will be further reports, but those would be increased if things worsen. I don't think that they're required or that the system is that they produce a report every month. It may be so, but if there's obviously no flood concern they won't put out reports.

**MR. MANNES:** What you're saying is there's no scheduled releases.

**MR. MACKLING:** I don't know about that. They may be scheduled, but I'm saying that if the situation is bad we'll get them much more quickly.

**MR. MANNES:** I suppose my concern is that we're well aware of the tremendous snow buildup south of us and we're also well aware it's approaching the middle of March and that, in fact, we haven't had any type of thawing at all and I'm wondering how long we have to go before the next report comes.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I will get particulars on how that reporting takes place and I'll give the Committee that information later. Certainly if it's required to be more frequent, it will be more frequent.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There will be no further questions for I(e)(2) asked?

The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Just one request and I wouldn't hold up the passing of this section of the Estimates, but it would be of interest I think, particularly to so many of us that are new members if at our next sitting the Minister could provide us with an sample of some of the kinds of leaflets, pamphlets, reports —(Interjection)—

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We're getting into conversation again and I hope we would try and curtail that.

The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** That's right, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm just saying that this is a division which expends a substantial amount of dollars; we're talking in excess of \$300,000 in salaries and another \$178,000 in expenditures, and there are many members here that are not aware of the kind of information that this department provides. I just make the suggestion that a sampling of some of the material that is available to the general public, to our hunters, to our fishermen, to our wildlife advocates could be perhaps made available to us when next this Committee sits. As I say, I don't know.

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, we'll be happy to do that.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just don't want to belabour this. I'm just wondering if the Minister could possibly consider forwarding to the Committee the Drainage Programs that are slated for this year; the Parks Programs that are slated; that would, I think, help in our deliberations, because otherwise we'll be raising the questions and individual cases as to whether this project is on or not for the next sitting or as soon as possible, if he could maybe bring forward the programs that are slated for this coming year, like in drainage, in parks, these type of things. I think it would help us.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, we'll be getting to those programs as we go through the Estimates and I'll be able to give you the details very shortly I'm sure.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, that was part of my question that when we get how the monies are being spent on the drains. The other one I'm wondering about — the Shellmouth Dam. Was that to come later, I suppose, under Water Resources?

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, we'll be coming to that item as well.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further questions in 2(e)(1)?

The Member for Inkster.

**MR. DON SCOTT (Inkster):** Mr. Chairman, I'm

wondering if we could get any kind of a break down on these items as far as how much of the money in Public Information Services is being spent on programs, or at least on brochures and Public Education Programs? I presume all of it is geared towards public education. I'm wondering how much is geared towards the non-consumptive use of our natural resources and how much is geared towards consumptive use; that is, the Commercial fishing industry, the sports fishery, the hunting, the trapping, that sort of thing — in other words, to the actual consumers of the resources?

**MR. MACKLING:** In response to the Member for Inkster's concern, I think that might be possible. However, I don't know whether the materials and the brochures and so on, have been so identified and that will involve a division of effort that may not have been made in that way before. If you like, I'll ask staff if that can be done fairly quickly; and if it can, I'll get that information. I might say that I am looking at some on my notes here, they are brochures on the White-tailed Deer in Manitoba; the Souris River Band Wildlife Management Area; River Stay Away From My Door — all sorts of very effective programs, and I think they are probably very helpful in connection with young people's understanding of our natural resources.

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder, will we be getting the Annual report during the study of these Estimates?

**MR. MACKLING:** I'm not familiar with whether this department does file an annual report. —(Interjection)— That may be the problem, I don't know, Mr. Chairman, maybe that's why it's still at the printers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 2.(e)(1) to 2.(f)(2) were all read and passed.

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$2,587,200 for Natural Resources, Administrative Service for the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 1983 — pass. 3(a)(1).

The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Speaker, I take it that the Resource Executive Administration provides for the operation of the offices of the Assistant Deputy Ministers, the Resource Allocation and Economics and Program Review section. My recollection is that that is that relatively small group of senior professional people within the branch that attempts to sort out some of the allocation problems of our resources. Would the Minister indicate for the benefit of the members of the Committee the names of the people involved in this branch. I think they are just a relatively small number. —(Interjection)—

**MR. MACKLING:** I'm getting to understand that it's Mr. Bossenmeier who is the senior officer, and then there are seven other people involved in that department. It is a resources — I was going to say think tank, but that's not really it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Are there any more questions on 3(a)(1)? 3(a)(1) to 3.(b)(2) were all read and passed.

3.(c)(1).

The Member for Morris.

**MR. MANNES:** I'm wondering if I could have a clarification as to the people involved under this review?

**MR. MACKLING:** I'm advised that there is one senior official and four other people. They are resource economists and research analysts.

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

**MR. RURIK (Ric) NORDMAN (Assiniboia):** Mr. Chairman, it appears, the Honourable Minister mentioned that there were only about seven or eight people involved here —(Interjection)— five. And just going through this we are budgeting for \$731,300 of which is all wages with the exception of 78,000.

**MR. NORDMAN:** In other words on (b) then, there will be another group of individuals that we are looking at. Okay that clarifies my concern.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister, do you want to respond to that? The Member for Morris.

**MR. MANNES:** Yes, I'm wondering if the Minister could tell me what this group of people are reviewing.

**MR. MACKLING:** They co-ordinate the development of measurable goals and performance standards for the department; they assist Wildlife Branch in the development of the detailed proposal in respect to the wood bison herd in Manitoba; they have conducted a park visitor survey in 20 provincial parks for Parks Branch and Regional Services; they have evaluated the effectiveness of the Northern Fishermen's Freight Assistance Program for the Fisheries Branch. They have conducted a cost benefit analysis of the department's reforestation effort; they have conducted an evaluation of the department's tree nursery operation at Birds Hill and Hadashville; they conducted a comprehensive review of departmental fees and charges; they conducted a review of wildlife branch aerial surveys; they conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of all engineering and construction branch activities; assisted in the development of a 20-year forest management plan, developing a system of appraising forest fire damage; assisted in the preparation of alternative, private wildlife habitat programs; evaluated the benefits of the Nettley-Libau Marsh Program; conducted a comprehensive cost analysis of waterfall program; other miscellaneous economic services provided the branch directors and Assistant Deputy Ministers.

**MR. MANNES:** I am wondering if any of these reports became public documents at all and who this group of people reported to?

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, I don't know what the practice in the past was. I would assume that this is work initiated within the department, for the department to make studies as to evaluate its program. It's not evaluation of new initiatives or anything like that. There is one public one apparently; it's been pointed out park



visitor survey has been made public.

**MR. MANNES:** The other part of my question. Who does this particular group, report to?

**MR. MACKLING:** They would report to the Deputy Minister.

**MR. DREIDGER:** Mr. Chairman, after listening to the list that the Minister was reading out all the activities that this group did, I think they are probably underpaid, they should have more staff. Seriously though, he mentioned the bison herd, does this also cover the caribou investigations that are going on, and are these the people that are recommending parks developments?

Just listening to the report or the responsibilities that you were reading out, the wildlife aspect of it, the park aspect of it, are these the people that make the decisions and make the recommendations to the Deputy Minister in terms of what will happen in the next year?

**MR. MACKLING:** No, I don't think that they make the decisions. They evaluate program and review it and then give that information to the Deputy Minister.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Any further questions, Member for Emerson?

**MR. DREIDGER:** Is this on the total responsibilities of the resource department, because it covered wildlife, it covered forestry, it covered parks? What I am trying to establish is whether this is the hub of the decision making here, somewhere along the line?

**MR. MACKLING:** No, I don't think so, Mr. Chairman, it is a group that is available to evaluate program and to initiate studies on behalf of the department to determine the effectiveness of program and evaluate from a cost benefit point of view any of the programs that the department has under way.

**MR. DREIDGER:** Very good, Mr. Chairman. Then to the Minister, would this group also be studying, for example, the wildlife management area that is set up in the St. Malo area, in conjunction with the St. Malo Wildlife Association and the resource people?

**MR. MACKLING:** I would assume that, if I request the department to do that, that would be the group that would look at that.

**MR. DREIDGER:** In this project, the Wildlife Management Project in the St. Malo area was sort of pilot project, and I think the resource people have been watching it very closely and on an ongoing basis. Is it possible that we could get some kind of a report, that this is the area where we would be looking at it if this is the group that is studying it?

I am wondering if we could have more information on that, because as indicated, it was a pilot project which was cost shared with the administration is shared, by the local authorities as well as resource people. If this is the area that we will be studying things of this nature, then I wonder, if it is possible to

get some kind of a report on that, because it is quite a dramatic change that has taken place there.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, I don't know whether in the priorities of the work that they have, I could ask them to make that evaluation quickly, but I am sure we are looking at that. I might say, that also recently saw a picture of the honourable member with a very large turkey in his hand and which indicates —(Interjection)— let me tell you, this was a wild turkey that I am sure the honourable member garnered out there in a good hunting expedition.

There have been some excellent initiatives in wildlife down there. I am aware of them and I have had occasion to have conversations with the wildlife people there and so I am familiar with their initiatives.

**MR. DREIDGER:** Just further to that, I want to agree with the Minister when he says that we have very active wildlife people out there, I think very well organized, very concerned and a group right now of various wildlife associations working apparently on a new project along the same basis or hopefully along the same basis as the St. Malo wildlife management area. I think if I am correct, they made representation to the Minister. Would this be the group that would be studying this kind of a proposal under the Ministers Estimates?

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, I would assume that when it gets to the stage where we think there is a potential for our developing something, that they would be the people that we would call upon.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Would this group of economists also be advising the Minister on the viability of commercial farming of wildlife?

**MR. MACKLING:** I assume that would be the case, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Then I would ask the Minister if he received from this group a recommendation that we in Manitoba go into the commercial farming of wildlife.

**MR. MACKLING:** Not that I am aware of, Mr. Chairman. I would have serious misgivings about such a program.

**MR. GRAHAM:** To continue then, if the Minister was trying to set up a pilot project in the commercial farming of wildlife, I imagine he would have this group study it carefully and monitor it to see whether or not it was economically viable.

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, if I were interested in that, certainly; and if that was the policy thrust of government this would be the group, I guess, that we would ask to make that kind of evaluation.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Would the Minister then tell us whether the recent announcement that he made of the farming of elk in the north-western part of Manitoba will be monitored and an economic report made on the operation of that farm?

**MR. MACKLING:** In connection with that, there may be some misunderstanding on the part of people in respect to that program. It's my understanding that project is one to study the productivity or the breeding of wild elk in captivity. It is not a program, as I understand it, to evaluate the potential for the sale of elk meat. Certainly the department will be evaluating the success of the breeding in captivity of wild elk.

**MR. MANNES:** A question possibly somewhat related to that in the list of items that you covered as to what this group was covering. I think one of the earlier ones was a wood bison herd. Is that an ongoing study, or has that been completed? Can the Minister tell us specifically what the result of that study was?

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that our department was requested to make an evaluation of such a project, and the initial evaluations are such that it does not look like it would be a feasible economic venture for the people involved.

**MR. KOVNATS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the hope of being able to help this Committee, I would think a matter of consistency is of the utmost importance. Even if the Minister is going to answer, that the Minister should indicate also that he is going to answer, because we're going to run into problems later on where the Minister might not want to answer, and if he is acknowledged then you're kind of forcing him to answer. I only give you this information to be helpful. We have a very co-operative Minister who appears to know his department, so you're not running into any trouble here.

**MR. BLAKE:** You don't have to butter him up like that Abe. Come on.

**MR. KOVNATS:** Anyway, I do have a question on this particular department, if the Honourable Minister can answer. What causes or initiates a program review?

**MR. MACKLING:** Not having had occasion to require one, I hesitate to give you that answer off the cuff. I would assume that, if for example as a result of the review of these Estimates, there are some good constructive questions placed to me in respect to departmental activities that I'm not able to respond to, and there's some suggestion that a portion of our activities may well be less than worth the money that we're putting into it, then I would ask this department to make such a valuation. I assume that most of the evaluations are in respect to programs that have been advanced by outside interest groups such as the group that your colleague was referring to, and from initiatives from within the department itself, and from government itself. I haven't had occasion, as I indicated, to request such an evaluation yet, but I assume that will happen.

**MR. KOVNATS:** Well, I take for gospel, for what the Minister has suggested. And if I could just mention that I think that under resources, that the blueberry industry in Manitoba can be pushed somewhat. You know it sounds a little bit humorous, but here is an industry something like wild rice, that can be pushed

a little bit if we had some kind of a program review, and we can develop another industry in the province, and I have some land that could be quite useful in developing those blueberries.

Also, if we're going to develop other industries I think the growing of trees, which is somewhat developing in the province anyway. But if there could be some encouragement and some sort of a program review on the growing of trees which, Scotch pines and things of that nature, a whole new industry can come about here in the province. I know around the Christmastime period, these Christmas trees, Scotch pines, white pines, are brought in from other provinces and from the United States in competition to our own. So I think that some sort of review could go on in this particular item, so that we, the people in the Province of Manitoba can develop this industry and compete with out-of-province people.

**MR. DAVID R. BLAKE (Minnedosa):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we're going to get into forestry somewhere later on down here, so I had some questions on that. But while we're on this particular program, one of the previous speakers mentioned the market or farming of game animals and the reference to the elk ranch proposed in the the Minitonas Area. I know that nature is fairly good on maintaining a balance, but obviously, after a few years, there's going to be an imbalance in these animals, and they're going to have to be slaughtered or taken out and relocated elsewhere.

I understand that there are going to be permits issued on an allocation basis of some type to obtain the meat from the animals that have to be slaughtered. And I was just wondering what provisions the Minister might make or what provisions his department might see and having this meat allocated in such a way as to prevent the illegal possession of poached meat going undetected. If you were allocated two hind quarters of an elk and a game ranger was to search your premises and find elk meat there, and a permit to cover it, it would be pretty difficult to tell whether that was the one you bought or whether that was the one you got last month out in the bush by yourself. Could the Minister tell me what provisions have been taken to prevent actions of this nature, or what he foresees in the future of this operation.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well in respect to that elk experiment, as I've indicated earlier, I believe it to be limited to the study of the rearing of elk in captivity. I don't think that it involved a program of domestication or the raising and then slaughtering for sale of elk meat.

It's my understanding that it's a limited program, and consideration of course will be asked of the department of the government by the people involved, presumably if very successful, they'll be wanting to slaughter animals. But we have not made any commitment to that, that I'm aware of. And I would assume that what would likely be the benefit of this is the movement of elk from one part where there may be an overabundance to an area where there are few.

**MR. BLAKE:** I appreciate that and I was able to move some into my area because I haven't been that successful the last couple of times out. Mr. Chairman, I

believe I heard you say earlier that you were opposed to game farming of this type and I wondered if that would apply to the raising of pheasant in domestic circumstances and then being released in a game hunting area for a fee, because there are two or three very successful operations, not only here but elsewhere along that line, on a commercial basis, and I just wondered if you'd be opposed to that type of game farming as well.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I quite candidly indicate my individual viewpoint; it might not be the viewpoint of government on this. I am not enthusiastic about the retention in cages or otherwise, the holding of wild animals and then their release under reduced sportsmanlike circumstances for hunting. Not to say that I think that necessarily people that do that are doing anything wrong. My inclination is to preserve hunting in its more pristine form, the hunting of game in natural setting.

**MR. BLAKE:** I take it then, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister's not opposed to sport hunting and sport fishing.

**MR. MACKLING:** Certainly not. The Honourable Member for Lakeside asked about periodicals, and staff heard that from a long distance off apparently, and I have here little booklets called Publications List and it lists a large number of publications that are available; I'll let you have copies of those. There's one on the Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba Big Game 1981 Season and I draw the attention of the members to the attractive looking minister there in colour — (Interjection) — he looks good in colour; I don't take anything away from my colleague — Sioux Pass Marsh Interpretive Trail; the Souris Riverbend Wildlife Management Area, a Sampling of Manitoba Nature; Bald Head Hills; Birds of Oak Hammock Marsh; Extinct, Rare and Endangered — oh, that's not Liberals, pardon me — Wildlife in Manitoba; a Glimpse of Wild Nature; some very attractive looking material, and it's non-political except that occasionally you get a Minister's picture in it, but that's only fair.

**MR. SCOTT:** Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering, we have a Resource Executive Administration. I take it all three; a, b, and c of these groups are used as a seconding basis to provide services that are needed in the other divisions of the department and therefore, a fair amount of weight would likely go, being that's executive level, to the opinions of these people on their program reviews and any proposals by members in the department.

What I'm wondering, on a makeup, having spent some six to seven years on the economic side of things, it seems that it's fairly heavily loaded towards economists in the department or in the branch, and I'm wondering if there are any people who could be classified as educated ecologists as well within the branch who would assist and give opinions as far as the impact and the potentials of programs that are going ahead.

**MR. MACKLING:** I would have to inform myself on that because I don't know whether our people could

be categorized that way and I will have to inform myself and advise. I'm not getting any direction from my staff here.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I wanted to take this opportunity somewhat out of order perhaps in terms of the items that we're discussing, but I appreciate that we will be dealing with one of the major items of concern to many members on this Committee, water resources. I further appreciate that in the technical way of dealing with these Estimates that the matter of interest of many members, that is the kind of actual projects to be undertaken in the coming year perhaps would not come until the operational branch reports, but I see also that we've been joined by the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Doyle, who has an ongoing interest in parks that members of the Committee have requested, if you recall Mr. Chairman, if the department can supply us with any material at all with respect to the planned projects for the year coming up in both these fields, in the water development drainage works and parks development, it will greatly assist the honourable members in dealing with the matters before us.

It's perhaps even more important inasmuch as that we are first up department and we do not have the departmental report before us to avail ourselves of as committee members so, through you Mr. Chairman, to the Minister and his staff I would ask if any of that kind of material can be made available to us as soon as possible. We'll be dealing with the items certainly when the Committee convenes after the supper adjournment hour, and I make that request known.

I thank the Honourable Minister for the very quick response with respect to giving us a sampling of the publications that his department provides.

**MR. MACKLING:** I know that there are ongoing initiatives in respect to various projects and I don't know to what extent I give you detailed written commentary on those things. I haven't seen them; I'm not aware that we've got items projected. I think when we get to capital projects then I will have a listing, I think, of the initiatives.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Minister, through the Chairman to you, again just for the education of the committee, where do we . . .

**MR. MACKLING:** It's right near the end, Acquisition, Construction and Physical Assets. That's 13(a).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We're getting into conversation again.

The Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, thank you. It does create a bit of a problem for some of our members who are, of course, anxious to see what specific construction projects are to be undertaken. We in rural Manitoba look to the construction schedule of this department with as eager anticipation as we do when the Minister of Highways presents his Estimates and his proposed construction program for the coming year. We are abutting to the major item of water resources which under that general heading we'd like to talk a lot about

water and drainage problems, conservation problems. It would be helpful to have that material with us. However, if it's not available, it's not available. I'm simply recording that request at this time that it ought to be made available to us as soon as possible even prior to — I appreciate that the Chair may rule that we only can discuss the specifics of a project under Appropriation 13, Page 104, Acquisition, Construction and Physical Assets, but it will assist us if the members can have that material later on tonight so that we can familiarize ourselves with it and we can either praise the Minister or the past Minister or criticize him for his callous disregard for the legitimate needs and requirements of their constituents.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I have seen the outline of the capital items, but the detail is being worked on right now. I'm advised by Mr. Weaver who's here that they're working on the detail of that now and as soon as it's ready I'll make it available to the Committee. I haven't seen it yet. It should be ready at the beginning of next week.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, that presents us with a dilemma. We should then perhaps get on to your salary and filibuster it for a week or two or argue about the amount of pencils that are being used in the Deputy Minister's office, but I say this very seriously, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, that the examination of the Estimates of this department are going to be made extremely difficult without at least a summary of the projected projects that are being considered for the coming year. We simply don't know what the \$10-12 million that have been allocated for, where they will be applied, how they will be used. It makes it very difficult for us to pass any reasonable kind of judgment either pro or opposed to the allocation of public tax money in this particular area. And if that were the case, Mr. Chairman, then perhaps we should have delayed the consideration of these Estimates, or at least not had them come up first in line. We assumed that when the government expressed their willingness to proceed with the Estimates of the Department of Natural Resources, that the material would be more or less available.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, in respect to the selection of departments in before this Committee, it's Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition who decide which department they want to start with, and I had nothing to do with the selection of which department they start with. Staff are working on that. I saw the Capital Budget; I reviewed that with staff I think late last week and so now, they're working on an amplification of it. I am advised that we will be able to respond, as we go through the Estimates in respect to particular programs, but we haven't got the package to set down in front of you. But as we arrive at each item if you'll indicate what your concerns are, what areas your concerns are, or what we're doing in respect to a certain thing, then I will be able to call upon my staff to confirm to me the capital projects that are involved in the various items.

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

**MR. GERARD LECUYER (Radisson):** Well, I think that the concern I was going to raise or the point I was going to make that, would it not be possible to provide a broad outline the general information with this regard as we go through? And it seems to me that's what the Minister just indicated.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I believe that question has already been answered. There being no further questions . . . the Member for Morris.

**MR. MANNESS:** Yes, I'm wondering if you could give me the names — I certainly don't have to know the salaries — of the four economists or however it was listed.

**MR. MACKLING:** There is a senior resource economist, his name is M. Fisher, I don't know what the "M" stands for yet; a senior resource analyst, R. Delbaere; a senior resource economist, R. Ruhr; and an economic research analyst, L. Gravelines. If you want their bi-weekly salary rates I can give you that too.

**MR. MANNESS:** My final question in this whole area and actually I'm asking mainly for clarification. If someone were to come forward requesting a survey into the potential and future of peat farming, the analysis of that type of problem, could it find its way in this area? Would that be some other department of government?

**MR. MACKLING:** Peat farming may fall under Mineral Resources, rather than Natural Resources. I'm not sure. I believe it would fall under Mines and Energy. It's really mined or quarried. I know how it's taken out and it's like you repeat more. But apparently for whatever reason it falls under Mines and Energy.

**MR. MANNESS:** Yes, I guess I should clarify myself then in that regard. The taking of it would be under Mines and the farming of it would be under Agriculture, is that it?

**MR. MACKLING:** That I don't know. You may be right in your assessment on that. I know that for whatever reason it's under Mines presently. I didn't have anything to do with the determination of it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There being no further questions. 3(c)(1) — pass; 3(c)(2) — pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$731,300 for Natural Resources for Resource Executive Administration, for the fiscal year ending 31st of March, 1983.

We'll move on to Water Resources, 4(a)(1).  
The Member for Emerson.

**MR. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I hate to belabour the point that was raised by my colleague, the Member for Lakeside, about being able to properly peruse and consider the Estimates of Water Resources without having the capital program available. I think it's unusual. Normally at this time when Water Resources Estimates come up at this stage of game, the capital program is presented. It would expedite things if we could have a general indication

as to the works that are going to be undertaken, because, if not, then I have to go through my municipal people's requirements one by one and ask: Is this project on there? Is this project on there? Is this project on there? And I think we want to defer from going into it on that basis.

I have concerns that I want to raise about the various municipal drainage projects in my area: I have other concerns as well, but the fact that we do not have a capital project here makes it exceedingly difficult. I'm sure some of my colleagues also feel the same way about that and I'm just wondering if there's any way we could get a preview of what is happening; otherwise I hate to belabour the point that I'll be asking a question for every municipality. Is there request for a certain project on there, or not? If you know what the capital project is then we can maybe put on the record the things we would like the Minister to have a look at in the future and aside from that, it's finished. But it gets into very picky detail by not having an idea of what is on the program, and aside from the fact that we say we can debate it under the capital acquisition — where is it?— Item 15 there. I'm a little concerned about doing it that way because maybe some of these things are on their early stage of being maybe the survey staff, the planning staff, somewhere in the line it would be here. Now with not knowing where we have anything at all, it makes it exceedingly difficult. I don't know whether I'm necessarily, myself at least, prepared to proceed on the basis without having a look at it.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised by Mr. Weber that the practice has been departmentally, when the Estimates are under review, that the proposed construction capital is made available to Committee at that time when they get there. Now if we get to that item this evening, I will suggest we adjourn and then I'll provide the information. I don't want members to be asked to consider an Estimate item where there isn't sufficient detail for it. But I'm advised that it has been the practice in the past to go through the Estimates up to that point. And where the new construction items are under consideration, then it's tabled with the Committee. The details are given to the Committee at that time.

Now, you may be right that the work of this Committee would be expedited if that information were given earlier, and I'll have to consider that with staff in future Estimate detailing, but that has been the practice. Maybe there is some political strategy involved in that, I don't know. But maybe the idea is to hold you off until then, to let you know what is involved.

I don't know what the political merit is for that, or what. I am not particularly defensive about it but that has been the system that has been employed so staff didn't anticipate that they had to have that ready for the outset of the estimate taking and it's not ready.

I am advised that we can, as members question various items, water licensing, water management and so on, that we will be able to respond. I think that should be adequate for the committee.

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

**MR. DREIDGER:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't

know whether I can quite accept that. With all due respect, what bothers me is we have the Director of the Water Resources sitting here now, is he going to be available again when the capital projects are being brought about because there are many things about him and his people possibly that we want to discuss under this item here? When he is not here, it is awfully hard to do that.

If he hasn't got my projects on there, or enough of them on there, I might want to go after him a little heavier, you know. So, I think, in all fairness if there is any possible way to get a rough outline of this thing it would certainly assist. I don't know, I would have to look to my colleague for Lakeside, who was the Minister last year, to see whether he presented the capital project in drainage at the tail end, but my feeling was it was always brought forward at this time and that we looked at it and we knew what we were debating at that time.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, I just want to assure the honourable member that Mr. Wiebe will be here as and when required by me to be here and if there seems to be a considerable interest in this section of the department, he will be here.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNSG:** Pardon me, I was distracted, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I suppose, perhaps because of my inclination, initially if you recall we were prepared to discuss the major divisions of the department in their broad headings and then not worry about the detail to that extent and move along, as we have moved along quite nicely to this point.

It is understandable that many members on this committee have very specific concerns; we tend to relate that to this appropriation when it is not correct to do so, however, there are other major items that we could carry on with respect to water resources, we have made our wishes known. I hope that we can proceed on that basis.

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

**MR. ANSTETT (Springfield):** With regard to the whole sequencing of debate, if I may, by the Member for Emerson and others earlier.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you bringing up a point of order.

**MR. ANSTETT:** Yes, with the form of passing the Estimates. The whole question of Item No. 13, the Acquisition and Construction of Physical Assets and the debate of the Construction Program, as opposed to the current operating funds contained within the resolution items, was first instituted by the previous administration in the Spring of 1978 when this form of estimates was provided.

The members have a complaint about the limiting of discussion to current items; they should remember that it was they who provided this system. Prior to that, where there were specific items within a particular resolution the debate was provided under that item. For the first time, in the Spring of 1978, the order

of Estimates and the order in which this consideration was done was to provide for all construction debate under Item 13, and I think we should adhere to that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I don't believe that is a point of order. I think we'll go back to the speakers' list.  
Member for Lakeside.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, when members raise points of order you, Sir, will rule whether there is a point of order or not, but it is a legitimate pastime that we engage in on this committee from time-to-time to discuss matters on points of order.

I want to make it plain that I don't endorse everything that was instituted by the previous administration. I happen to think that the manner and the way in which Estimates were examined in the last four years, when members opposite did most of the examining, was a particular sterile exercise where we were at line by line, staff man years here, (a), (c), how many pencils, how many cars, how many this, how many that; that is not really my purpose of conducting the kind of legitimate examination on the part of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition of how you fellows are spending our tax dollars. I would like to talk in more global terms; I would like to talk in more fundamental terms about the direction of a division within this department; I would like to know what the philosophy of the Minister is with respect, even though he is relatively new, to the job. I had suggested, earlier on, that we in fact depart from that kind of an examination of the Estimates, fully aware that was a practise that was instituted or was allowed to get into the manner and way in which Estimates were debated.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We are going back to the Speaker's list. The Member for Assiniboia is on next.

**MR. RURIK (Ric) NORDMAN (Assiniboia):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I really don't know where we should be bringing this up, if this is the correct place or not but I will ask for your guidance on it.

There have two items that are of concern to me in my constituency and one other that is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister. The one in the Honourable Minister's Constituency is with regard to Omen's Creek in the Dublin Street and St. James Street area. Is there anything in the Budget or in the Estimates that is going to do anything about that particular area?

The other one, if I may continue, is the land drainage in the area at the northwest corner of Assiniboia. I don't know whether that has been brought forward by anyone over the years or into the Estimates.

The other one is the Woodlands retention pond that they have, and flowing into the Sturgeon Creek; the effluent from the Woodlands area, does this come into focus under this clause?

**MR. MACKLING:** I am given to understand, in respect to the Woodlands part, that is Environmental Management. In respect to the Omen's Creek concern, there is a committee, it is an ad hoc Committee of both Provincial Government and Federal Government.

**MR. NORDMAN:** They haven't been doing anything for years.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Member for Assiniboia, will you let the Minister finish his comments please?

**MR. MACKLING:** The preliminary findings were such that our staff has considered that they want to have a review of that because the preliminary findings were something in the order of \$10 million for the waterway improvement, which seemed inordinately high. They are concerned to have a look at it, to see whether or not some other improvement can be made without spending that kind of money.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Assiniboia, do you have further comments.

**MR. NORDMAN:** That's fine, thank you.

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

**MR. DAVID R. (Dave) BLAKE (Minnedosa):** Chairman, I was going to go on the point of order that I thought the Minister was on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You were on the Speaker's list before a point of order was raised.

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, that's right. I wonder, we haven't got the Capital Expenditures here, if I were to ask a question under this item, is construction being considered, planned or what stage is it in, on say the Holland Dam or the Patterson Dam or the Pembolier Dam, would I be able to get an answer that it is not being considered now, or it is

**MR. MACKLING:** I am given to understand that the Holland Dam is part of an interim study with the Federal Government.

**MR. BLAKE:** How about the Patterson Dam? Is there any action on the Souris River in connection with the Patterson Dam being planned in the next year or two?

**MR. MACKLING:** The same answer, Mr. Chairman, in respect to the Patterson Dam.

**MR. BLAKE:** A Federal-Provincial cost shared . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I hope that you would go to the Chair again because again I remind you it's being taped and they have no idea of who's speaking.

**MR. BLAKE:** Maybe if I might suggest to Mr. Chairman, in a couple of days the young lady will get to recognize us all and it might be a little easier for her just to whisper in the mike that it's the Member for Minnedosa, or whatever

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Minnedosa. Do you have more comments?

**MR. BLAKE:** That's fine, Mr. Chairman. We can get the answers down later on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, it was the some answer. Both those items are involved in the cost-shared study with the Federal Government.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Yes, just to finish up on that. Could the Minister give us any indication of how long these studies are going to go on or when one of these projects might be undertaken?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** I'm given to understand that the expectation is that the studies would be completed in two years.

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

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, looking at the figure for Administration in this section and also Water Investigation, I wonder if in fact we have enough moneys to deal with the serious water problems that we have in this province today.

Water, one of our natural resources is causing great concern in my constituency and we hear repeated warnings from people almost every day that there's not enough water to go around and I raised it in the House today the problems that Gilbert Plains is facing as we sit here this afternoon.

The enormous use of water for our everyday needs in our homes has been voiced over the air and it's appearing in public print almost on a daily basis. I can give you a classic example of Grandview in my constituency which is now consuming I understand, 100,000 gallons of water a day in that village. Surface run off has resulted in land erosion and is contributing to some of the problems that we face out in my constituency.

Talking to rural people and business people on a daily basis, they say and I see it with my own eyes that small creeks in the area have stopped running. Many dugouts are dry or they're going dry as I sit here this afternoon and with that kind of uncertain supplies it has caused a great strain on the livestock industry and other agricultural needs for more water out in the rural areas. I think I could be safe in saying that close to 20 inches of rain was reported last year in the Grandview, Roblin, Gilbert Plains area and Russell of my constituency and some of the areas experienced even flood proportions.

However today, where did that water go? It's gone, it's disappeared and there are wells going dry in my constituency as I sit here this afternoon. The ground water level in Roblin-Russell — and I don't know it's general over the whole province — but it's just disappearing, I don't know where it's going and there's a lot of concern being expressed.

The intermountain area this winter is experiencing a very very low snowfall and I think we could be in real trouble for water this summer unless we get excessive rains or a lot of snow in the next few months. We've all heard about the expression, should the wells run dry,

it could include the tap ad I'm just wondering what the department is doing about these problems that are out there; what kind of monies they've got to deal with it and any studies that's under way and as near as I can gather, the problem is a wide ranging one and it's one that's very serious in the part of the province that I represent.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect to the items that we are now considering under the Water Resources Branch, Administration, Water Licensing, Water Management, Water Investigations, Regional Management, Conservation District Authority, Canada-Manitoba Flood Drainage Reduction Agreements and Canada-Manitoba Value-Added Crops Production Agreements, in respect to all of that — and in this now I'm generalizing — I'm advised that we have two additional staff budgeted for in Water Licensing. We have one additional staff resultant from a change in organization of staff under Water Investigations.

In respect to the generality of the remarks of the Member for Roblin-Russell, as I indicated in the House I am most concerned about where we have been going and where we can be going in the future in respect to our natural resources. For 100 years the best advice given to people was to clear the land and drain the water off it because that way you could grow better crops, you could get more land and it's good land. It's true, that was good farming practice but we've seen other civilizations where heavy, intensive agricultural practice has in fact destroyed the land.

There are systems of nature that we have to take into account. We'll have to look at the relationship of ground cover. We have removed ground cover. We have deforested areas that were forest and that has an environmental consequence. It means that you don't have the same water retention and gradual release over the year. It can actually effect a change in the environment; effect a change in rainfall.

There are places in the world where they have been experimenting with reforestation and development of cover and they have produced dramatic changes in the climate itself and I've heard of two places in the Middle East. If you look at areas in Africa where the desert is encroaching year by year without any apparent way to stop it, it's because of intensive agricultural use.

Now we can't condemn our people for clearing land and draining sloughs, that's what has been the best advice but it seems to me we've got to start evaluating the cost. As I indicated in the House, I think we're going to have to encourage people to maintain ground cover, return marginal land to trees and return marginal land to wet land. Now maybe we can experiment in the future with some of that wet land not being just relatively unused. We're going to be talking about wild rice — I know it's difficult — but there may be the potential for paddy rice. It's being looked at. I suppose it's a continuing problem but I think we've got to start trying to go back to a balanced ecology. One of the problems that we've been facing is more and more water to drain off more quickly because if you strip your cover off then the water comes down

that much more quickly.

We see it in places for example in California where they have had tremendous disasters with flooding because they stripped all the forest cover off. Now I'm not saying we have a disaster on our hands in Manitoba, not at all, but we have a very serious problem because we've got areas in the province that are becoming water short and we've got to address those problems — I'm not going to suggest we're going to provide any immediate answers — but I'm going to look for constructive advice and criticism from all of my colleagues in this House as to how we do it. It could cost a lot of money.

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

**MR. McKENZIE:** I thank the Honourable Minister for his comments on the subject matter and like himself I certainly agree that maybe the time has come in this province that we're going to have to be stricter and implement laws at the municipal level or the provincial level to try and turn the whole cycle that we're going through around and put it back, if that's possible. I wonder if in fact it is possible to put it back where it was so that the farmers are not bulldozing these forested areas out and putting it into cultivated land, then they face the problem of the high taxation that's being levied and they need every acre they can to try and make it go. In my time in public life I've never experienced as many concerns and anxieties about the lack of water as I have this past six, seven months. Wells that have been in service for 50 years are now dry and the farmers are either trying to deepen them or dig a new well.

The resource that we have, the Shellmouth Dam and certainly the Duck Mountains, has been carrying a good supply of water over the years but the area there that I represented before, the Ethelbert Plains and Pine River-Camperville Area as you mentioned in your remarks, that area has been forested to the stage now, when you get a rain or when the spring comes it only takes a matter of two or three days and that whole flow comes down out of that area across to the lake and it doesn't get to drain into the areas — there's a flood — and then it's all over in about three days. In the meantime the water table continues to go down and I just wonder if the committee are associated with what I am saying. I think that we have to in this province take a very long hard look at our water stocks and see if we have to turn it around. I think the time is now because the tip of the iceberg is showing, the problems are real and they are right out there in my constituency at least.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I have asked the Department to initiate a study of the relationship of our present stock of surface water in relation to ground water because there is a relationship, there has to be.

It's my understanding, however — and I've made no study of this — that it is only in certain types of soil in certain areas of the province where we have the capacity there to replenish our aqua for us. There has to be a technique or an ability for the surface water to

feed into the ground water supply and replenish it.

Generally speaking, we've been concerned in North America with getting water off the land quickly and getting trees out of the road. We've got to provide an inducement to people to plant trees to maintain water on the land and I think we can succeed. There are areas where we could plant trees without interrupting to any extent, good agricultural practice.

In the old days as I recall it, we asked farmers to plant caragana bush along highways and they were an excellent snow break. But the problem with that kind of snow break is that the snow dumps in a very substantial drift, it doesn't spread out very evenly and that drift stays in the melt, it's there longer and the farmer doesn't want that land held up so long.

Now as I understand it, the concept now is to plant trees that provide a break but not the solid break, that is, the snow is trapped but is more widely distributed. The technique is a wider spacing of tree cover so you don't have the great mounds of snow that take a long time to dissipate in the spring that frustrates a farmer wanting to get on his land. So we've got to look at things like that and create initiatives for the kind of return to the land of water and tree. What I suggest in the House — and God forbid I don't want to say that I'm holding my colleagues to this — but I would like to see systems employed where such lands would be exempt from taxation.

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

**MR. McKENZIE:** Mr. Chairman, I had another question of the Minister.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I'd appreciate it if you'd put your hand up if you've got another question because I have no idea if you have any further questions.

The Member for Roblin-Russell.

**MR. McKENZIE:** I'm sorry, I'll defer to him and I'll call back.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You go ahead now.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, maybe I'll need the guidance. It's regarding the licensed dam at Gilbert Plains and the dugout at Grandview. They may come under the Licensing and Water Management, I'm wondering.

**MR. MACKLING:** The Grandview comes under Capital but under the Construction but I can indicate to you that that project is ongoing, it's in there.

**MR. McKENZIE:** It's in the Capital.

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, and the Edwards Creek.

**MR. McKENZIE:** I was advised February it was held back.

**MR. MACKLING:** There was some delay associated with it but it's in the Budget.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Could I raise the one about Gilbert Plains or later?



**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Go ahead, you're on now so you might as well continue to ask your question.

**MR. McKENZIE:** Well, I raised the matter in the House today and The Minister of Agriculture is the one who answered my question about the water shortage that Gilbert Plains is facing as we sit here this afternoon. In fact, it's a crisis situation according to the Mayor and the Reeve where the water is not getting down from the upper dam to the Town of Gilbert Plains and they've already advised the farm community who draw on the town supply, that they are no longer allowed to take water from the town supply and the Minister of Agriculture of course answered me but I wonder.

It's a unique situation, Mr. Minister, because the Town of Grandview's water supply comes under the Water Resources Branch. Grandview has its own water supply services. Gilbert Plains comes under the Minister's Department because as I got word this afternoon the town itself could be out of water on Monday unless we can do something about the matter.

I wonder first of all, why the Minister of Agriculture answered my question because I thought it was this department. Secondly, if the Minister can give us, the Reeve, the Mayor and the town some assurance that waters can be released from the upper dam and get it into the supply for the town. I understand they've tried to release water but it's not getting to the Gilbert Plains supply, it's getting diverted into creeks and others and I wonder if the Minister would care to comment on that.

**MR. MACKLING:** Well, Mr. Chairman, first of all I don't know the rationale for the Water Services Board being with Agriculture and not with the Department. I assume that some many years ago the delivery of that program was more suitably located in Agriculture and that's where it was. But in respect to the particular problem that you referred to, I'm advised by Mr. Weaver that we've had intense cold with very little snow cover and the river froze very deeply and because of this they are making arrangements now with PFRA for pumping water into the reservoir.

The honourable member suggests releasing water from the upper dam but with cold weather that could cause a loss of that water by freezing. The best way apparently is to pump it into the reservoir and they're doing that. They're going to arrange to do that.

**MR. McKENZIE:** I thank the Honourable Minister and may I remind him that after the Question Period today I took the information that the Reeve and the Mayor provided me with and I turned it over to the Minister of Agriculture. So the phone numbers are there if somebody in the Department could contact them and let him know. They'll be, I'm sure, most grateful and some of the concerns will be alleviated.

**MR. MACKLING:** May I answer? Well, I just want to indicate that Mr. Weaver who is present, has personally attended to this matter already, so I'm giving you information that the problem has been acted on.

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

**MR. ANSTETT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions regarding the operation of the conservation districts under this appropriation. I'm not sure if the Administration Salaries is the appropriate place or to raise it later on under this item. Does that come under the Canada-Manitoba Water Development Agreement?

**MR. MACKLING:** Conservation District Authority. It's (f).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You'll reserve your remarks till the 12th?

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, I'll wait till the 12th.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Okay, the Member for Pembina.

**MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must apologize for missing out on some of the earlier discussion. I take it that the Capital Expenditures for Water Resources are ready at this time or they're not ready at this time?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** The detailed information in respect to them is being prepared at this moment, it will be ready Monday. But I have reviewed with staff last week the Capital items involved and I've already indicated in answer to some questions some portions of what that involved and I'm prepared to answer questions in respect to those as they are identified during the course of the review of these Estimates. When we get to the Capital item, we will have the material available.

**MR. ORCHARD:** I take it then that for all intents and purposes then the disposition of the available Capital has been determined as to where it should go?

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you. I've got another couple of questions if you don't mind.

The Minister indicated the nature of problems that are occurring right now and it seems to be, in my personal observation, that over the last couple of years we have indeed had a lowering water table in our shallow surface wells. I guess my question would be to the Department — because certainly I wouldn't expect the Minister to have this kind of information at his fingertips — but is there a correlation between the shallow aquifer wells that are this winter and in the past winter going dry with, I don't believe, above average use more so than any other year? Is there a correlation between that and the level of rainfall that we've had the last couple of summers, the limited snow cover we've had the last three winters in a row now, that we may be in fact not looking at as much a long term problem that's causing this problem but rather a very short term — and I might say quite unusual weather — that's been part and parcel of what we've had to live with in Southern Manitoba particularly in the last five years, say?

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, climatic conditions certainly affect the shallow well, aquifers, and when we have dry conditions then the well and the aquifer is under stress and it can break down and malfunction. — (Interjection)— That means the well goes dry. — (Interjection)— The well dries up, yes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Virden. The Member for Pembina. Do you have more questions?

**MR. ORCHARD:** Then I take it that the general comments you've made about initiatives aren't necessarily designed to alleviate that situation because I think you might have difficulty changing the weather patterns. I know that my colleague, the MLA for Lakeside, has probably as much influence as anybody with He who controls the weather and he didn't do very well the last two years.

But, Mr. Chairman, I listened with a great deal of interest to the Minister's remarks in the Throne Speech Debate about water management and his desire to — if I might paraphrase — change the direction of emphasis in the Water Resources Department.

I have to agree with the Minister that from time to time — and I'm not being critical because what was done in the past in terms of drainage has given us the most fertile agricultural valley in Canada, if you want to go from anywhere between the Niagara Peninsula and the Okanogan, the Red River Valley has it and it's because of an extensive drainage program that was undertaken.

The drainage question is not completed yet because we do have, as the Minister is well aware, some drains that have moved from the Red River west and have several miles of construction that are needed to complete them. I would hope that those will be completed in this year's Estimates certainly, or failing that at the latest, next year's Estimates. It's sort of like putting the last nickel into the dollar to make the whole system work properly.

Do I detect in the Minister's remarks that this Department may now take on a new emphasis of rather than drainage and movement of water, but one of retention of water for a number of purposes — first and foremost I suppose flood control in some small ways — and retention of water for slower release over a longer period of time?

**MR. MACKLING:** My short answer would be yes.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Not wanting to get a preview of the Capital Expenditures, but do some of this year's Capital Expenditure undertakings reflect that new direction or are we too soon?

**MR. MACKLING:** Too soon.

**MR. ORCHARD:** I don't want to get into an issue that's very near and dear to my heart at this stage of the game. I will wait for the Capital Estimates.

But there is a rather unique circumstance — and I had full intention of discussing this with the Minister over a coffee rather than during the Estimate time — but there is a road construction project which is taking place in my constituency, one of the few ones that's been undertaken there, but this particular one

had a dual advantage and I think Mr. Weaver is familiar with it.

It's the upgrading of a road through a fairly large ravine in the escarpment which in upgrading presents the potential to use the road as a water retention dam and slowly release the water say over a month or a five or six-week period and that is on Provincial Road 244, a mile and a half south of PTH No. 23.

I would like to ask the Minister if his water resource staff has available any information on the water flows at that particular juncture in the road. Also, whether the department has any information on the retention bay upstream from that road; i.e., would a 20-foot grade produce how many acres of pond? Does the department have that kind of information?

**MR. ANSTETT:** Perhaps we should determine whether or not the road is still going to be built before we contemplate using it as a dam.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Was that a point of order, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, it is not a point of order.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you.

**MR. MACKLING:** My understanding is, that matter is still under review.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Yes, I know it's under active study right now by PFRA and that particular point in the drainage system was not part of the general review that PFRA is undertaking in the area because it fell to the joint jurisdictions of the Department of Highways and the Department of Natural Resources. So I might ask the Minister, does that review include giving an estimate of the size of pond that would be created with a given height of road construction?

**MR. MACKLING:** Yes, it does.

**MR. ORCHARD:** And what is the time frame? Will that information be available for this summer?

**MR. MACKLING:** Probably.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Not that I want to be nitpicky on words but probable doesn't leave one much idea of whether probable is June, July, August or December.

**MR. MACKLING:** We don't have the details here and I'm just getting advice that it's possible, but we haven't got that precise information here.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Well, I wonder then if the Minister — I'm renowned to be a patient man — might attempt to make that information available over the next couple of days. I'd be greatly interested in pursuing the matter.

**MR. MACKLING:** I'll ask my staff to further indicate what their expectations are.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you.

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

**MR. GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a series of questions I'd like to ask the Minister and the first one I would like to know is, is it under this general heading of Water Resources that the operation of the Qu'Appelle Valley authority would come under this particular appropriation?

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, we're not familiar with that authority. Is that a Saskatchewan?

**MR. GRAHAM:** Yes, and Manitoba too.

**MR. MACKLING:** I'm advised that there's no Manitoba Qu'Appelle Valley authority.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Minister, I believe several years ago when there was a significant study taken on the Saskatchewan River and the Qu'Appelle Valley, and Manitoba at that time had membership on a particular board that did a study — and I believe Mr. Weaver was a member of that board at that time — and I was just wondering if we still had input into that authority?

**MR. MACKLING:** I'm given to understand that what the honourable member is referring to is a Qu'Appelle Basin study and we have no input in that at this time.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Minister, apparently then Manitoba has no further input into that and that does cause some concern in my constituency because the Qu'Appelle Valley does operate in Manitoba. There is about seven miles of the Qu'Appelle River in the Province of Manitoba before it joins the Assiniboine and the Province of Saskatchewan has an operating authority to control the river flow in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Apparently the operation of that authority doesn't have the same priorities on the use of water that applies here in Manitoba, with the result that the recreation seems to have a much higher rating in Saskatchewan than agriculture does, with the result that water from the Qu'Appelle Valley through the various controls — and they have seven controls in Saskatchewan — is released in Manitoba and through the river in May and June so that the farmers in the Qu'Appelle Valley in Manitoba quite often are flooded up until about the first week in July, which prevents them from putting their crops in, or if they have been able to get them in early, the crops are then flooded out.

However, under the Canada-Manitoba Flood Protection it doesn't qualify for flood protection because it's an external jurisdiction outside of Manitoba that is causing this. I raise the matter with the Minister because farmers in Manitoba that are in the Qu'Appelle Valley are subject to the whims and decisions of another authority other than Manitoba yet they cannot receive any compensation for the arbitrary decisions made by another authority. So I would ask the Minister to take another look at it to see if there isn't some method where Manitoba can collect damages from the Province of Saskatchewan as a result of their decisions on water management outside the Province of Manitoba.

**MR. MACKLING:** My understanding is that in respect to our sister provinces there is agreement that no jurisdiction will reduce the water flow that normally would come into your province by more than 50 per cent. We have been getting our 50 per cent and every once in a while something more. Now, the something more is a natural consequence. The additional ponding in Saskatchewan, if anything, would tend to relieve the something mores because when there is an extreme rainfall condition, that modifies the onslaught. So I don't think we have any grievous problem with our sister province on that.

**MR. GRAHAM:** Well, Mr. Chairman, in due respect to the Minister, maybe he's not quite as familiar as I am with it because it is in my constituency. But it appears as though the operation of the PFRA Shellmouth Dam as a control structure and to regulate the flow of water in the Assiniboine River doesn't operate with the same philosophy at all as the Qu'Appelle Valley authority does and the Qu'Appelle Valley water is also part of the Assiniboine River. However, it comes into the Assiniboine below the Shellmouth Dam and the result is that while we hold the water back in the Shellmouth Dam and release it later on in the summer, the operation of the seven control structures in the Qu'Appelle Valley release the water quickly in the month of June so they can get the water levels in their various lakes down so they have beaches available for recreation during the months of July and August. The poor little farmers that are in the Qu'Appelle Valley here in Manitoba get a whole bunch of water dumped on them after the spring runoff when their crop gets flooded out. It's not an act of God so they can't collect under crop insurance. It's a deliberate act of another government in another jurisdiction and they aren't eligible for flood compensation under crop insurance nor are they eligible for flood compensation under the Canada Manpower Flood Sharing Agreement.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, we're certainly ready, willing and able to talk to our sister jurisdiction if there is a problem and the honourable member says that there is a problem. Well, I'll certainly be prepared to look into that.

**MR. GRAHAM:** A further question or maybe a suggestion to the Honourable Minister, since we did have representation in the Qu'Appelle Valley Basin Study Group, we had representation from Manitoba at that time, would the Minister consider having representation continue when it comes to the operating authority that is operating the Qu'Appelle Valley controls at this time?

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I don't think we'd have jurisdiction there although there are other mechanisms apparently available where we can have an input into transborder water movement. As I have indicated, if the operations of those control structures are such that the timed release is something that could be changed or altered and accommodate our interests downstream, I'm sure that they would accommodate us if it's possible and we'll talk to them about it.

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

**MR. MANNES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was interested in the Minister's comments in the House the other day and I was listening very closely to them today also regarding his concerns as to ground water levels, water tables in general and what we may do to prevent water rushing away too quickly.

I'd like to draw out from him some further thinking in that regard. I'm wondering if he can foresee or envisage legislation coming in whereby farmers would be asked to manage their farms in certain ways or that they would be told what methods of farming to practise. I guess specifically, I'm asking whether you can envisage legislation that would prevent summer fallowing through a vast area of our province and/or forcing forage crops in some of the areas closer to the marginal lands.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I am of the philosophy that it's better to lead people rather than push people. I'm of the belief that the farm community enjoys and evaluates our natural resources as highly or as strongly as any other portion of our society. I think though that what we have to do is demonstrate our joint concern in respect to soil conservation, water retention, forest cover retention and protection in a meaningful way and that is to not legislate that people have to do things. I don't believe in forcing people into this sort of thing.

I am however concerned, as the Minister has indicated, with wasteful practice because if summer fallow is left you don't have to drive far to see what's happening, the soil is being blown off the surface of the land. What I think we have to do though, is do a better job of bringing home the results of bad farming practice and providing an inducement maybe for forage cover crop and better farming practice rather than taking a hard line, get tough approach in respect to how people use their land.

**MR. MANNES:** If the education approach does not work, would you then prefer to go the legislative route?

**MR. MACKLING:** Mr. Chairman, I'm a believer in education. I think we learn something every day.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hour is now 5:30 p.m.

**MR. ENNS:** I wonder if I may just indicate to the Committee it would be our intention to enter into a discussion about the Garrison matter on this item unless I hear some objections from the Minister and we would be probably pursuing that on our return from the supper hour adjournment.

I just, as a courtesy, indicate that to the Honourable Minister.

**MR. MACKLING:** Very well, I appreciate that. No problem.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hour being 5:30 p.m., I'm interrupting the proceedings and the Committee will

return at 8:00 p.m. and we'll return to our speakers list. The Members for Minnedosa, Pembina and Lakeside are on the speakers list.

## CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

### SUPPLY — COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS

**MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon):** This Committee will come to order. I would like to direct the members attention to Page 23 of the Estimate Book, Resolution No. 30, Item 1(a)(1) Minister's Salary.

The Honourable Minister of Community Services and Corrections.

**MR. L.R. (Bud) Sherman (Fort Garry):** I just have a question first. I was wondering whether there's any reason why the Committee room is not supplied with ashtrays; has that changed since we last met, Mr. Chairman? I just would request that a couple of ashtrays be supplied, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** If the Honourable Minister of Community Services and Corrections is prepared to make his opening statement.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it's customary for Ministers to introduce their Estimates by way of an opening statement giving an overview of what is being proposed in the various votes and the various moneys that are being requested by the Government of the Members of the Assembly. I have a number of remarks that I'd like to make at this time, but firstly, I'd like to begin by acknowledging the very valuable assistance and support of my Deputy Minister, Mr. Ron Johnston who, I believe, Members of the Opposition know, having worked with him, and I think will agree with me of his dedication and skill in this particular area of Government Services.

I'd also like to thank the staff of my own office and the Deputy's office, indeed the entire department, certainly I've discovered a great deal of enthusiasm and efficiency among the staff and I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and respect for their conscientiousness and commitment in serving the citizens of our great province.

I wish to also pay tribute to those individuals who serve Manitobans outside the formal structure of my department in the various community agencies, organizations and various facilities that are run by volunteer groups, in large part; their diligence, their energy and their dedication, Mr. Chairman, continues to provide our citizens with quality programs and services designed to meet social needs within a broad continuum of programs and services.

In this fiscal year the department's initiatives will be based on two guiding principles: firstly, our government's commitment and responsibility to ensure the provision of programs and services designed to assist those individuals with demonstrated social needs. I must say, Mr. Chairman, having become Minister only a few months ago I've become very acutely aware of the great variety of needs in our community, a variety of needs throughout urban and rural and remote

Manitoba.

Secondly, our commitment is shown in these Estimates, our commitment to develop a continuum of service in each of the department's areas of responsibilities; providing programs on the basis of identified requirements. These principles are supported in my department's estimates through increased funding to providers of social services and expansion in service areas demonstrating a need for further programming. I would add, Mr. Chairman, that we have done our best to re-structure a set of existing estimates that had been awaiting us — that turned out to be awaiting us when we became Government, and I think honourable members opposite, particularly those who had experience in Cabinet, will realize that, given a change in government, indeed when you're in government for some period of time, that there are many programs that are worthy programs, that are ongoing programs, and there is not, indeed, much you can or perhaps should do with them except provide for some inflationary increases. So, to a large extent, Mr. Chairman, we are working within a set of estimates that, to some extent, we had very little in the way of elbow room to change around. I would say, however, that we have had the ability to provide some new initiatives and those initiatives I will refer to shortly. The department will continue to concentrate its resources on measures to ensure that programming is adequate, to meet the demonstrated needs of our citizens, and responsive to the changing and emerging requirements of our changing society.

Of necessity, our resources and initiatives must be developed in full recognition of the economic climate in the province, and certainly we would like to have done more than we are proposing in these estimates but, as all members in the House are quite aware, we must temper our activities, our desires, perhaps, by the financial reality that we have to confront, and certainly the matter of financial constraints is a very real matter.

So in this context I would like to highlight the department's 1982-83 Estimates as they reflect the ongoing development of social services to our people. In the field of Regional Community Services we will be expanding the staff to provide an increased level of service in fields of mental retardation, in the field of child welfare and in the field of vocational rehabilitation programming. You will be asked to provide a grant totalling \$20,000 to Osborne House, a facility for abused women and their children administered by the YWCA, to ameliorate past underfunding and to assist with the operation's ongoing deficit. A grant totalling \$69,000 will be made available to the Thompson Crisis Centre in support of expanded services to persons experiencing situations of family violence, sexual assault and other crises requiring intervention.

Mr. Chairman, I think there is no secret that one of the large areas of social problems confronting Manitobans is the challenge to assist Indian and Metis people, who move to Winnipeg or to Brandon or to other urban centres, to adjust to their new environment. The Indian and Metis Friendship Centres in this province play a very critical role in helping such people to adjust in a transition from rural to urban settings and, in recognition of the very vital work of the Indian and

Metis Friendship Centres in this province, we will be granting them a total of \$847,000, which represents an increase of more than \$170,000 over the previous year's funding. And I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Friendship Centres for the excellent work that they are doing throughout this province of ours.

Another area of increasing social concern, of course, is the very rapidly increasing percentage of our population who are retired; an increasing number of people are blessed with longevity, there is no question but that the statistics show that there are more senior citizens living among us today than ever before. In recognition of the excellent service provided by The Age and Opportunity Centres incorporated in the Winnipeg area we are endeavoring to assist them to rectify past underfunding and to assist them to continue their operation of 9 Senior Centres in Winnipeg by providing a grant of \$350,000, which is an increase of \$134,700 over the 1981-82 level.

There will be other general purpose grants made at an increased level to the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, the Brandon Citizen Advocacy, the Citizens Advocacy of Manitoba Incorporated, the Brandon Civic Senior Citizens Incorporated and the Meals on Wheels organization. My department will continue to support the Volunteer Centre of Winnipeg's efforts to encourage volunteers in community service and Rossbrook's House programs for Core area youngsters. Funds will also be available for the establishment of new Senior Centres in rural Manitoba and a variety of community projects.

The Manitoba Government acknowledges that our children are this province's most valuable, our richest resource. Accordingly, my department's programs for children and their families are designed to care for those in need of protection and to provide guidance and counselling to those experiencing difficulties. My department will continue to develop, improved and expanded services for children in Care. Funds are provided for increased foster home rates and rates for specialized foster care to meet rising costs and to encourage more individuals to undertake foster parenting in their homes. In addition, the Manitoba Foster Parents Association Incorporated will receive \$21,400, an increase of \$13,000, in support of its efforts to recruit foster parents in the province and to encourage high standards of child care.

You will be asked to approve a \$95,200 grant to the Children's Centre Child Protection Program, a new initiative which has been designed to co-ordinate, assess and treat mistreated youngsters. Increased funding support will also continue to the Health Sciences Centre's Parent Aid Demonstration project, assisting abusing parents and their children, and additional funds have been allocated for fees for physicians subpoenaed to appear to testify at child neglect and abuse hearings.

In addition, funds have been provided to establish a trust for the payment of an Age of Majority allowance to wards who have reached the age of 18. Under these provisions persons entering adulthood would each receive approximately \$400 upon leaving Care to begin independent lives. Mr. Chairman, this has been an area of difficulty for many of those people who

suddenly reach the magic age of adulthood and who we deem to have a particular need to become established and, therefore, I am pleased that we at least recognize this need and we can do a little bit at least to perhaps make them as independent as we possibly can.

The Seven Oaks Centre for Youth which functions as a short-term reception and shelter facility for children in Care will establish 6 new staff positions to strengthen its services to children. Additionally, the Manitoba Children's Aid Society and the Jewish Child and Family Service Organization will receive increased funding at a level which appropriately reflects rising costs.

Child care institutions, the Children's Home of Winnipeg, the Knowles Centre, Marymount and Sir Hugh John MacDonald Memorial Hostel will all receive increased funds in support of their service to delinquent, disturbed or handicapped children.

The Family Services of Winnipeg's Special Dependent Care Program for families in need of counselling, daycare and homemaker services and the Big Brother and Big Sister agencies in Manitoba working with single parent children will both receive increased grants supporting their activities.

I'd like to speak for a moment, Mr. Chairman, about the area of rehabilitation and to begin with, to discuss the matter of Community Mental Retardation and what we can do in this area. You'll be asked to approve funds in excess of \$500,000 for new community residences for the mentally retarded. This expansion will provide an extended supervised living accommodation, social and self help training for moderately handicapped adults.

You will also be asked to approve over \$300,000 in increased funds to existing community residences and increases for training services provided to residence clients.

Generally, Mr. Chairman, I think members opposite and other members of the House will note that there is a decided effort being made to place to the extent that we can, possibly place people in community residences as opposed to institutions. Having said that, I want to recognize the fine work that has been carried out for a number of years by the staff of the institutions that we have in this province, housing adults and children who are mentally retarded.

Funds for the provision of Respite Care Relief to families of the mentally retarded will be increased by 40 percent in 1982-83. I want to add, Mr. Chairman, that this is money very well spent because the extent that we can assist families keep their children who are handicapped, mentally handicapped essentially out of institutions, we are actually helping those families maintain their loved ones in their homes and at the same time actually reducing the burden on the taxpayer because without such respite care, I believe that many of these children who are now kept in their family homes would end up in institutions. This would of course, not be as satisfactory for the families, the children or certainly it would not perhaps be as satisfactory to the taxpayers. So I am very pleased that we are able to bring about this particular increase.

In addition, a 35 percent funding increase has been provided for infant and child development programs which deliver stimulating developmental activities

and training to mentally handicapped children. Increased funds are also provided to assist families in meeting the costs associated with caring for severely or profoundly retarded children in their own homes and again, Mr. Chairman, in order to reduce the need for institutional care. Increased program funds totalling \$185,000 will provide expanded supervised apartment living for services to mildly retarded adults learning to live independently in the community.

My department will continue its support of a wide variety of community agencies involved in the field of mental retardation and will increase levels of support to the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded, The Steinbach Development Centre Services to the Severely, Profoundly Retarded and Multiply Handicapped, the North Winnipeg YMCA Summer Days Program transportation costs for recreational programs for the mentally retarded and Gordon Bell School's Special Education Training and Day Activity Program for school age severely retarded and multiply handicapped children.

Funds totalling \$142,500 are also provided for alternative day programming for lower functioning older mentally retarded individuals including the services of Hope Centre.

Funds not budgeted in the previous year for Win-Serve Incorporated are now included in the 1982-83 Estimates for administration, program co-ordination and overhead costs incurred in the operation of six community residences for the mentally retarded.

I'd like to proceed, Mr. Chairman, by discussing Rehabilitation Services now for the generally disabled people. You will be asked to approve a 10 percent increase in the monthly fees paid for disabled persons attending occupational activity centres in Manitoba plus a \$10,000 administration grant to each occupational activity centre. This grant is double last year's amount and is intended to strengthen the centre's capability to provide workshop services to the handicapped. In addition, funds are included to provide additional spaces in the existing occupational activity centres.

My department's Estimates also include provision for a 10 percent increase in participants' subsistence allowances; a 15 percent increase in participant training costs and a 10 percent increase in funds available to purchase vocational training services from universities, community colleges, trade schools and industry to prepare the disabled for employment.

Brandon's ARM Industries will receive increased financial assistance to meet general price increases and recruit more staff to serve a larger clientele.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind which serves 1,600 blind Manitobans will receive increased funds in support of vocational assessment, training, counseling and job placement services.

The Society for Crippled Children and Adults is designated by the province as a primary service provider of rehabilitation services to physically handicapped children and adults. In recognition of its major role, the society will receive over \$3.5 million this year to meet the costs of higher service demands, including an electronic technician for wheelchair repairs and additional counseling services for the deaf. The Society's Employment Preparation Centre will also be granted additional funds to meet rising

costs resulting from a larger client volume.

The 1010 Sinclair 75-unit housing facility for the handicapped in Winnipeg and the Skills Unlimited Workshop for the mentally retarded and post-mentally ill will continue to receive funding support from the department.

The Manitoba Council of Rehabilitation Workshops which represents workshops in occupational activity centres will continue to receive a sustaining grant for its administrative and consultative assistance to the membership.

In addition, the Children's Rehabilitation Centre, formerly the Shriner's Hospital for Children, will receive \$30,000 to cover transportation costs for pre-school retarded and multiply handicapped children attending the Centre's physiotherapy, occupational therapy and life skills and self care training programs.

In the area of Employment Services, Mr. Chairman, the House will be asked to approve \$125,000 to develop a new program to provide women in receipt of mothers' allowances with employment skills. This program will include work experience along side existing staff in various work places and training wages shared by the program and the employer.

A new work activity project will be established at The Pas, Manitoba at a cost of \$328,700 to serve an additional 25 participants. Like other work activity projects in Brandon, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin and Gimli, the new project assesses and trains participants to develop work skills and to prepare clients for permanent employment. Allowances for all work activity project participants will be increased in this fiscal year to \$110, to \$120 per week to keep pace with the cost of living increases.

A brief word about Social Security Services, beginning with social allowances. As the committee is aware, the government implemented a 16.5 percent increase for basic needs namely food, clothing, personal and household items on January 1st of this year to reflect the actual cost of living increases. This increase will take over \$5 million in 1982-83 and, of course, we have monies budgeted for other increases including utility and shelter costs along with optical and dental expenditures required for social allowance recipients.

A further one-half million dollars is provided to implement an appropriate rate structure for disabled Social Allowance recipients living in community accommodations under the provision of residential care regulations. I might add, Mr. Chairman, what this does is zero in on the problem of guest homes and the need to provide a bit more money so we can start to raise the level of care in many of the guest homes that we have in the province.

As outlined in the Speech from the Throne, my department intends to establish a task force to review the provincial and municipal social assistance systems in Manitoba in an attempt to resolve some of the existing inequities and some of the jurisdictional issues that have come to fore in recent weeks.

A word on day care, Mr. Chairman. The Manitoba Government intends to introduce a Community Child Day Care Standards Act during this Legislative Session, as announced in the Throne Speech, in order to ensure the highest standards of child care that one can achieve, given the resources that we have.

Together with this Legislation budgetary provisions for the Child Day Care Program will make day care in Manitoba among the best in Canada.

Nearly \$700,000 is provided in these Estimates to develop 775 new child spaces in day care programs across the province. Start-up grants for these centres will be increased to \$250 for pre-school day care, \$150 for family day care and \$200 for noon-and-after-school care.

Annual maintenance grants to all centres will be increased to \$800 for pre-school day care, \$150 for family day care and \$400 for noon-and-after-school care. These adjustments will provide day care providers with a 14 percent increase in revenue. In addition, income eligibility levels for per diem day care fee subsidies will be adjusted by 12 percent to insure that families will not be penalized for cost-of-living increases to their incomes. Furthermore, daily subsidized fees will be increased to \$9.50 for pre-school and family day care, \$5.50 for noon-and-after-school programs on school days and \$8.50 per noon-and-after-school programs on school holidays.

Beginning in 1982-83, physically and mentally handicapped pre-schoolers will be eligible for additional assistance. The daily supplementary grants will increase to \$8.50 for eligible children in day care centres and to \$4.25 in family day care homes. The daily grant will also be extended to school-age handicapped children in noon-and-after-school centres and family day care homes. An additional \$200,000 will be available to off-set extra costs of staffing for the disabled children in cases where the daily supplementary grant may not be sufficient.

Audit grants will be increased to meet actual costs; \$850 per year for pre-school day care centres and \$600 per year for noon-and-after-school programs.

In the smaller rural communities alternative day care programs will be developed by establishing up to 20 satellite family day care homes under the sponsorship of a day care centre and up to five group day care homes where two individuals could care for up to 12 children in a licensed private home. Additional day care staff will be recruited to guide the development of the programs expansion.

Mr. Chairman, of course, after the new legislation is brought in and regulations brought in subsequent to that, of course, we will have to make provision for additional funding next year in recognition of the improvement that was desired in the field of day care.

A word about the child-related income support program, otherwise known as CRISP. It is an income supplement program which assists low income families to meet the costs of raising children. The program is income tested on the basis of gross annual income and in 1982-83 income levels will be raised according to the cost of living to maintain the current caseload. The Department has estimated that an additional 1,800 families will enrol in the program as it continues to be established.

Just a word about Corrections, Mr. Chairman. We have a correctional and probation service for adults and juveniles that provides a wide-range of services and facilities for offenders insuring adequate supervision an effective service provision.

Some funds are provided to hopefully improve the level of supervision and general service; included in

this will be two new Probation Officers to be recruited to provide required services to the Adult Court system. The John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Society will receive increased funding to reflect price increases and to provide additional counselling and rehabilitation services to inmates and those released from provincial correctional institutions.

In addition to an increased general support grant, the Native Clan Organization will receive funds totaling \$75,000 to operate a half-way house in Northern Manitoba for offenders under supervision. I think, Mr. Chairman, this is a very progressive, very innovative move.

The Manitoba Society of Criminology, the Open Circle Organization in Frontier College will receive continuing funding for services provided in the correctional field.

I think in presenting these highlights, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't draw attention to the Department's contribution, in fact, the taxpayers contribution to Community Social Services as delivered by agencies outside the government, outside the formal structure of government. I have asked the staff to provide me a total, and it looks as though we will be providing over \$71 million in 1982-83 for the various agencies throughout the province. These are non-government agencies, they are volunteer groups and many groups who are working in the community to provide quality programs. It includes \$34 million for agencies providing services to children and families; nearly \$12 million in grants and subsidies to child day care providers. Over \$21 million of that amount that I mentioned earlier, will be provided to community groups and agencies serving the mentally and physically handicapped citizens. This is in addition to some \$37 million provided by the department to the handicapped living in the community under the Social Allowance Program.

Over 3 million will provide employment assessment training and job placement services to Manitobans and over one-half a million to organizations providing services to inmates of provincial correctional facilities and offenders returning to the community.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that is appropriate for me to recognize the contribution made by these various agencies, but I think it is also important to recognize that the people of Manitoba recognize that we have a great number of social problems in our society created because people have been, unfortunately, born into this world with some handicap or somehow or other obtained some disability. I think it is very commendable that we, as a society, not just for this year of our Lord 1982-83 but as a group of people living in the Province of Manitoba, through their government are prepared, indeed, to be our brother's and sister's keeper by assisting these various agencies and organizations to carry out this broad spectrum of social service. I am pleased that the people of Manitoba are prepared to support the various private agencies in this service delivery.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you and the Members of the House for permitting these opening remarks. I look forward to a productive debate of the Department's 1982-83 Estimates and, in particular, I look forward to the opening remarks of my honourable colleagues across the way.

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

**MR. L.R.(Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all a question as to the manner in which we are going to proceed on these Estimates.

It is my understanding that we are not passing or moving to pass the item dealing with the Minister's Salary, Resolution 30 1.(a)(1) at this point in time. I would appreciate your direction on that, Mr. Chairman.

I understand that past precedence and procedure in the House has permitted the chief Opposition critic to make some points in response to the opening statement by the Minister, but at that point in time we will not be dealing with the Minister's Salary. We move on to sub-item No. 2 and come back to the Minister's Salary at the end of the Estimates' process in this department. Is that procedure going to be followed again, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes it will be.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. First of all, Sir, let me welcome the new Minister to his role and his responsibilities in charge of Community Services and Corrections, policy formulation and policy administration in the province. The Minister has had experience in the Treasury Benches before in a previous government in this province, albeit in a different portfolio. I'm sure he will find the challenges in Community Services and Corrections to be stimulating and to be absorbing. I wish him well and I wish him enjoyment in what is a very rewarding and very grossing area of public activity.

I had the privilege and the honour to be Minister of Community Services and Corrections myself for two years prior to our dividing the Department of Health and Community Services and Corrections into two separate departments and establishing Community Services and Corrections as a separate entity.

I must say that I owe a debt of gratitude to the Deputy Minister, Mr. Ron Johnstone, and to all those who served in the Minister's office, served at the helm of the ministry, all of those on the staff in the Department of Community Services and Corrections and out through the field, the community agencies who toil with such commitment and sincerity in that field and all who worked for the betterment of the human condition of Manitobans through this particular department. I want to acknowledge for the record, Sir, my debt to them, express my thanks to them for the support they gave me and the help they gave me in the period of time during which it was my privilege to head that department.

I also think, Mr. Chairman, that we should acknowledge, certainly from my perspective I want to acknowledge, the efforts and the work of the Minister who was the immediate predecessor to the current



Minister in this portfolio. I refer to Mr. George Minaker, the former member of the Legislature for St. James, who was Minister of Community Services and Corrections from late 1979 until the end of November, 1981, a period of some two years, who served with distinction and who I'm sure will be sorely missed by all who were associated with him.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister made reference in his opening statement, in his opening remarks, to the fact that he has been somewhat constrained in preparing with his colleagues his Budget for 1982-83, his projected Estimates for 1982-83 that have now been delivered to the House and now entered the process of consideration by those of us in this Committee. There's no disputing the reality of the fact that all members of the Treasury Bench today, as in years immediately passed and presumably in years immediately in the future, are limited and constrained by the amount of revenue that's available to carry out the responsibilities that fall under their charge in a department such as this and indeed in all departments.

On the other hand, Mr. Chairman, one must look at the overall increase in the proposed spending Estimates of this government and measure the plights and the concerns of the Minister in that context. We're looking, Sir, at an overall budgetary increase proposed in print in the spending Estimates in front of us, of something that is in the neighborhood of 16-2/3 percent, print over print. The government is proposing expenditures of \$2.8 billion against print projections of \$2.4 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1982, and that represents a 16.23 percent increase.

In the Department of Health, which is another department for which I have some responsibility from the Opposition's point of view, I'm happy to say, there are many items that are experiencing in the Estimates in front of us this year, a request from this Committee for a 25 percent increase. If one looks at the proposed Estimates for the Manitoba Health Services Commission, Mr. Chairman, one finds that a number of the insured services, insured programs in that area request a 25 percent increase in spending or greater, yet here in the Department of Community Services and Corrections the overall increase being requested by this Minister and this government is 11 percent.

Now I'm not arguing, Mr. Chairman, that it should be necessarily a great deal higher than that but we have heard in recent weeks that, in the view of the Minister, the Honourable Member for Brandon East, that the previous government was guilty of a very tight fist approach in the area of Community Services, in the area of services to people, in the area of welfare in previous years, that we followed procedures I think have been described by him in the recent past as having been the procedures of skinflints and cheap skates and yet, Sir, while his colleagues succeed in achieving a 25 percent increase for many services in the health field — an overall 16-2/3 percent increase for the government in terms of spending in general — he settles for 11 percent and then he comes in here and presents his Estimates with an opening statement in which he cries the blues to us about being limited by budgetary constraints. Of course he's limited by budgetary complaints. But he can't have it both ways.

The previous government increased spending overall in the Community Services and Corrections

Department in the last fiscal year, the one that's ending this March 31st, over the preceding fiscal year by some \$37 million, Mr. Chairman, on a base of \$211 million, which is an increase of some 16.5 or 16-2/3 percent, give or take a fractional error on one side or the other. He has come in with a request for an increase of 11 percent, and yet has felt it incumbent to criticize his predecessors for having taken to tight-fisted an approach to the public welfare and the public services that fall under the aegis of this department. So I think, Sir, that is a point that should be made at the outset, that his arguments against whatever it was the previous government was attempting to do have now been reduced to unreality, to say the least.

I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister has not supplied the media with a copy of his opening statement, but has supplied them with a copy of a press release accompanying that opening statement, and he has also supplied me, or our party, with a copy of that press release and I want to say a word or two about that. I do not have a copy of the Minister's opening statement, and I don't particularly need one, but I want to make a comment about the news release that he has just issued which I can only describe, in the kindest of terms, Mr. Chairman, as a farce, as a farce. The Minister of Community Services and Corrections has issued a press release which says in the lead paragraph, which I want to read into the record, Mr. Chairman, "that non-government social agencies will receive grants totaling more than \$71 million, according to funding proposals for the 1982-83 fiscal year brought to the Manitoba Legislature by Community Services and Corrections Minister Len Evans." Then goes on to describe that almost half of the \$71 million, \$34 million, has been allocated to agencies which provide services to children and families. It goes on to say some of the things he has recently put on the record, that nearly \$12 million has been earmarked for day care, that there are grants in the area of services and funding for the mentally and physically handicapped, and the CRISP Program is going to be increased, and that subsidies and income allowance levels for various programs are going to be released.

Mr. Chairman, I have no doubt, because I have looked through the Estimates, that some of these items are being increased in the 1982-83 spending year, but, Sir, they are not non-government social agencies and it is not accurate, in fact, I suggest that it's barely ethical for the Minister to issue a press release saying that non-government social agencies will receive grants totaling more than \$71 million this year. I'd urge the Minister to be more forthright in his presentation of his Estimates than he has been in this press release. \$71 million compared to what? What was the comparable figure for 1981-82? This kind of a statement I offer, for the consideration of the committee, Mr. Chairman, it totally meaningless.

The legitimate list of non-government social agencies and general-purpose grants totaled \$40 million for 1981-82 and those were the various external agencies that deal in the fields of continuing care that range across the general-purpose field: such as, the Canadian Association in Support of Native People, etc.; the Canadian Council on Social Development

that deal with the child care institutions, with child and family services; the Children's Aid Societies in those areas of Manitoba in which the CAS operates; and other child and family services; with the Office of Rehabilitation Services; with Mental Retardation Services; Institutional Mental Retardation Services; Rehabilitation Services to the Disabled; and Care and Rehabilitation of Adult Offenders. It also, incidentally, includes day care grants. Mr. Chairman, those were the external agencies grants. Then additional to that were the general purpose grants covering organizations like the Canadian Diabetic Association, the Canadian Council on Social Development, Brandon Citizen Advocacy and a number of others that are familiar to all members of the committee and certainly familiar to the Minister.

But the point is that the Grants to External Agencies in 81-82 totaled \$39 million; the General Purpose Grants in 1981-82 totalled \$1 million; so combined that was \$40 million. And the Minister is sitting over there with a \$26 million increase in his Estimates only; that's the total increase in his Estimates is only \$26 million. With a 13 percent inflation rate, which means that since the increase was only 11 percent the increase doesn't even cover the inflation rate for the operation of the programs that are in place; and he issues a press release saying that non-governmental social agencies will receive grants totalling more than \$71 million, compared to last years figure of \$40 million. So it's just utter hogwash, Mr. Chairman.

What the Minister has done is taken half the programs in the department and added them up and they've come to 70 — well he's taken a quarter of the programs in the department, 200-and, what are we looking at? 250 million — he's taken a quarter of the programs in the department, added them up and they come to \$71 million and he's issued a press release saying that this is what non-government social agencies are going to get, and that's simply not true. Non-government social agencies, if we're taking the legitimate list year against year, will no doubt get something more than the \$40 million they got last year because we'll find that out as we work our way through the Estimates, and I presume they will have got an 11 percent increase, because the whole department got an 11 percent increase, so they might be getting \$44 million or \$45 million. But to issue a press release, the lead statement of which says they are getting \$71 million dollars, is simply not true, not factual and not acceptable. And I would hope, as I say, that as we go through his Estimates that we will, all of us, be able to approach the subject a little more forthrightly than has been done in this press release.

The same press release says, for example, Mr. Speaker, that almost half of the \$71 million, \$34 million, has been allocated to agencies which provide services to children and families, with nearly \$12 million earmarked for day care. Well, what I would like to know is are these two statements linked; and if so, is the Minister now lumping day care, which is a provincial government income security program, in the category of non-government social agencies; and if so, the figures don't add up anyway, but if so I suggest that it's stretching a point, when we're talking about non-government social agencies, to include a provincial government Income Security Program. So let us

proceed Mr. Chairman, from this point forward, 3:50 p.m. on March 11th as we explore, assess and evaluate the Estimates of the department under the Minister in a more factual manner than was done this afternoon by whoever it was who prepared this press release.

There are items in the press release and there are certainly items in the Minister's opening statement, Mr. Chairman, that are very welcome and receive the enthusiastic support of those of us on this side of the Committee and I want to give my assurance of that to the Minister.

Of particular interest is a grant that's announced for a new children's centre, Child Protection Program, to assess and treat abused children. This is a program that was initiated by the previous government in discussions with Dr. Charlie Ferguson and Dr. Ken McRae of the Children's Hospital and I'm very pleased to see that the new government and the new Minister are proceeding with the implementation of this program. There's no question that one of the most painful ills and problems that we have in society is the problem of child abuse. Those children out in the community who suffer child abuse have very few people to speak for them, very few advocates, very few members of society who stand up and come to their defence. The tragedy of the situation is that most of them are in circumstances that inhibit them from acquainting others with their problems because they live in an environment of intimidation and fear.

Dr. Ken McRae and Dr. Charlie Ferguson are two Manitobans who have toiled long and faithfully in the vineyards of protection for such children. They are to be highly commended for the initiatives that they have taken in the past and enthusiastically supported in the initiatives that they will now be able to take through this new centre at the Children's Hospital.

Actually, Mr. Chairman, we're pleased to note the Minister's intention to increase services and funding for the mentally and physically handicapped, to expand the spectrum of new community residences for the mentally retarded and to expand and enlarge such programs as Respite Care.

Respite Care is another program and another initiative which the previous government was keenly interested in. I had a personal involvement in the development of that program between 1977 and 1981 and was very proud of the small steps of progress that we had been able to take in that area and very anxious to take greater strides in that area in the future. There's no question that it fulfills not only a necessary human need from a physical and a mental perspective, but it fulfills an enormous need from the perspective of compassion. I would hope that the opportunity referred to in the Minister's opening statement is more than a mere gesture insofar as expansion of this program is concerned.

I note that the Minister says that the program will be increased by 40 percent. Measured against the voluminous dollar figures that we're dealing with in the Budget overall and considering the base on which the Respite Care Relief Program is currently operating that 40 percent, although large in perceptual terms as a percentage figure, is not all that large in a dollar figure and I want to assure the Minister that I would certainly be prepared to support him in a significant

expansion of that program.

Mr. Chairman, just before I conclude I want to turn to another aspect that is of crucial importance when we look at these Estimates in this department. As you'll note from page 22 of the Estimates book, Mr. Chairman, the Reconciliation Statement points out very clearly that some functions have been transferred from the Department of Community Services and Corrections to the Department of Health and also to the Department of Northern Affairs. There have been some minor transfers the other way from Health and Government Services to Community Services, but the basic transfer is a transfer of some \$25 million worth of functions from Community Services and Corrections to Health.

This, Mr. Chairman, is the product of some two years of work on which I was engaged with the former Minister, the former Member for St. James who was Minister of Community Services, with the Deputy Minister of Community Services, Mr. Ron Johnstone, with the Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Health, my Acting Deputy Minister, Dr. George Johnson, with senior personnel in both the Health and Community Services departments. People like Mr. Frank Maynard, people like Mr. Don McLean, people like Mr. Peter Schmidt who now unfortunately lives in Alberta, people like Mr. Bill Werbeniuk and a number of others.

We worked very hard over a period of two years, Mr. Chairman, to develop a system — or that's probably the wrong term — to retain a delivery system at the regional field services delivery level that protected the integrity of the single unit delivery system and still served the new structure of the two departments that we wanted.

Sir, the biggest difficulty we had in 1979 when we tried to divide Health and Community Services into two separate departments was to determine how the regional field delivery system, the field services division, was going to operate. Who was it going to report to? How could it serve both departments? How could it retain its single unit integrity? How could we avoid duplication and redundancy? How could we protect the integrity of those regional directors out there in the eight regions who served long and loyally and whom we certainly didn't wish to downgrade in any way. In fact, we wished to upgrade them. All those questions we wrestled with for many hours and I'm sure you'll appreciate the difficulty in trying to untangle a division that deals with services that are so integrally intertwined between Health and Community Services and separate them out into two separate departments and not hurt somebody and not hurt the service along the way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We succeeded finally in doing that through the earnest and co-operative efforts of all those persons whose names I mentioned a few moments ago and others and the result is what you're seeing here for the first time in the 1982-83 Estimates book, a restructuring from the point of view of print presentation, of that Regional Field Delivery Service, with the Health Services and Health personnel responsible to the Health Budget, and the Community Services and Corrections personnel and services responsible to the Budget of this department.

Now, the question in issue, Mr. Chairman, at this

point is how successful has the new Minister been and how successful has the new government been in protecting what it was we set out to protect and achieving what it was we set out to do. This marks the new structure's first test. We determined it could be done with no increase in staff necessary. One of the major things we wanted to avoid was a bureaucratic explosion, was a duplication or redundancy of positions and responsibilities. We determined it could be done with no increase in staff. I don't know, at this juncture, because we haven't got into the Estimates in detail yet, whether it has been done without any increase in staff, but that is what we will be asking the Minister, among other things. What precisely went out of Community Services and into Health and what came over to Health from Government Services and from Northern Affairs, what additional SMY's are being requested, what additional Term SMY's are being requested, where are they being requested and in what branches in the department. So, I would hope to deal with those questions as we move into comprehensive examination of the Estimates of this department, Mr. Chairman, and I assure the Minister once again it's a department with which I enjoyed very much my close association and in which I continue to be keenly interested.

Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Before we proceed, I believe it's customary and in accordance with the rules to allow the Minister to bring in any officials that he might wish to have, so that could happen at this time.

**MR. EVANS:** I gather that now, Mr. Chairman, we are on 1.(a)(2), that's Salaries under the Minister's Office. Just a brief comment — this is a fairly general item too, a brief comment, are the members concerned about calculation of percentage increases and so on. I just might point out and we'll get to that eventually, but when he looks at the CRISP program, the Child Related Income Support Program, which is on Page 27 (e)(3), you'll see that last year there was a considerable amount overbudgeted. The amount budgeted was far in excess of what was taken up, so there was a realistic adjustment made for that, roughly \$7.6 million, so when you take that into consideration you'll see that the percentage increase of programs is much larger than the 11 percent, I think, the honourable member referred to. It looks from our calculations, with the various adjustments, it's closer to 18.9 percent increase over last year.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, I'll do some arithmetic on it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)(2)—pass; 1.(a)(3).  
The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us an indication of what's included in the Other Expenditures as listed here.

**MR. EVANS:** Just as a matter of clarification, the member asked for a breakdown of 1.(b)(2), was it?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, 1.(a)(3).

**MR. EVANS:** 1.(a)(3). Mr. Chairman, it includes office costs associated with our Ministerial and Deputy Ministerial office. The main categories include printing, stationery and telephones, \$14,000; Travelling and Federal-Provincial conferences and negotiations, \$18,000; Hospitality grants, \$6,000. Then there are other miscellaneous but those are the major items.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, that's right, I don't want an item-by-item breakdown of it. The interesting point is that the appropriation being requested for '83 is lower than that projected for '82 — I realize '82 isn't over yet but projected — and what is at the root of my question is does that reflect a change or a reduction in the staffing or the establishment of the Minister's office?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. Apparently the amount that was budgeted last year was not fully utilized so this is a more realistic budget. It was deemed that it wasn't necessary to have 45.5 — that was underspent I gather — so the \$44,000 is more realistic in terms of what will perhaps be spent this year.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, could I ask the Minister a question then, Mr. Chairman — it probably should have been asked under (2) — was the establishment in the Minister's office the same size as it was in the fiscal year now ending?

**MR. EVANS:** I'm not sure, Mr. Chairman, what he refers to. In terms of staff or in terms of physical space?

**MR. SHERMAN:** In terms of staff, Mr. Chairman. There was some concern, as I said in my remarks a few minutes ago, that the division and the distribution of duties, where the Regional Field Services Delivery System is concerned, etc., etc., might provide an encouragement to expand staff unnecessarily and there was a determination on the part of most of us who were working on it — in fact, I would say all of us who were working on it — that that not be done.

We felt that the reorganization could be carried out without increasing staff, either in the office of the Minister of Health or in the office of the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. So my question really, Mr. Chairman, is has the staff in the office of the Minister of Community Services been increased or is it the same as it was?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, the Minister's and the Deputy Minister's offices had 10 staff man years last year and we have 10 staff man years this year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)(3)—pass; 1.(a)(4).  
The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister where the telecommunications branch came from. Is this the function that came over from Northern Affairs and, if so, why?

**MR. EVANS:** This function came from Highways and Transportation. There was a small staff there and

much of their duties relates to the Manitoba Telephone System operations, but it goes beyond MTS; it goes into the questions of pay T.V., the questions of the quality of television service, the cable operations and so on. So this is a very small staff, the same number as was in the Budget last year only in last year's Budget it was in Highways and Transportation.

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

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, would that then be the item that's shown in the reconciliation box as a transfer of function from Government Services?

**MR. EVANS:** Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, it's been pointed out to me that that amount was indeed shown in Government Services. I'm not clear because it was my understanding that it was in the former department of the Honourable Member for Pembina — and indeed I think the staff were working for that Minister and were located there — but for some reason the money was allocated in Government Services last year but I think it was more of a bookkeeping thing.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, so that whole unit has come over from Government Services at approximately the same funding. Actually the appropriation for this year is a little lower than the appropriation for last year. But what was the reason for bringing a telecommunications branch from Government Services over into the Department of Community Services and Corrections?

**MR. EVANS:** It's simply because, Mr. Chairman, I'm the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System. You could argue perhaps it shouldn't be shown under Executive Function but essentially the very small group acts as an advisor to the Minister on telecommunications' policy. Perhaps it could have been shown elsewhere but it was deemed advisable to show it here. I don't think it really matters too much whether it's shown here under 1(a)(4) or perhaps as a completely different line. This was advised to us by people who make this particular document up and it went along with the idea.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, essentially it's a matter of administrative convenience because of the responsibilities of the incumbent Minister, it has nothing to do with a structural change in the operations of the department. Is that correct?

**MR. EVANS:** That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. ORCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I might follow up on some questions to the Honourable Minister. I take it that the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Doug Smith, and two other SMYs are part of this appropriation?

**MR. EVANS:** That's correct, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly the same group that existed previously in the honourable member's department. It is the same unit

we're talking about here.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Then, taken from the Estimates line, you're not expecting to add to the staff complement in this fiscal year?

**MR. EVANS:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister who was the dedicated member of my former telecommunications staff who is obviously taking a small reduction in salary?

**MR. EVANS:** I believe there was some discussion about this at some length yesterday in general by the Finance critic and that is the salary increases aren't budgeted here. It was a procedure that was decided upon.

**MR. ORCHARD:** They might then be identical at 103.3.

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, I'm reminded that there's two kinds of increases that civil servants are often confronted with or blessed with, whichever expression you want to use. One is across the board adjustments that take place essentially because of an MGEA contract settlement; the other is the incremental increase — years of merit increase — an increase that comes along because you progress another step up the ladder.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Then there are three SMYs. Might I, Mr. Minister, pursue some of these questions in Communications that were, I think of some importance for all Manitobans under this line or would you suggest another place in your Estimates to pursue them?

**MR. EVANS:** We could do it here particularly if you had detailed questions or questions involving certain technology changes and so on. Alternatively, you could discuss it at the very end of the Estimates when we go back to the Minister's Salary, which is the closing debate over all. But this is the only place other than the Minister's salary. Of course, I would remind the member when the MTS comes to the Committee there's ample opportunity there as well to debate questions in Telecommunications.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, agreed the MTS Annual Report could give some of the questions. But there were some particularly interesting developments that were taking place I suppose as a result of the September Communications Ministers' Conference in Winnipeg. I know the Minister's Assistant Deputy will have briefed him that at that meeting there was an undertaking by the Federal Minister to meet with Ministers responsible for communications, Provincial Ministers — and if my memory isn't correct I know that Mr. Smith will refresh it — but it seemed to me that we were targeting for the end of 1981 to have the follow-up meeting with Mr. Fox federally to resolve some of the concerns about overlap in jurisdiction of delegation of cable authority, of who should license given closed circuit television undertakings and there was some very very firmly held opinions provincially

which was 180 degrees at odds with some firmly held positions by the Federal Government as to who had jurisdiction.

To resolve that, we had the undertaking with Mr. Fox that there would be a meeting by the end of December to attempt to resolve some of these jurisdictional grey areas and in that regard I know Mr. Smith was meeting with his counterparts in the other provinces as well as with the CRTC and Mr. Fox's staff to try to prepare some background work in anticipation of this conference. Has that conference been held and if not, is there any immediate plans for that conference?

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

**MR. EVANS:** I touched upon this, I guess, in the question period when I said we seem to be having some difficulty in getting a time that is suitable for all the Ministers, in particular Mr. Fox. It was scheduled, as the member perhaps knows, for December, then was rescheduled for January, then it was rescheduled again for March and now it looks as though it may be in April. But there has been a great effort made, I believe by the Chairman of the Provincial group — I think it's the Minister from Alberta this year, Mr. Weber — has been trying valiantly to get another meeting but thus far he has had some difficulty and as I have indicated it looks like it may be April.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, I have every sympathy for the Minister of Communications because the September Federal-Provincial Conference was one month short of two years between the last one and that one with a great deal of difficulty in bringing the Federal Government to the conference table to resolve, I think, some very very pressing issues in communications and I won't I hope, take all that much time in Committee today to deal with some of them.

But as the Minister well knows that Northern Manitobans have a particular concern, a very specific concern on the availability of their television diet. They, I think quite rightfully so, feel as if they are being not well served by the CanCom offering that is I believe, now available on one of the anik satellites. Their position that was made to myself as Minister responsible prior to the change in government was I think a legitimate one and they said quite simply, what we want in Northern Manitoba is a choice of cable television which is comparable to what is available to the vast majority of Manitobans living in the more sunnier and southern climes of Winnipeg, Brandon and other points in rural Manitoba.

At the Communications Ministers' Conference, that concern was not a singular Manitoba concern, it was a concern of a number of other provinces. Quebec had some very specific concerns as you can well imagine with the cultural content of CanCom. But it was my understanding that the Federal Minister was to undertake investigation with the American television broadcasters to see if their programming could not be made available.

I have not seen, and I from time to time get press releases from the Federal Minister's department indicating the next step he's taking in negotiations, but I haven't seen any follow-up on the commitment of

whether Northern Manitobans might be able to be offered a three-plus-one package such as Winnipeg has or Carmen or Morden or Brandon. Is the Minister pursuing that with the Federal Minister to avoid some of the potential legal problems of the current signal delivery that Flin Flon and other residents in Northern Manitoba have and pursuing it with the Federal Minister so that the CanCom package might be supplemented with the three channels and the Prairie Broadcast service that Winnipeggers and other Southern Manitobans enjoy?

**MR. EVANS:** We have, Mr. Chairman, pursued that matter as a province with Mr. Fox as I have indicated to the member earlier today — I was unfortunately unable to be there myself — but staff have been there and yes we have pursued it.

**MR. ORCHARD:** The obvious question is, are you having any success?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes.

**MR. ORCHARD:** What might be the time frame of that success? Could we possibly see this summer the CanCom package being supplemented with ABC, the three-plus-one that are available on Winnipeg?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes. I don't think there is an effort to get a three-plus-one up by the Canadian Government I think on a new satellite that they hope to put into place next — it may not get into place until about a year or maybe a year and a half from now, maybe two years. Everything seems to take a little longer than originally anticipated, but you know, progress is being made.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Do I understand that the position the Federal Government is making is that residents of Northern Manitoba and indeed other northern areas across Canada are going to have to wait possibly one to two years for — I think it's anik three — before they're going to have a comparable television signal package to the Winnipegs, the Reginas, the Calgarys, and it may be up to two years?

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, it's a year this July for Anik D. Now that's the Federal National Television Telecommunications policy that you're asking about and that's the way they're proceeding. They haven't changed their policy position as such.

**MR. ORCHARD:** No, I quite realize that they haven't changed their policy position and I also quite realize that you cannot change their Federal Communications policy but Federal Communications policy will always be struck by the Federal Government unless the 10 provinces have a united front, which had been in place and I'm quite sure will stay to be in place because there was nothing onerous to Manitoba in the position that the nine other provinces had.

We agreed with them on — I shouldn't maybe say all issues — but I would say we were probably like ivory, we're 99.9 percent pure and that we agreed on a lot of the positions and a lot of those positions, quite frankly, were contrary to what the Federal Government was going to do. I suppose the provincial

governments were making the very legitimate position that they speak possibly with a better authority and a better understanding of the requirements of provincial residents than what the Federal CRTC did. That's why, although the Minister cannot get the Federal Government to change their policy, I think you'll find the residents of Northern Manitoba will not wait two years for Anik D to be launched for an American signal that they don't know what it's going to be.

I'll put it to you this way, if the American offering that may come out of Anik D is similar to the Canadian offering that's in CanCom, you'll find that the applications are a matter of convenience rather than a matter of concurrence. I would urge this Minister to, with the assistance of his very capable Assistant Deputy, to press on with the other nine provinces to get the Federal Government to move a lot faster than they're willing to move in this issue. They have some distinct hangups as far as federal communication and cultural policy goes and some of them are unrealistic to enforce in view of the technologies that are coming onstream. If they wait for the technology to develop before they develop the regulation in isolation from Provincial Government opinion, all Manitobans in the North are going to suffer and not enjoy the kind of entertainment that they have right now and indeed they should enjoy, so I would urge the Minister to pursue that matter with the Federal Government very definitely.

In the meantime, I might ask the Minister as to what sort of television fare is currently being offered to such communities as Flin Flon? Has it changed in the last six months or so?

**MR. EVANS:** No change to date.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Has the Federal Government changed their opinion and their views on that television fare that's available and being received by some Northern Manitoba communities?

**MR. EVANS:** No, the Federal policy stands as far as I can see.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Then are they prepared to overlook what is happening in your opinion?

**MR. EVANS:** I will answer it this way. Mr. Fox has a full appreciation of our our Northern problems.

**MR. ORCHARD:** I take it, a full appreciation that does not involve the RCMP in any way?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(a)(4) — pass — the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Just before concluding this section, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, my record showed seven staff man years in the Minister's office for 1981-82 and he advised me a few moments ago it's 10 staff man years at the present time, it doesn't represent any increase. The additional three then would be the three associated with the Telecommunications Branch. Is that correct?

**MR. ORCHARD:** Mr. Chairman, under Other Expen-

ditures I note that there is a decrease in that value and I suspect that's because you won't be hosting a Federal-Provincial conference this coming year. Has there been any provision under Other Expenditures to undertake any legal support action that may be necessary to protect the television fare of Northern Manitobans?

**MR. EVANS:** There is. If it is necessary to spend money for legal fees and so on, my understanding is it would be done through the Attorney-General's department.

**MR. ORCHARD:** Are you aware whether those provisions have been made because it is a rather hot issue?

**MR. EVANS:** The answer is yes. We made some provisions 3 weeks ago, I am advised.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I.(a)(4) —pass; I.(b)(1) —the Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise whether there have been any changes in the makeup of the Social Services Advisory Committee up to the present time?

**MR. EVANS:** No, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is the committee at full complement, at maximum membership? I think the total membership is 15. Are there any vacancies on the Committee?

**MR. EVANS:** I believe, Mr. Chairman, there is one vacancy. So we have 14 and one vacant position.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Can the Minister advise, or would he suggest that it be dealt with at a different point in the Estimates, whether he has had any discussions with the Social Services Committee on the responsibilities that the municipalities shoulder and must assume in the area of welfare rolls and welfare payments in their parameters of operation in the direction that they get from the Provincial Government in terms of applying their welfare rules and conditions?

I raise these questions with particular reference, Mr. Chairman, to the now celebrated case in Rivers, Manitoba, where the Town Council and the local authorities responsible for welfare apparently have had some difficulties with a particular welfare recipient family, and the Social Services Advisory Committee made a ruling which that council is now abiding by. But what I think that what emanates from that difficulty there is the fact that local welfare authorities find themselves in many cases, in a position where they lack the proper leadership and direction from this department of the Provincial Government to make their judgments and apply them. Has the Minister had direct contact with or experience with that particular case or with the welfare authorities in the Town Council in Rivers relative to that case and to the difficulty which it underscores?

**MR. EVANS:** I have had no direct dealings with this particular case because we have staff to deal with these matters and indeed it was appealed to the Social

Services Advisory Committee and they dealt with it, which is their mandate by law.

In answer to the question about communication with the Town Council of Rivers, I can advise they have requested a meeting and a meeting date has been set up and I think it is sometime within the next week or so; it's in the near future; it's imminent at least.

The whole question of the role of municipal assistance; the whole question of the role of municipalities is one that has been plaguing, I guess, the province for many years. Perhaps also during the time in which my honourable friend was Minister responsible in this area. I personally am not satisfied with the way the municipal system integrates with the provincial system and this is a problem that will be addressed, by a task force which will be set up in this area and which was referred to in the Throne Speech. Indeed we intend to follow through in the near future in establishing such a task force and one main area of concern will be this question of the two-tier system of social assistance that we now have operating in the province.

There are many options available to us perhaps to resolve some of the inequities that seem to rise from the system and some of the inefficiencies that arise, and certainly if we get a good group of people, knowledgeable concerning people, I am sure we can come up with some solutions, but we are going to leave that to the task force. I can assure the honourable member that when the task force completes its work we will look at its recommendations and see to what extent we can implement them and we will consider that as a high priority.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I thank the Honourable Minister for that information, Mr. Chairman, and I welcome it and it indeed would be helpful to have that kind of a study carried out. There is no question that previous administrations and the ongoing public service in the department have wrestled for some time with that question of discrepancies between municipal welfare rates in different areas of the province, so this will hopefully lead to some successful resolution of that ongoing problem.

But in the case of the specific situation where the Social Services Advisory Committee has made a ruling and the Town Council has agreed to observe it, has the Minister had any further indication from either the Town Council or the Social Services Committee or residents in and spokesmen for that community that there are difficulties still being experienced that go beyond the implementation of the committee's recommendation and that some further attention to the problem may be required and that it may involve attention from the Minister himself?

**MR. EVANS:** Well, I understand that at the moment the information that we have is that there is no major problem that we should involve ourselves in. We have various staff as the member knows, Social Workers, Child Welfare Workers, and so on, and our staff have been in communication with the family, but we live in a free society hopefully, in a democracy, and people are entitled to make some of their own mistakes. There is a question that arises to what extent the State should be involved in advising a family how it's going

to conduct itself. One would hope that everyone would live in an ideal way and conduct themselves adequately.

As far as we know, the children are being cared for. This would be a concern that we might have, and we should have, but the children are being cared for thus far at least, we have no specific knowledge of any problem that we should involve ourselves in.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't think anyone is suggesting that the children shouldn't be cared for or that the children don't deserve the kind of attention that is intended by the recommendations that the Committee has made nor is there any suggestion that the persons involved should not be free to make their own mistakes. The concern that many people have, as I understand it, is that it has led to some social discontent in the community, some community discontent which may possess the potential for some danger on both sides of the question to persons in the community and involved in the case.

I'm simply asking for some assurance from the Minister that possibility is being given consideration and that neither he nor his department is ignoring a situation that contains the seeds of considerable community unrest and unhappiness.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, as I've indicated, we have good field staff, various types of workers, Public Health Nurses, persons concerned with mental health. We have Social Workers, and so on, in our community delivery service and they're available to help families and individuals with various kinds of problems. Certainly, if something arises, I'm sure they are available, but unless the member is more specific, I don't know what else we could do or should do.

Another point is that it's not customary nor normally acceptable for a government agency to inject itself into a family situation. The knowledge that we have is that the children are cared for and that they're peaceful, law-abiding citizens.

If a law is broken, then there are law enforcement people. If there's some abuse of children — I'm talking hypothetically now, I want to make it clear, I'm not talking about any individual family or any individual town; I'm talking in a generality — if people are normally law-abiding and are carrying on in a normal way as most families in Manitoba do, there's no right for the State to interfere with their lives.

If a problem comes up with child abuse, if a problem comes up with regard to violence or a problem comes up in any respect whereby laws are broken, certainly there are agencies that are there and will be involved. If there's any way the Department can help a family that has problems, we have staff available on request from those individuals or those families; Social Workers, who may help a family perhaps — and I'm talking in a generality; I'm not talking about any specific town or family, I repeat — who have problems in coping in some way with a family situation, they're free to go and ask for it. If they do have insufficient funds, there is under The Social Allowance Act, monies available to help people who are in dire straits — to use a phrase that has become rather famous or infamous — people who are in dire straits. There are monies to help such people.

I think it's a tribute to our society that we, as a collective body through our governmental apparatus, are prepared indeed to ensure that no one shall go hungry; no one shall go without a roof over his or her or the family's head or no one shall go unclothed or underclothed. These are basic necessities that are being provided for in the system and although there are many critics of the system and although all of us recognize that there are improvements that could be made and should be made and, many of us on both sides would like to see improvements made, I don't think anyone would suggest that the system not apply to any one particular family or any one individual; that the system is there as a system to service people and families in need.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, has the town indicated to the Minister that they are, or it is, unhappy with the recommendation made by the Social Services Advisory Committee?

**MR. EVANS:** There has been a request for a meeting come into my office and we will be meeting with them and I would expect at that time they would like to discuss this in detail.

I've read statements in the Press and indeed there was a letter I think accompanying some resolution passed by the Town. I think it's common knowledge that some members of the Council are unhappy with the situation.

I might point out, Mr. Chairman, that this is a very unusual situation. The mobile people in our society are not usually the welfare or social assistance recipients. They're usually among the least mobile people in our society. The mobile people in our society, the people who move from one province and from one city to another, are usually the highly skilled people, usually with a better than average education, younger people, people motivated, people on the move for whatever reason and it's very unusual to have persons, I would say as a general observation, people on low income, people who have difficulty in getting jobs, tend not to move in Canada; and I say this is rather unusual situation. But to give you a short answer to your question, we will be meeting with them in the near future; with the Town Council.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, leaving names out of it, although one obviously one case has come to the attention of everyone in recent weeks. Is the Minister concerned that there may be people who say, "Move to Manitoba because that's the easiest province in which to rip off the system?"

The Minister was just on his feet an hour ago complaining, and justifiably, that there were a great many things he'd like to do in the Community Services area but there's a limited amount of money, and I'm the first to agree with that. If there's a limited amount of money, presumably he is concerned that the money available to this department in this province is properly husbanded and prudently spent, and I'm interested that he should advise the committee that the Town Council has requested a meeting and that he is going to be meeting with them. I am sure the committee would be interested in knowing when that meeting is scheduled to take place, but complementary to that,



Mr. Chairman, I have to ask him whether he has had concerns expressed to him that Manitoba is a good province to move to because you can rip off the system in Manitoba more easily than you can in Ontario or some other province; and whether he himself is concerned about that and what he's intending to do through this task force review is to look at all of those aspects of this subject, and whether he is intending to look at that aspect in relation to the present case in the Town of Rivers?

No one is suggesting that legitimate welfare needs should not be looked after, and no one is suggesting for one moment that the children involved in that case should not be properly looked after, but if the Minister is scrambling around for a few thousand dollars extra to put into respite care or to put into child abuse programs, and I would support him on that, what I'm asking him is, are there several thousand dollars being blown through a loose application, a far too liberal application of attitudes where welfare cases are concerned, such as this case in Rivers?

**MR. EVANS:** I don't know, Mr. Chairman, whether this is — in fact I am convinced this is not a forum to discuss one individual family in the system and I don't like to do that. I don't think it's fair to the family involved. We are talking about a family of a man and wife and 4 children; a family who came here under rather unusual circumstances, a family which was on welfare in Ontario.

I would also remind the honourable member that 50 percent of all welfare costs are reimbursed by the Federal Government, so we do live in indeed a national situation where every province involved does get 50 percent reimbursements. We are all Canadians.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Same taxpayer though.

**MR. EVANS:** Same taxpayer, but there has been no rapid increase in the caseload. The caseload has been fairly constant over the years. I don't see any evidence of any people, of a mass rush to come into Manitoba to rip off the system as you call it. There's no evidence of that and as I said, any sociologists who have may have studied this question of mobility of Canadians or mobility of people will tell you, and I haven't studied it but I've read a bit, and I know some from my own research, the people who are mobile are rich people, are well educated people, people with skills, generally young people; not the welfare recipient. The welfare recipients are among the least mobile people in any society.

**MR. SHERMAN:** That's true, Mr. Chairman, I'm not arguing that, but are there legitimate persons in need of welfare who are not getting the service that they need because of a loose or far too liberal application or misapplication of some of the conditions, qualifications and regulations in the present circumstances.

I concede the Minister's point in terms of reference to a specific family and I regret that reference is obviously implicit in the questions that I've asked, but I use it as an example of a condition which has prompted some public concern in recent weeks. I'm asking whether that is a condition that will be examined by the task force that he has suggested is being set up;

whether he's had any concerns of that type expressed to him, and particularly whether he's had specific concerns expressed by the Town of Rivers? Because given all the points that he makes about the misfortune that is involved for persons who have to turn to social allowances for support, in 99 percent of the cases on the caseload, and I agree that it is a case of personal misfortune that is at the root of 99 percent of those cases, there still is always the concern when he's looking for dollars, as we all are, to fund other persons who are legitimate persons in need or to fund other worthwhile programs whether proper attention and application is being given to all welfare applications, and whether he has had concern on that point expressed to him as a result of this particular situation in this particular community to which we have referred, and whether the personnel in the at community associated with that case have raised that concern with him.

**MR. EVANS:** Concerns have been raised, I suppose, with my office by means of phone calls and so on; general concerns. I don't know of anything officially or formally given to me by staff expressing concerns, but I would just say generally that this is a family in need and families in need are cared for in the Province of Manitoba. Just as a matter of interest too, the province that is having the biggest increase in welfare caseloads is the Province of Alberta.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I.(b)(1)—pass; I.(b)(2) Other Expenditures. 1.(b)(2)—pass; I.(c)(1) Salaries, I.(c)(1)—pass.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, the previous government's 1982 print showed \$341,000 for Program Review and Evaluation. The new government's 1982 print, not 1983 but 1982 print shows \$250,000.00. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, whether that reflects a switchover from Community Services to Health of a substantial portion of this branch and its personnel and its services. It is down from \$341,000 to \$250,000 in the 1982 comparisons, print-on-print.

**MR. EVANS:** Is that during 1981 three staff were transferred to the Department of Health?

**MR. SHERMAN:** One staff?

**MR. EVANS:** Three.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise the Committee how many SMY's were in the Program Review and Evaluation Branch previously in Community Services and how many will now be there under the 1982-1983 establishment?

**MR. EVANS:** There were 11 in 1981-1982 and there are now eight, the reduction of three that I referred to. There has been virtually no change in that branch other than that transfer I referred to.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, you may rule me out of order on this, Sir, but I am not sure where I would raise the question and it relates as much to Program Review and Evaluation as to any other of the Estimates. It is a question arising out of the reconciliation

statement box on the opposite page which shows \$107,000 worth of functions transferred to Community Services from Health, and my question at this point or some other point in the Estimates, Sir, is what are those functions that have been transferred over from Health and where have they gone? Have any of them gone into Program Review and Evaluation, for example? If I have to relate the question to the item, and I know that I do, let me put it that way, Mr. Chairman. Have any of them gone to Program Review and Evaluation?

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, we will supply the honourable member with an analysis of the transfers to and from between this department and the Department of Health, and he may find it useful when you deal with the Department of Health Estimates. We haven't got it with us now, hopefully we will have it by tomorrow. If all goes well we will have it by tomorrow and if not tomorrow certainly Monday.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, that's fine, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that, it will be a big help, but just off the top of his head, can the Minister tell me whether any of those functions coming over from Health have gone to Program Review and Evaluation in Community Services?

**MR. EVANS:** No, there was only one way they came, there were three staff positions from Community Services to Health there was nothing from Health back to this department.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(c)(1)—pass; 1.(c)(2) Other Expenditures, 1.(c)(2)—pass; 1.(d)(1) Salaries.  
The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister where external agencies appears. I raise it here because of the fact that we are dealing with the Agency Relations Branch and I know that does not represent any change over the previous structure, but because Agency Relations was in the previous structure and it is here again in the current structure, but as we move further along in the Estimates it will be noted that what previously appeared in Community Services and Corrections as Home Care Services and External Agencies no longer does, and I understand why Home Care Services does not because it has moved over to Health. But what has happened to external agencies, are they now included in this Agency Relations Branch or where do they show? There are specific references to external agencies relative to individual branches, but this was another reference altogether and it does not appear in this set of Estimates at all. I raise it at this point because it is not in the book, so it can't be raised at any specific point, but I think the point to raise it is when we're dealing with Agency Relations Branch.

The Honourable Minister.

**MR. EVANS:** I'm not sure whether I followed all of the honourable member's remarks, but the staff organization is the same: Executive Director — 1; Agency Relations Liaison Officers and Co-ordinators — 7; and Clerical Support Staff — 3; for a total of 11, which

is essentially the same. The monies to the various agencies are shown under various programs. For instance, Maintenance of Children — a great deal of that money goes to the Children's Aid Society and so it would be shown on page 25 under 4. Child and Family Services. So the various organizations that relate to the department by virtue of our funding can be discussed as you get under the details of each program.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, I don't doubt that the Minister had trouble with my question, Mr. Chairman, because I shudder to think what I'll feel when I read it back in the report of the committee, because I don't think it was a very well put question.

Let me try and explain my problem here: there has always been an item Agency Relations Branch. Last year it said exactly what this year it says, manages departmental relationships, etc., etc., and I understand that. The Budget projected was \$347,100 and it shows up in 1982 print in this years' book as \$352,800, so it cost a little more than was projected and for this year it is projected at \$362,000.00. I understand all that but later on in last year's Estimates one comes to an item entitled "Home Care Services and External Agencies," and Home Care Services has moved over now into Health. Where has External Agencies gone?

**MR. EVANS:** Those are different External Agencies, those are agencies related to the Home Care Program and they are in Health, so this is a different, although it is called Agency Relations Branch and it talks about external liaison and so on, it is a different group.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So those External Agencies relative to home care have now moved over to Health with home care, is that correct, although they do not appear in the Health Estimates, it just says Home Care, it doesn't mention External Agencies.

**MR. EVANS:** I am not familiar, Mr. Chairman, with the way they have made up the Health Estimates, so maybe you could ask the Minister of Health when you deal with the Health Estimates.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, that is all well and good, Mr. Chairman, but I have been on that side of the House too, and what if when I ask the Minister of Health he tells me I should have asked the Minister of Community Services.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 1.(d)1—pass; 1.(d)2 Other Expenditures, 1.(d)(2)—pass; Page 24, 1.(e)(1) Salaries.  
The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, what I need in connection with this branch and really with all of them, and I would appreciate it if the Minister could perhaps supply me with a typed list, if it's possible, is a comparison of the SMY's in the previous establishment and the SMY's in this establishment, because the whole transfer of certain functions over from Community Services to Health is at issue here. Perhaps he could tell me in immediate response what the staff man years are for the Office of Residential Care now, as compared to last year; whether there's any increase or

decrease or any change of any kind?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is no change in the staff man years for the Office of Residential Care. We had 14 people there last year; there are 14 this year.

With regard to your other request, perhaps by this evening we'll have a listing of all the S.M.Y.'s by branch in the department comparing 1981-82 with 1982-83, which I think has been customary in other years.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister.

The Office of Residential Care has a number of very significant responsibilities in terms of licensing and monitoring of residential care facilities in the province. I'd like to ask the Minister a few questions about a number of them, but the most important at the moment in terms at least of interest from the perspective of developing programs is that having to do with the whole guest home field. The Minister is aware that a mechanism for the licensing of guest homes was put in place by the previous government and regulations were drawn to provide for the application of conditions for operation of guest homes. I'm fully aware of the fact that it's a process that is fraught with some difficulty and some complexity. I was one of those who said at the time that although it was a very worthwhile objective, we couldn't expect to accomplish it overnight because of the difficulty of finding residential facilities for those many persons in the community throughout the province, in fact, who reside in guest homes. Nevertheless, it was the consensus of the Legislature and the consensus of the community, I think, that we move on elevating the environment of guest homes generally and elevating their standards for operation and insisting on a form of approval, sanctioned through licensing.

I would request from the Minister a report to the committee now on that process, the progress that has been made to date. Can he tell us what's happening in this area and how many guest homes have requested financial help for upgrading, if any?

**MR. EVANS:** With regard to an area — I know the member is very interested in it — the area of guest home operations, it has been difficult I understand to get a handle on the precise number of guest homes in Winnipeg and out of Winnipeg. The estimates to date show that there are 95 guest homes in Winnipeg; 68 guest homes outside of Winnipeg, for a total of 163. So that's the universe we're working with.

Applications for licenses have been received from 106; inspections have commenced on 87; and licenses have been issued for 19 — (Interjection) — to 19.

As the honourable member knows, over the year the City of Winnipeg — I'm talking about the Winnipeg homes — has been concerned about fire and building inspection safety generally for some many years. I think the intention is to go in and make sure that we're satisfied with the level of service to the clients or the residents of those guest homes. Having said that, the honourable member also realizes that we're dealing with a phenomenon that's very difficult to classify in some ways. I'm thinking of the people who may reside in guest homes; some people in such homes are per-

fectly capable of looking after themselves. They happen to be there in a sort of a board and room situation and there are others who are much further along the road of needing assistance, some that almost need almost as heavy care as you might in a personal care home — a nursing home. So, there's quite a mixed bag and people with different handicaps and so on. It's rather an amorphous concept, sort of an amorphous category in a sense. At any rate, those are the statistics and I guess progress could be a little faster in some ways, but it's very difficult I understand to get a handle on some of these institutions.

There is some other information the member might be interested in; that is that the civil servant in charge of this office has been very ill. We're now looking at some reorganization within the department, so that has not helped the process at all, but we're trying to cope with it.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm very disturbed to hear that. One of my questions was going to be, who is the public servant in charge of the Office of Residential Care at the present time? Is it still Mr. Lloyd Dewalt?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, it is that gentlemen but he's unfortunately suffered a stroke and we're not sure whether he'll be back. At any rate Mr. Cels is presently taking over that responsibility, but we're in the process of reorganization.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Well, I'm very sorry and all members of our party would be very sorry, I'm sure all members of the Committee in the House would be very sorry to hear that, Mr. Chairman. We wish Mr. Dewalt a speedy recovery. I also wish Joe Cels good luck in the job. I'm not sure that he would consider it an elevation, but nonetheless I know that he'll bring an enormous amount of commitment and dedication to it.

Mr. Chairman, how many guest homes have requested financial help to meet the standards that are being imposed through the regulations?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, I'm reminded, Mr. Chairman, that there have been requests made by some guest home operators of the Department for some assistance. Our response has been that we don't have any grants directly for the operators, but we are concerned about the residents, the people, who happen to live in those guest homes. We have provided approximately \$600,000 additional, through the Social Allowance program to help many people who are in this category, to help people who are in those guest homes. So, they'll get a higher rate and this in turn would, we trust, enable the guest home operator to ensure a higher standard of care and service to those people.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, Have any guest home operators indicated that they're going out of business because they can't meet the regulations?

**MR. EVANS:** I am advised there are two who have indicated that.

**MR. SHERMAN:** How many residents would that

involve? A dozen, approximately a dozen?

**MR. EVANS:** Five, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Have those operators given a deadline date indicating when they're going out of business?

**MR. EVANS:** I'm advised they are already out of business and of those 25 residents, some have gone to other guest homes, some have gone to nursing homes.

**MR. SHERMAN:** So, as far as the Minister knows, all the residents have been accommodated in other facilities? Can the Minister advise the Committee, Mr. Chairman, what level of standards and upgrading the office of residential care is moving on through the regulations at this point in time, in the guest home field? What is the initial objective to ensure they're upgraded for fire safety? Does it end at that point? Does it go on to require additional types of upgrading and reinforcement of environment and service and, if so, just how far does this stage of the process go?

**MR. EVANS:** The first requirement is physical safety so indeed that is the area that is being moved on. Beyond the question of fire safety, there's the area of public health, the concern that the environment of the building is adequate from a public health point of view, cleanliness and so on. We're also concerned that the building is safe and adequate and that, generally, there's at least minimal care, however that may be defined provided for the guests or for the residents of those homes.

**MR. SHERMAN:** To what extent is the process being applied in the field generally at the present time, Mr. Chairman? Is the government in the office of residential care dealing with a specific size of guest homes at the present time in terms of capacity or in terms of physical area, a specific geographic location, such as one part of Winnipeg or a certain part of rural Manitoba or are all 160-some-odd guest homes being moved on at the same speed and in the same way?

**MR. EVANS:** I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that there's no particular geographic area or size of guest home that is being zeroed in on, firstly. There's a general approach so all sizes of guest homes are involved and indeed we're dealing with the problem both in the City of Winnipeg and outside of the City of Winnipeg, including rural Manitoba.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Can the Minister advise the Committee, Mr. Chairman, who is conducting these inspections of the guest homes? What sort of help does Mr. Celshave or is Mr. Cels going around inspecting them all himself?

**MR. EVANS:** Well, particularly in the City of Winnipeg, the fire and the building standards are taken care of, more or less, by City of Winnipeg personnel, Fire Department and the Building Inspection Department.

I suppose the best way to describe those who have

priority in being reviewed and so on are those that have been drawn to our attention by means of complaints from relatives or friends of the residents, of the guests. We have various staff in the field and I know there's one case in rural Manitoba where a public health nurse in the Department has been involved in some component of it. But, wherever possible, we would rely certainly on the firefighting forces in the communities and any other municipal inspection service that's available.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I would assume that the fire safety deficiencies would be fairly obvious. It would be a matter of applying the Provincial Fire Code, but what happens in the case of physical space, access and egress location on a floor level, with the hallways, with the doorways? Are these guest homes being required in any substantial number — and I'm not suggesting that they shouldn't be, but the problem is how to get at it and how to handle the program — to widen doorways and hallways, and provide for bathroom facilities on additional floors, provide for entrances and exits and staircases in different parts of their buildings?

**MR. EVANS:** The experience has been that there's been no major renovation program being required for most of these facilities. They tend to be minor upgrading and quite often we're involved in making sure that there's an adequate second exit or a third exit perhaps even; that there are adequate egress, including fire escapes and so on. So, generally, it has involved some more or less minor upgrading of physical facilities, I understand. There has been very little need that we know of where there has been a major reconstruction program necessary for a particular building.

**MR. SHERMAN:** Is there a deadline or time frame at which the government is aiming, Mr. Chairman, to complete this process and, if so, can the Minister provide the Committee with an estimate of when he would expect the process of inspection and commencement of upgrading to be completed in the whole field? Are we looking at 1984 or 1987 or 1990?

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, it is difficult to give you a deadline or a date when everything will be put in place but it is being worked on in an orderly way. Progress has been made. I understand that some of the problem is being handled by making sure that the people who are in the various guest homes are appropriately placed. Quite often the problem is simply one or two or three or whatever number in the guest home who shouldn't really be in the guest home, they need to be in nursing homes, and through the services of the nurses that work in the field, in the Community Operations, we can perhaps attend to that problem, in fact, we do. So in many ways if you make sure that the number of people and the kind of people in those guest homes are the kind of people who don't need nursing facilities as such, a nursing type of care, then I understand we have overcome a great deal of the problem.

Apart from that we just have to make sure that the basic necessities for fire safety and so on are being met and to that extent we can use municipal officials outside. As the member indicated, outside of Win-

nipeg that we have the Fire Commissioner's Office to fall back on as well.

There is another problem too, that over the years, I guess it has been in operation a year now, so we will probably will need another two or three years anyway. But it is important that we stress the upgrading and bring the facility up to a point where they can house these people because sometimes they do not have many options other than those who have to go into nursing homes. Some of them, unfortunately do not have any options so we don't necessarily want to close them down, because if you close them down you may have no easy way of placing those people, so that is not the ideal. The ideal is to make sure that the building and the environment is adequate.

**MR. SHERMAN:** I agree, Mr. Chairman, that the program has to be handled very carefully to ensure people are not being dislocated and put out on the street. They have to have a place to live, that is what is at the root of the whole matter and the program which is designed to upgrade their living environment is good, but certainly this side of the Committee would agree with the Minister that we do not want precipitous action that forces people out onto the street.

Going beyond the physical work that has to be done, such as the fire safety upgrading and the physical renovations, what is in place at the present time in terms of monitoring of health standards in guest homes? There was concern of a considerable nature expressed at the time that the previous government was originally wrestling with the issue that many persons in guest homes were not eating properly, that in some cases, although there are some very excellent guest homes in Manitoba and that fact should be acknowledged, there were some, a limited number, which certainly did not come close to fitting into that category and that the operators of those homes were paying little heed or attention to any kind of proper diet, proper nutrition for the residents in those homes, and that over and above that, as we all know, many persons in guest homes are persons who are either post-mentally ill or who have been discharged from hospitals for physical illnesses and ailments and they require medication of an ongoing nature and they require some attention to and supervision of their regimens for medication.

Those were concerns that were laid at the doorstep of the previous government and legitimately so. It was largely as a result of those concerns coupled with the concerns for physical safety that the whole process of developing a level of standards to be implemented and guaranteed through regulation and enforcement came into being, so the committee would be interested, I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, in hearing from the Minister on the subject of health needs and health requirements of the residents of guest homes equally with the consideration for physical safety.

**MR. EVANS:** Perhaps we are being a bit repetitive, but what we try to do is to use all the talent we have in the department and indeed call upon the talent in the Department of Health as required, and we have people who are knowledgeable in nutrition, home economists — I think they are called human ecologists, previously known as home economists — so we have

such staff knowledgeable in the theory of nutrition. We have mental retardation staff that are available, and as the member may know, Mr. Chairman, many people in the guest homes have some degree of mental retardation, not all but many. The whole area of public health, there are Public Health Inspectors, and so on.

So there is an array of talent, an array of people, who have skills and responsibilities and we can use these and we do use them in ensuring that the program part is adequate, if I can use the term "program" as opposed to building at least, as opposed to the physical structure, the fire, the building adequacy, the exits, entrances and so on.

I don't think the honourable member is suggesting that we need to have a new kind of staff to inspect guest homes. Or do we have? No doubt. A special category, guest home inspector, grade 1 or grade 3. We don't have that and it is not necessary because we have a lot of good staff with a lot of talent who we are calling upon.

**MR. SHERMAN:** That is fine in theory, but the question is how are you doing it. Certainly I am not suggesting we need new categories of staff, either classified as guest home inspectors or whatever. We have community mental health workers, we have public health nurses, we have home economists and dietitians, we have doctors, we have social workers, we have income security workers, etc. etc. We certainly don't need any increases in categories of staff, and I would hope that we don't need any increases in staff at all, but if we do need increases in staff, then we need increases in staff. If this program requires it to carry out the objectives of the whole licensing decision and mechanisms, then that's an area that can't be dismissed as though it's simply a matter of theory. The residents in many cases are post-mentally ill — or perhaps I should qualify that, Mr. Chairman — in some cases, certainly a significant number of cases are post-mentally ill. They require supervision of their medication. I know it was a problem that our government wrestled with and I'm asking the Minister what this government is doing to supply those needs and those services. Just tell me that we've got public health nurses and community health workers is not telling me anything I don't know, but I haven't met a public health nurse or a community health worker yet who isn't carrying a caseload that would break the back of an elephant. The question is how are they getting into these guest homes to do the additional work that I think this Legislature agreed in a non partisan way was necessary.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister can make his reply short. The hour is approaching 5:30 p.m. Would you be . . .

**MR. EVANS:** I'll make it short. I think the member was referring to the inadequacy of field staff; that they're overworked.

**MR. SHERMAN:** It may be inadequate.

**MR. EVANS:** We're adding 20 more to the field staff this year as the member will see. Twenty staff are

being added to Regional Personal Services because there is a pressure out there. This was where the need was, so we're addressing that need but in terms of this office, in terms of the Office of Residential Care, there are people here, there are three for children and two for adults — or have I got it the other way around — three for adult facilities and two for children's facilities, of whatever kind, not just guest homes. They're co-ordinating the inspection and upgrading and so on.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hour is 5:30 p.m. We'll adjourn, I am now leaving the Chair to return at 8:00 p.m.