

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 18 March, 1982

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. D. James Walding (St. Vital): 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 Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. EUGENE KOSTYRA (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make a Ministerial Statement. Members are probably familiar with today's media news reports about the financial difficulties facing Sunward Holidays, Winnipeg. I wanted to inform members that I have met with representatives of the Manitoba Travel Industry Association who informed me of the situation facing Sunward Holidays. Sunward Holidays, for the information of members, is a wholesale tour operator which is a business — operating name of Teach Tours Inc. The staff of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs have made contact with the principal of Sunward Holidays to ascertain details of the company's financial situation and will be meeting with the firm tomorrow.

In addition, Sunward Holidays is meeting today with representatives of the Manitoba Travel Industry Association to assess the impact of the financial problems. Initial information indicates that up to 100 people who have paid for tour packages from Sunward Holidays may be affected. The government is concerned with the impact on the clients involved and is strongly urging the industry to assist those affected. I'm advised that some of the individuals may receive compensation from their travel agents but that others, particularly those who booked tours directly with Sunward, may not be in a position to recover any of the money advanced to the firm. As yet, we have not been able to ascertain the exact number of individuals involved or the total value of possible losses.

Legislation which would enable persons affected by such bankruptcies to recover their losses had been promised in 1979 by the previous government. However, this commitment was not followed through. It is the intention of the government to bring forward as soon as possible legislation which will establish a fund whereby persons affected by the situation such as this within the travel industry will be able to obtain compensation. We have been advised by the travel industry that they favour this legislation. We look forward to working with them to immediately develop sound legislation which will protect both the consumer and the industry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly of course, I'm sure that all members

on this side of the House, as are members on the other side of the House, concerned about this situation and the potential loss to Manitobans who had put forward deposits or amounts of money with the company in the hope of travelling with this particular company. I would hope that the Minister will proceed with the legislation which was left by our government in the process for being presented to this Session of the House. The Minister does mention the promise of legislation that had been made in '79 and, of course, he'll know from his discussions with the Travel Industry Association that after a series of meetings over a period of time they had declined a self-regulating piece of legislation which had been intended.

Since that point in time, of course, the department under the previous government had proceeded to put together the material that would allow for the introduction of a bill this year. I would think that this side of the House would look very favourably upon that type of legislation if the Minister is going to be bringing it forward this Session. We would hope, of course, that the department would continue to work with this company and with the Travel Industry Association to ensure that in some way Manitobans are not suffering the effects of this business failure and that these Manitobans can be compensated for their losses in some way. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have a statement for the House. Mr. Speaker, further to a recent report I made in this House, I would now like to inform all members of the current state of negotiations with the Manitoba Medical Association.

I received a letter from the President of the Manitoba Medical Association dated March 9 and a letter from the President to the membership of the MMA dated March 10 in which Dr. Pearson advised the membership that until our principles are addressed in a sincere manner by government, fee bargaining with MHSC is on the shelf. On Monday, March 15, my staff received a phone call from the MMA requesting an urgent meeting to clarify their position with regard to the negotiating principles and policies they wish to establish. On meeting with the president and other representatives of the MMA Tuesday, March 16, I was presented with a statement attached which reads and I quote:

"We have asked for this meeting to clarify any misunderstandings of the MMA's position on compulsory binding arbitration and the other collective bargaining policies. We felt it necessary to have some face to face discussion at this point because of the mood of the membership at large is clearly one of impatience. Physicians across Manitoba are telling us they are prepared to force the issue with job action, but before embarking on a full-scale, job-action program, we wanted to make one final attempt at some reconciliation.

"Our minimum requirement is for the government to agree by a Letter of Intent that compulsory binding

arbitration will be provided for in all future contracts with the MMA. We can work out the details later. We also want some commitment from the government that it will introduce legislation at some future date to bring about the other collective bargaining policies. Again, a Letter of Intent would suffice. We are willing to meet with Cabinet tomorrow to explain any aspect of these policies. It must be made plain, however, that after March 17th the association is going to act. If you have any points you would like clarified, we will endeavour to respond."

Following the meeting I wrote the President of the MMA setting out my understanding of the association's demands. My letter to Dr. Pearson is attached and it states:

"Dear Dr. Pearson: When we met in my office this morning, the representatives of the Manitoba Medical Association stated that it would be necessary for government to agree to the association's demands in respect to compulsory binding arbitration and changes in legislation before fee negotiations for 1982-83 can begin. From our discussion, it is my understanding that the association is demanding that government agree in writing to the following:

"1. Provision for compulsory binding arbitration be included in all future agreements between the association and the Manitoba Health Services Commission while at the same time leaving in effect legislation which permits physicians to opt out and extra bill.

"2. (a) The Health Services Insurance Act be amended at some point to stipulate that the association is the sole bargaining agent for all physicians; (b) the commission shall negotiate with the association rather than me negotiate; (c) the association should also negotiate all forms of remuneration other than fee for service based upon a request of the majority of physicians involved.

"3. The Medical Act be amended at some point to make it compulsory for all physicians to pay MMA dues if they wish to practise medicine in Manitoba.

"You advised me this morning that physicians across Manitoba are prepared to force the issue with job-action and that after March 17 the association is going to act. As you are aware, Cabinet meets every Wednesday and I would like to place the association's proposals before them tomorrow, March 17. I would, therefore, ask you to confirm by return letter today that my understanding as set out above of the above association demand is correct."

Late in the evening of March 16, in response to my request, I received a letter from Dr. Pearson that generally confirms the statement they've presented at our meeting that morning with a further expansion of their demands in respect to binding arbitration. Dr. Pearson's letter is attached and it says:

"Dear Mr. Desjardins: In response to your letter of this date, it should be noted that you instructed the Manitoba Health Services Commission to cease fee negotiations with the MMA. As that is a point of record, only you can direct the MHSC to return to the bargaining table. The association is demanding that your government agree in writing to the following:

"1. Provision for compulsory binding arbitration to be included in all future agreements between the association and the Manitoba Government and/or its agencies, for example, MHSC. Such a contractual

clause would ensure that disputes would not lead to confrontation. While compulsory binding arbitration could be invoked by either side, it would be used only as the last resort after all other dialogue has failed to achieve a settlement. Government's approval in principle of compulsory binding arbitration does not require legislation. We recognize that the practical details of implementation must be worked out and we would co-operate with you in this regard. We acknowledge that the compulsory binding arbitration must be binding on both parties. So that this would apply to physicians, we recognize that government may desire legislation to effect the following MMA policy:

"All opted-out physicians have the right to so remain. Those wishing to opt out of Medicare will be able to give notice prior to the start of fee negotiations. This notice shall bind the physician to actually opt out and remain opted out, at least until the anniversary date of the opting-out notice. Physicians entering or re-entering Manitoba or physicians entering practice for the first time would immediately have the choice to practise in or out of the Medicare plan and to so continue until the next annual option date.

"You have recently stated that the current level of opting out in Manitoba is not a problem. With the above arrangements, we are prepared to ensure that opting out is not used to circumvent compulsory binding arbitration. Item (2) and (3) in your letter accurately reflect the MMA's position in respect of its other collective bargaining principles. We recognize that some time may be needed to introduce the required legislation."

Mr. Speaker, I have responded to the latest demands of the Manitoba Medical Association and attach a copy of my letter, and it reads:

"Dear Dr. Pearson: This is in response to your letters of March 9 and March 16, together with a clarification of the issues raised therein during a meeting with you in my office on Tuesday, March 16.

"As promised in my letter of March 16, I placed the Manitoba Medical Association proposal before Cabinet on March 17. My colleagues in Cabinet discussed your proposal extensively, realizing that compulsory binding arbitration is a complex issue and in a sincere effort to resolve this and related issues, Executive Council has set up a subcommittee of Cabinet to review the entire matter and report back as soon as possible.

"In the meantime, Dr. Pearson, I would hope that you can accept this decision as a concrete expression of goodwill and that we can now have our respective bargaining teams return to meaningful negotiations respecting a 1982-83 fee schedule with no restriction on either party. I would be pleased to receive your positive response in this regard."

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that the positive action taken by our government will be accepted by them as proof that we wish to resolve these matters in the spirit of goodwill and that they will now have their bargaining team return to meaningful negotiations with no restrictions on either side. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Honourable Minister for his statement and advise him that it is received on this side of the House with continuing concern and regret that the impasse which has existed between the two parties, the two sides, for the last several weeks remains at this juncture at any rate unresolved.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the positions of both sides have changed in the past few days if not the past two or three weeks. The Minister has indicated that his government is willing to explore during the calendar year 1982 the concept and principle of binding arbitration. The President of the Manitoba Medical Association for his part, in my view — if I read the exchange of communications correctly — has moved off his original position with respect to binding arbitration and has modified that position to some considerable degree. That being the case, Mr. Speaker, if that's a fair assessment and judgment of the situation, I think that the average Manitoba citizen could well ask with considerable justification, why can't the two sides get into negotiation? There are principles involved that are complex; no one questions that, but there seems to be an indication, at least at the level of the minds of the two parties, that those principles can be explored and examined outside of the heat of debate and the heat of the negotiation arena.

What everyone is hung up on — it appears to me at this juncture, Mr. Speaker — is the words, the rhetoric that has been exchanged between the two sides and I recognize that in both instances there has to be rhetorical compromise so that no one is embarrassed. That's part of the world we live in; it's a reality and I think our party acknowledges that. But the average citizen it seems to me would now be saying, why can't the two sides get into negotiations, discuss the fee schedule? If, Sir, there happened to be a fairly easy and happy conclusion to those fee schedule negotiations, I'd be willing to suggest to the Minister that some of the other problems would be resolved fairly easily. In any event some of the blockades, some of the difficulties, standing in the way of agreement would be removed, because there would be a spirit generated out of a happy settlement on the fee schedule that would make for a climate and an environment that could resolve the other problems.

So, Mr. Speaker, this party, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, urges the Minister and the government to instruct the commission to commence fee schedule negotiations with the MMA immediately, without delay. There are now in front of us the realities of a possible job action and work slowdown which can only reflect to the detriment of patients in this province, and that has to be the primary consideration — the security and the convenience and the safety of patients. Everything else is secondary to that, Mr. Speaker. I would hope the Minister is counselling the Medical Association that job action benefits nobody, that it won't redound to the association's benefit any more than it will redound to the patient's benefit.

I would hope that we do not have to urge the Minister further, notwithstanding the differences still existing out there, to instruct the commission to commence fee schedule negotiations this afternoon if possible and, if not, then no later than tomorrow. If they can reach a fee schedule agreement, Mr.

Speaker, some of the other problems can be more easily resolved.

MR. DESJARDINS: I have another statement and wish to tell you it's much shorter, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce the creation of a Commission of Inquiry into private operators of lotteries in Manitoba. Since the creation of legal lotteries in Manitoba in 1970, lotteries have grown into a \$100-million yearly concern. Designed to provide a source of revenue for charitable, nonprofit organizations, lotteries have grown beyond control with the rise in participation of private operators who often works for the licensed charity. We have little control over these private operators and promoters. We want to find out what percentage of lottery dollars is going to these promoters. Judge Gerald O. Jewers of the County Court of Winnipeg will chair the Commission of Inquiry, it's a commission of one, which we have empowered under The Manitoba Evidence Act.

Lotteries were not designed to become large businesses for professional promoters, but in some cases that may be what they have become. The inquiry will review all operations of lottery tickets, ticket promoters, break open ticket suppliers, distributors and printers, commercial bingo operators, casino management companies and casino equipment supply companies, financial dealings of professional promoters as they relate to lotteries, contractual arrangements between licensed charitable organizations and professional promoters, and investigation of any improprieties or illegalities which may be identified in the course of the inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to at the outset thank the Minister for the statement. I think that this side of the House has been concerned in government and now on this side about the amounts of monies that are being spent on lotteries in the Province of Manitoba. I believe, if the Minister has been looking at the figures, I think the one area that he refers to here, the break-open lottery tickets, the sales have increased dramatically in the last number of years because of a few changes that have been made and to that extent we welcome this type of inquiry.

I would point out to the Minister, however, that last year we did pass legislation within this Chamber which allows the Manitoba Lotteries Licensing and Gaming Commission to appoint auditors to go and audit any books of people that have anything to do with either the selling, distributing or retailing of lottery tickets. That, I believe was an essential criteria that had to be established and he does now have the legislative authority to appoint accountants to do that. I think that is one avenue that he should be pursuing very aggressively because, as he knows, there have been many accusations of people making exorbitant profits and before that bill was passed, there was nothing in place which allowed us to tackle that particular problem. So, he does have some avenues open to him at the present time to deal with any suggestions that somebody is misusing any lot-

tery funds and I would urge him to appoint these type of auditors to go ahead and examine the books of people involved.

Again, I repeat, the lottery business, especially the break-opens, I think looking maybe at \$40 million worth of sales within the Province of Manitoba this year. It has escalated at a phenomenal rate and we welcome any inquiry which will ensure that the public protection of the funds that are being expended is in place and that these people are not abusing the funds which are involved.

Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I hope that we can move on to make sure that lottery funds are being spent properly and consistent with the goals of recreation sport and nonprofit groups within this province.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

HON. SAMUEL USKIW (Lac du Bonnet): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table an Order for Return No. 1, an order asked for by the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. MURIEL SMITH (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the report of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism for the year ending March 31, 1981, including the associated agencies, the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, the Manitoba Trading Corporation, the Manitoba Research Council and the Manitoba Design Institute.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A.R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Co-operative Loans and Loans Guaranteed Board for the year ended March 31 and, as well, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Co-operative Promotion Board for the year ended March 31, 1981.

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 three school groups in the gallery.

We have 16 students of Grade 9 standing from the Red River Valley Junior Academy. These students are under the direction of Mr. Landry. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Elmwood.

There are also 16 students of Grade 9 standing from the Ross L. Grey School. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Norman and Mrs. Stewart. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson.

There are 12 students of Grade 6 standing of the Ralph Brown School under the direction of Miss Mau-

reen Seale. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

On behalf of all the members of the Assembly, I wish you welcome here today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. A. BRIAN RANSOM (Turtle Mountain): Mr. Speaker, yesterday at the close of the question period, the Minister of Finance informed the House of what a tremendous job that the Legislative Assistant to his department was doing with respect to consultation on federal-provincial financing arrangements and other things. We're very pleased to hear that, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could inform us with what groups or organizations his Legislative Assistant has been consulting.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. VIC SCHROEDER (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I'm again very happy to be able to begin to answer that question. Just this very morning my Legislative Assistant spent an hour-and-a-half meeting with the Chamber of Commerce of Winnipeg and we were again in discussions. I happened to be at that meeting as well, we had some discussions with respect to the state of the Manitoba economy. We had some discussions with respect to Labour legislation and other matters. My assistant has been meeting and consulting with the Pension Commission of the Province of Manitoba, with people interested in pension reform; he has been meeting with and discussing issues of fiscal arrangements with people in the Province of Manitoba including educators.

I'm sure the Member for Turtle Mountain is aware that my assistant hails from the education profession, and so, she has some connections in that area and she has been making people in that field aware of possible implications of changes in fiscal arrangements between Ottawa and Manitoba. That is an area of concern to all of us in Manitoba. That is just a beginning of what this woman is doing for the mere sum of \$200 a month and an interest in serving the public of Manitoba. I think she's doing a tremendous job and I really appreciate it.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, we're very pleased to hear that his Legislative Assistant has been involved to that extent even though he didn't advise what groups with which she had been meeting concerning federal-provincial fiscal negotiations. But since the honourable member is so extensively involved with his departments, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister could inform the House whether or not his Legislative Assistant has access to files in his departments.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, when my assistant requests of me that she wants specific information, then I do my best to provide it to her if it has something to do with what she is working on. I can say, Mr. Speaker, that I have never yet denied her access to a

file to which she has requested access. I should say that is because she is a very sensible person and wouldn't request access to files that she's not working on.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, two days ago in response to a question, the Minister of Finance informed the House that he was unable to say what impact the cutbacks by the Federal Government on transfer payments would have on the revenues to the province. I wonder if he could now confirm to the House that the statement made by the First Minister in Brandon last night to the effect that the cutbacks will amount to at least \$100 million is an accurate statement.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, I'll take that question as notice, I didn't see that particular statement in the speech. I had looked briefly at some speaking notes and I don't recall that number.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I just would inform the Minister of Finance then that his First Minister has, indeed, stated that it would be a cutback of at least \$100 million even though the Minister could not inform the House of that two days ago.

I have a further question for the Minister, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if his department has calculated a real growth figure for the economy of the province for the year 1981, if so, would he make that available to the House.

MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'll take the second portion of the question as notice. With respect to the first portion, again — the \$100 million — we are aware that there will be hundreds of millions of dollars of losses as a result of the new arrangements over the five-year period, but we are not aware specifically of the dollar amount for this current year. It is my understanding that it is the intention of the Federal Minister of Finance to table the legislation dealing with the new fiscal arrangements tomorrow afternoon in the House of Commons, and we are certainly awaiting that introduction.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, I wonder then, would the Minister undertake to consult with his First Minister and determine whether or not this is an accurate statement.

MR. SCHROEDER: Certainly, I would be quite happy to consult with the First Minister with respect to that matter.

MR. RANSOM: Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Acting First Minister in the absence of the First Minister and ask her whether, in view of the glowing accreditations that have been offered by the Minister of Finance for the Honourable Member for Kildonan in her capacity as Legislative Assistant, would the First Minister consider in the best interests of the

people of Manitoba making the Honourable Member for Kildonan the Minister of Finance, and making the Honourable Member for Rossmere her Legislative Assistant?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to recognize that the member opposite has seen the fine quality, not just of one Legislative Assistant or one backbencher but indeed, of all our backbenchers and recognizing that they could all substitute for the front bench, in fact, that is the hallmark of the co-operative style of government which we are carrying out.

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

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Agriculture or the government can offer any new information instruction or advice for the beef producers across Manitoba. We're still waiting for the government to announce and fulfill its well known election promise of a support plan for the beef industry in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. BILL URUSKI (Interlake): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the honourable member and on behalf of the Conservatives are now agreeing that the market system that they so wholly support hasn't worked and isn't working and are prepared to have government involvement in the market system. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated before, when the plan will be brought in, it will be announced in this House and the member will be aware. I hope as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker.

MR. McKENZIE: I thank the Honourable Minister for that non-answer, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, due to the numbers of cattle producers in the province who are holding back large numbers of their herds, their prime beef, awaiting the announcement by this Minister or by this government, could he advise the farmers, the beef producers in this province, if his plan is going to be retroactive.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I agree that the beef producers in this province are in dire straits. If it wasn't for their finagling of the previous Beef Income Assurance Plan, Mr. Speaker, the beef producers in this province would have had a stabilization plan that was just coming to an end on March 31 of this year. It was their finagling that caused them that position.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, it looks like another election promise has been shot down the drain. I feel sorry for the beef producers in this province who listened to this group across, pledging what they were going to do during the election. I wonder, can the Minister of Agriculture give me any new information, instructions or advice for the MANCO people at

Rossburn and Pilot Mound. The 25 employees are out of work at this time and waiting for the government to give them some help to get their industry back on the rails again.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the board of directors of that corporation — we've met with them. They indicated to me that part of their difficulty was the pricing of milk. I indicated to them that the process they should undertake was an appeal and to be dealt with by the Manitoba Marketing Council. I understand that they have followed that route. There have been no further proposals in terms of advice; we've offered assistance in terms of marketing. If there are further proposals to be made, I've asked them to put it into writing and we'd be prepared to meet with them and discuss what assistance we could give them. That's where the matter now rests, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. HARRY GRAHAM (Virden): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Energy. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister if he has any plans to table the Nugent Report. He has given a copy to me privately, but I was wondering if he would table the report in the House for the public of Manitoba.

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

HON. WILSON PARASIUK (Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question under advisement. We had received only a limited number and it was a matter of determining whether we would like to incur the larger expense of printing out a large number. I'll consider the request of the member and I'll report back very soon.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID R. (Dave) BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Government Services responsible for Transportation. I wonder if he can advise the House when his department will reach a decision on the abandoned rail line property that is now under review by his department.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Government Services.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I believe the member should be aware that's a joint effort between Transportation and Agriculture, in that the staff of both departments are involved. That policy is under review, as I have stated, a few days ago, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister, being a rural representative, I'm sure he realizes that this is the time of year when the farmers are making plans for their spring operation. I'm sure he's aware of the difficulties. I know the Member for Roblin-Russell has a constituent that was told not to touch the fences on

his particular property where the rail cuts through his farm and those fences have since disappeared and he's now wondering who is responsible. There is a wheat problem coming up to be looked after. Whose going to be responsible for these rail beds? These people would like to have a date when they might expect a decision on what is going to become of the land that's going through their property — the rail beds.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Member for Minnedosa would appreciate the fact that a policy review is not something that takes a couple of minutes. I don't believe that we wish and that it would be prudent to act in an ad hoc basis. We are reviewing what was in place and we may continue with what was there, Mr. Speaker, but at least we need an opportunity to take a good look at it.

MR. BLAKE: A supplementary to the same Minister, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister be prepared to put individual cases where there is some urgency before that committee and make decisions on individual cases where a decision should be reached quickly?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I did indicate about a week ago that if there is individual cases of hardship or inconvenience, that if that were referred to me, I'd be prepared to follow up on those.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, one question, a follow-up to the Minister of Transportation.

If the policy review undertaken on abandoned rail line right-of-way disposition is not completed by this spring or summer, will the province be assuming the maintenance of fences, weed control, et cetera along those rights-of-way?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would assume that the natural course will follow and, that is, the province who owned the property will want to manage those properties in the way that properties are managed that are held by the public. It's not as if the public hasn't the experience to deal with that question.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, then I assume from that answer that the farmer, the landowner, referred to by the former questioner could apply to the Minister of Highways and Transportation for the reconstruction of that fence.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I think that the former Minister of Highways would appreciate the fact that the province is under no obligation to do anything other than what it is doing at the moment and that is reviewing the policy.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, the Provincial Government, whilst I had that responsibility, established a clear and equitable policy for the disposition of those rights-of-way and we had commenced that disposition. It is this Minister and this new govern-

ment which has discontinued that disposition through adjacent landowners. These rights-of-way, Mr. Speaker, are of extreme importance to the landowners through which those rights-of-way bisect. The policy was in place; it is now discontinued. Those farmers, those landowners, want to know when they might expect a continuation of the policy that we had undertaken and that we had commenced to sell the property when not needed by the Crown to those adjacent landowners.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I again want to remind the Member for Pembina that those lands were there trespassing through if you like, those same properties, private properties for 100 years. Just because they are no longer used in that way doesn't mean that automatically there's an urgency as far as the disposition of those properties is concerned. We have to develop a policy and I'm certain, Mr. Speaker, that the members opposite know that our policy review does take a little bit of time.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I might point out to the Minister that up until six months ago those rights-of-way did not belong to the province. In view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that those rights-of-way now do belong to the province and a policy was in place for their disposition to Crown corporations, the province, or to adjacent landowners, the urgency is there now that the province owns those rights-of-way to proceed with the disposition of it.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I would want to remind the Member for Pembina that there have been significant changes in this province in the last few months — one of them was a change of government.

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

MR. G.W.J. (Gerry) MERCIER (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of his announcement today with respect to Sunward Holidays, and in view of the increasing number of bankruptcies in the province, and in view of the increasing reports of consumers, Mr. Speaker, who are losing deposits on goods or services as a result of companies subsequently going into bankruptcy and the consumers losing their deposits and not getting the goods and services they thought they were buying, would the Minister be prepared to investigate whether any program or legislation could be brought into existence under his department to attempt to protect those consumers who lose those deposits and recognizing the constitutional and legislative problem of federal and provincial jurisdiction?

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

MR. KOSTYRA: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are difficulties not only in the area of the travel industry but I do not think from the information that I've been made aware of that the difficulties in other areas with consumer purchases are as bad as they are in the travel

industry where people have to front basically most of the cost or a good part of the costs of the goods that they will be receiving some time down the road. In most other cases consumers are able to get the goods immediately on putting forward money. There was some problems with respect to the furniture industry some time ago, however, I would certainly take the member's question under advisement and look at other areas. I do know that in the case of the travel industry there is legislation in two other jurisdictions in British Columbia and Ontario. I'm not aware of any other legislation dealing with other aspects of consumer purchases in any parts of Canada but I'm prepared to look at that and to see if there is something that might be done.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for that answer. My supplementary question is to the Honourable Attorney-General, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if he would inform the House whether municipalities can expect to receive increased police grants, particularly in view of the new RCMP contract that's now in existence.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. ROLAND PENNER (Fort Rouge): With respect to the fiscal year 1981-82, I'm pleased to announce that we in fact were able to give to the municipalities an increase of 10 percent, not as much as we would have liked, but at least close to the CPI for this particular fiscal year. The problem of policing the municipalities, towns and villages is a difficult one. I have asked the officials in my department for a comprehensive report on various aspects of the policing program and the cost to the province. I hope to be able to deal with some aspects of it, indeed, all aspects that I may be questioned on during Estimates. I'm certainly prepared to look at what is a very severe problem for some of the municipalities, towns and villages, and all I can say at this juncture is that it is a matter of some concern. We are looking at it. As soon as I have the report, I'll have it before the time of the review of my department's Estimates and would be prepared to discuss it with the Honourable Member for St. Norbert or any other member on the opposite side of the House at that time.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the Minister of Finance. Despite, Mr. Speaker, the now Premier's election promise to guarantee a great future for Manitobans, the Premier apparently announced last night the intention of his government to raise taxes in the Province of Manitoba. Could the Minister of Finance indicate how much taxes will be raised in Manitoba?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

MR. SCHROEDER: This government will follow the tradition of other governments of announcing Budgets on budget day.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MR. WARREN STEEN (River Heights): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Economic Development, and ask her in view of a statement by the First Minister where he is quoted as saying, "We can provide interest rate relief and an economic climate to ensure that small business stays in business," and ask the Minister if she, or anyone in her department, were ever asked for any financial assistance from the Metro Drugs people?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MRS. SMITH (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, not to my knowledge.

MR. STEEN: The second question, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if she had any staff person from within her department in attendance yesterday at the creditors' meeting, which was held at the Convention Centre, in relation to the Metro Drugs' financial disaster.

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question under advisement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. RURIK (Ric) NORDMAN (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs. Will the Member for Ellice who is acting for residents of the Logan Area, will he be receiving any part of the \$39,000 grant that has been made by the province to those people?

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

MR. KOSTYRA: No.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System. Has the Minister directed MTS to install an additional satellite dish in Thompson permitting the delivery of three U.S. SatCom channels?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Honourable Minister of Health whether he's had a chance to investigate the ambulance routing procedures that were employed Saturday midnight in the case of the unfortunate shooting victim in the incident outside the Montcalm Motor Hotel? There were two hospitals involved, Victoria and St. Boniface. I think

the Minister originally took a question on that subject as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I'm still awaiting information on this, but while I'm on my feet, another question that I took notice of on the same day, March 16, from the same member, I can now advise him that the memorandum of agreement on the Diabetic Prevention Program between the Department of Health and the University of Manitoba terminates on March 31, 1982. Unfortunately, due to demands for funding in next fiscal year, the need to prioritize, we will be unable to support the Diabetic Prevention Program beyond March 31, 1982.

Our senior medical staff are encouraging Dr. Moorehouse to make application through the Manitoba Diabetic Foundation for a federal help grant, and if he agrees to do this, and is successful in receiving the funding, we would be more than pleased to continue to work with him through our field staff and continue to recognize Dr. Moorehouse as our departmental consultant on diabetes. Of course, Mr. Speaker, as funds become more available in future years, we would be very eager to resume the funding of this program.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Honourable Minister for the information but, of course, it goes without saying that I'm very disappointed by it. Obviously we'll be discussing this matter when we reach the Minister's Estimates, but notwithstanding that, Sir, I'd like to ask him whether this indicates that emphasis in the 1982-83 Estimates of the Department of Health will again revert to curative, repair-oriented medicine at the expense of preventative programs such as the Diabetic Education Service?

MR. DESJARDINS: No, Speaker, I think that we'll certainly look at the direction that the department will be going. I think we're committed to prevention also, but the fact is that we have to prioritize. For this year, I think, we have just for the commission of the department, there's been a \$45-million deficit and we must prioritize somewhere.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Natural Resources. I wonder if the Minister of Natural Resources could advise the House whether or not the recent American proposals concerning Garrison, which were announced by his Deputy Minister on March 6, have the support of the Secretary of the Interior of the United States.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. AL MACKLING (St. James): Mr. Speaker, as indicated the other day, the Deputy Minister in attending a meeting of the Action Committee on Garrison outlined the proposed changes to Garrison development phasing. I'm not sure to what extent the Minister

of the Interior of the United States has approved of that. I do know that this alteration in phasing was discussed with representatives of this government some time in October, Mr. Speaker, and that the present administration was advised of this proposed change in phasing as early as November 3, 1981, by comprehensive memorandum from the then Deputy Minister to the former Premier, the former Minister of Natural Resources and one of my staff:

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, my question was a very direct one. Were the proposals supported by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I haven't had communication with the Secretary of the Interior for the United States, so I really don't know what his thinking is on this matter yet.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that written proposals were not received by the government until February and that the proposals which were discussed last summer and fall were verbally discussed?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar with the summer discussions that the honourable member refers to. I am familiar with a report that was made to the former administration dated November 3, 1981.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister is familiar with that report, perhaps he could confirm or advise the House whether or not the former Deputy Minister, Mr. Jack McNairnay — I might say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. McNairnay is a civil servant who has served the province and the city for 31 years and has no political preferences contrary to present headlines in the papers today — can the Minister advise the House, confirm to the House that, in fact, Mr. McNairnay did advise the government that these proposals could, in fact, lead to the deauthorization of the Garrison plan?

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Speaker, my reading of the advice given to the previous administration does not indicate that at all. What it does indicate is that the proposed revisions to the Garrison project still envisioned the use of the Lone Tree Reservoir in North Dakota, but that there would be no irrigation in lands in the Hudson's Bay Basin, other than an area in the Cheyenne Basin which drains into the Robinson Coulee.

The memorandum further goes on to indicate that the American proponents did not indicate that they would never proceed with the sewer's loop of this proposed irrigation project. It's pretty clear from the memorandum that this alteration in phasing does not, in any way, indicate a reversal on the part of those proponents of the Garrison project.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that the then Deputy Minister said that what Canada and Manitoba could take from the meeting was the realization in the American jurisdiction that Garrison as originally envisioned would never be built and that, furthermore, he said that presumably, if the proposal is acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior, it would

then go forward for approval and, at the same time, deauthorization of the original Garrison plan.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it is crucial to know whether or not this plan has the approval of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and it raises the question, once again, why, when the question was put directly to the Minister in the committee, did he have information concerning the Garrison which would lead him to believe that there might be deauthorization of the plan? Why was this information not put forward? Will the Minister now table the proposals and will the Minister table the November 3 memorandum from the Deputy Minister?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I have no problem with tabling this memorandum that the former administration received on November 3, 1981, which is not marked confidential, secret or anything else.

A MEMBER: We ran an open government.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, apparently, and that's why I gather that there was no surprise on the part of the members opposite that there had been proposed changes to the Garrison project. They knew about it, Mr. Speaker.

In respect to this memorandum, copies of which — I've got one copy here, I'll be happy to table — it's clearly indicated that there is no reversal of the Garrison project. There is a change in phasing only.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, the other request was, would the Minister table the proposals that have been put forward by the United States?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I don't have copies of any proposals that I'm aware of. My Deputy Minister was advised verbally when he was in Washington as to these proposals. I don't know that there is anything in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System. Mr. Speaker, to the Minister responsible, has an understanding or agreement been reached with the Federal Government regarding receipt of U.S. satellite television signals in the province?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I can only say that the Canadian policy with regard to broadcasting television and satellites has not changed. The policy that was in place, as enunciated by the Federal Government when the honourable member for Pembina was the Minister responsible for telecommunications, is the same policy that is in existence today.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, then I take from that answer that the Minister has not reached a new understanding or agreement with the Federal Government.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I guess I'm repeating. The Federal Government stands by its policy and it's a national policy which they insist that they stand by.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Turtle Mountain.

MR. RANSOM: Mr. Speaker, two or three nights ago in committee, the Minister of Natural Resources advised that he was the focal point for information concerning Garrison. Can the Minister confirm to the House that he has just advised us that he does not know whether or not the province has received a new proposal with respect to Garrison?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, subsequent to my Deputy's attendance at a meeting in Washington and through conversations that we had in Ottawa, I was advised that there was disclosure of proposed revisions of the Garrison plan. I haven't seen a document in writing from the Minister of the Interior or from anyone else. We do have on display, in the Focus Office in the basement of this building, maps showing the revisions proposed apparently by the proponents of Garrison and that's as far as I know — the only written documentation that we have, or the only visual display of the change that we have. If there is anything further in writing, I'll be happy to table it in the House. I don't know of any.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources that in conversation with a Mr. Murray Sagsveen, the State-appointed attorney for the Garrison Conservancy District, he assured me that he would do the Opposition a courtesy of sending us in duplicate the material, the proposals, that were sent to this government in February.

When I receive them, I'll be happy to table them in this House and to make them available to the Attorney-General or to the Minister of Natural Resources who doesn't seem to want to acknowledge that he has that material.

Does the government have that material? — is the question. Does the government have a set of proposals that we are informed from responsible officials in North Dakota were sent to this government in February, just last month?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I've indicated to the honourable member that if there is such, I have not seen it; if there is, I will table it. My Deputy may have that, but I haven't seen it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. Order please. The time for Oral Questions having expired, Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable House Leader.

MR. PENNER: Mr. Speaker, again in accordance with the agreement, the Adjourned Debates and the Second Readings will stand until tomorrow; and accordingly I would now move, seconded by the Minister of Finance that, Mr. Speaker, now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

MOTION 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.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas). We're on Natural Resources 6. Lands. We're on 6.(e)(1). The Member for Emerson.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER (Emerson): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I have a series of questions on this item regarding wild rice and before I get into that I wonder whether the Minister could possibly indicate the lack of allocation of monies in this area here.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the monies are relatively the same only they are put in the Enabling Vote which comes up separately and the figures are \$68,500 in the first item Salaries and Other Expenditures \$24,900.00. I think I explained that earlier, Mr. Chairman, that although they don't show there they show in Enabling Vote.

Now the mechanics of that I'm not too familiar with but the monies are there.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I have series of questions here, I don't want to belabour it too long; but I'd like to make some reference to a report that was released by the Minister, The Manitoba Wild Rice Industry, a Commission of Inquiry done by a certain Mr. Ross, and I have some concerns about some of the recommendations in that report and I'm just wondering to what extent . . . I'd like to first of all have a bit of a reaction from the Minister as to what his feelings are regarding the matter of the wild rice industry, the direction that he maybe is planning to go, if he is planning to go anywhere with it at all, and then maybe from there on I could maybe follow up with some questions that I'd like to present.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the wild rice industry is a very important one for a great many people in Manitoba — I say a great many people, they're not large in number — but certainly because of the nature of the industry it involves a great number of people. A lot of Native people have historically been involved in the harvesting and processing, at least some processing, of wild rice in Manitoba and it's an important resource for the people involved and it certainly can be an even greater resource for Manitobans. There were 244 leases last year and we had 89 new applica-

tions apparently over the former year.

Wild rice is a very attractive food product and commands a good price on the market. It suffers, of course, from supply and demand factors influencing price and it suffers from the problems of quality from year to year, too.

It's a commodity that can be developed much more effectively by control measures, by careful harvesting, perhaps some additional lakes could be seeded and I am hopeful that this industry will become an even more important one for the people of Manitoba and particularly for those who have in the past been involved in the winnowing, if I can say, of this resource and I'm particularly referring to the Native people of Manitoba.

The Native people historically have a limited resource base and I'm hopeful that out of all the recommendations that have been made not only by Mr. Ross but others since his report, that we will be able to establish policy which will be effective and productive and produce an even better development of wild rice in Manitoba.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister then. Is the Minister contemplating or considering changing the present system or policy regarding the wild rice industry for the upcoming year, in view of the report that's out and also in view of the fact that a Mr. Bostrom is looking and doing an overall review of it to some degree again of the report, I assume? I have more questions on that but I'd first like to see what the Minister's reaction is, whether he is considering changes for the upcoming season?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, we have recommendations being made to us. The Ross recommendations I'm sure the honourable member has read as well as a number of us have read, I think it's premature at this time to make decisions as to how the resource will be harvested this year.

I think it would be prudent, we still have some time, to await further recommendations, the analysis that Mr. Bostrom will be making, and I hope in addition to that to be able to have some consultation with groups that are interested and groups that have already visited with me in respect to it, before a policy decision is struck for this year.

As I indicated to the honourable member, I think he was present when I made comment on this subject earlier, that it may well be that during this current wild rice harvesting year, we will not have set in a position policy or program for the full development of the industry. We may again then be involved in some measures for a limited time frame another year.

MR. DRIEDGER: Further then, Mr. Chairman, is the Minister recommending or is there an opportunity for people who are interested in this kind of industry to make representation to Mr. Bostrom? How can he be contacted? Is he having hearings? How is he conducting his enquiry to some degree? Because I know of individuals that would like to maybe meet with him or make recommendations and if the Minister could possibly, either through the Committee here or privately otherwise, maybe make the people aware of the fact that they can have some of their concerns

expressed to Mr. Bostrom; that I think would do a lot to help alleviate some of the problems in the industry.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'll be happy to refer as I have any further recommendations, any observations, any constructive advice from any persons that the honourable member may know and have contacted him. I'll be happy to refer those to Mr. Bostrom.

However, because we are anxious to endeavour to review policy as quickly as we can, we have indicated to Mr. Bostrom that we want his report by the end of the month, so there isn't all that much time for further input to the analysis that Mr. Bostrom will be making on our behalf. But as I've already indicated to the honourable member, after we receive that report I'm hopeful, providing I'm still not here in Estimates, and even if we are, I will make time on the weekends to deal with people who want to talk to me about the advice we have been given, including the analysis of Mr. Bostrom, hopefully, before we must make decisions in respect to the current year.

MR. DRIEDGER (Emerson): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, just some of the concerns. The fact that we have a report here, and maybe my colleague, who used to be the Minister before who authorized the report by Mr. Ross. I have had the occasion to meet with the various groups from the Wild Rice Associations, individually as well as in groups, and they don't necessarily agree with all of the recommendations and have some views as to the things that may be concerns. For example, the time element of leases, the block-leasing programs, the investment that they have, and many of the lakes that actually, potentially, could be seeded. One of the problems that they have is the capital investment that is involved in terms of some of these lakes that you can only fly in, and the seeding process, and getting your equipment in, etc. Again it ties in to some degree with the water resources in terms of certain lakes, or shallow lakes where there is a certain amount of controlled structures put in place, permits are required. The other thing is that the harvest season itself is taking approximately anywhere from a month to six weeks, two months or something like that. The possibility of setting up structures so that the workers that are out there in isolated areas, at least can have someplace to have reasonable living quarters while they're on the job, and again, environmental people, to some degree don't allow these things to happen out there. There's always a little bit of a problem about getting some of these structures set up so there are many areas that the people that are in the industry, and I, incidentally, Sir, have never harvested wild rice, but I've had the occasion to get acquainted with people that do. So, the Minister probably is aware of many of the shortcomings in this thing.

The recommendations that are in the Ross Report - I would hope that discretion was used in applying some of these things. I, along with some other people, don't necessarily agree with all of those recommendations, so I would hope that the Minister, when he formulates his policy for this coming year, and eventually the long-range policy - I've criticized him from time to time for lack of consultation with people from other departments - that he would consult with the

people in the industry, not necessarily just the Native people, there's other people involved as well that have capital investments involved who should have a chance to speak their minds before dyed-in-the-rock type of policy gets formulated.

I just want to know what will happen to new applicants that make an application for, let's say, isolated lakes that are not under lease right now. Will these be processed in the normal fashion at this stage of the game or what happens to them in the interim?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's a good question that I haven't been advised to date what additional applications have been received this year, if any, over last year. I would think that a great number of people know that a review is being made, and may not be applying; however, I really don't know. But past policy was, first come, first allocation. Given the fact we're looking at the whole industry, that doesn't mean to say that we're necessarily going to do that. We have, I understand, 89 new applications on hand.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, since the leases I understand are only on a year-to-year basis, there is always the concern of the individuals who have seeded certain lakes and done certain preparatory work, etc., this area of first-come, first-serve, creates some concern in my mind and some people's concern that, if on that basis somebody would take and apply for a lease on some lake that had been developed in some degree in the wild-rice industry that somebody else cannot take and apply on that. Now, I know, this is a sort of discretion call but I would caution the Minister to be relatively careful in that direction that just because there have been a change of government that not necessarily the change in some of these lake leases take place. Just as a word of caution because they are only one-year leases and there is some concern in the industry among some of the people that this could happen.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the past practice that has been pursued apparently for some time, is that although the leases are for a one-year period, that as long as they have met the requirements of the lease, there has always been an attempt to permit renewal of those leases. But the recommendations that have been made in the Ross Report and the other recommendations and observations and suggestions we're getting of course, will influence what policy determination is made of the industry, including the leasing.

MR. DRIEDGER: Just a few short questions. Who is the authority that actually authorizes the leases at this stage of the game?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised it's the Director of Lands.

MR. DRIEDGER: Which would be?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Arnie Barr.

MR. DRIEDGER: And this individual, under his jurisdiction with the people on his staff is the one that would be processing the leases, if any leases came in, and authorizing who gets what?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, of course, subject to the policy directions that we will formulate after we have considered all of these recommendations, including any constructive advice we may get from this Committee.

MR. DRIEDGER: One more. Then people who wish to make recommendations or presentations would be in a position where they could also further this kind of information or meet with either the Minister or Mr. Barr and his people?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the regional director does not establish policy and so any policy suggestions and so on, ought to be directed through the Minister's office and then we will be forwarding them, if they're in time to Mr. Bostrom; if not, I'll still be dealing with them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rupertsland.

HON. ELIJAH HARPER (Rupertsland): Yes. My question is to the Minister about, I'm concerned about the time frame. I understand that the time frame to report or for consultation meetings or the reports should be in by March 31st. Is that correct?

MR. MACKLING: Yes.

MR. HARPER: Because I've had some representations from various individuals and groups concerned about that, because it doesn't give enough time for them to prepare and I understand that also they're calling for interprovincial conference by one of the groups dealing not only with themselves but with individuals like farmers, or businessmen to deal on this issue. Are you aware of that?

MR. MACKLING: I'm not aware of the particular concern about interprovincial discussions on it, but I think that would be advisable because the marketing of wild rice is not exclusive to Manitoba. It could well be as I've indicated, that because of the time constraints we will not be in a position to have completed a policy review in an entirety that we're satisfied we've been able to consult with enough people to affect an overall policy decision for this year. So, we may again have to be faced with what the previous administration was, and that was making some decision this year on a temporary basis that is still subject to further revision of policy.

MR. HARPER: Because I was concerned about, you know, with this short period of time developing a long-term policy that's really very hard to change, but in the meantime maybe temporary policies could be put into place, at least for this coming season. I know for a fact that they were concerned about traditional harvesting versus mechanical harvesting.

One of the other things too, is that the Native people is to retain employment in those communities and

also to develop some sort of market, and also put in a processing plant and most of the wild rice is sold into the States and there's no retainment to ongoing employment for the communities. Part of the problem has been that there is no implementation dollars available for the various communities to implement their projects. I know a lot of representation has been made to change some of the policies, but the problem has always been to go beyond that; I know for a fact because I worked with 16 bands about three years ago and we made some recommendations in terms of marketing, in terms of seeding the lakes and in terms of harvesting mechanically and also tradition and also processing the plants. But the problem has always been to implement those things and hope this government would see fit to help the communities not only in the province because the Federal Government has some responsibility too.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I welcome the comments of the honourable member. Certainly, we will want to, in our policy decisions, reflect the concerns of the people who want to see a policy that provides for not merely the harvesting, but also the processing here of products so that we get more of the employment benefits, the economic benefit, from the industry which has unfortunately in the past been subject to merely the harvesting and most of the processing being done elsewhere. Certainly, I will welcome the honourable member's contributions by way of further advice too. As he's indicated, he has had some experience in this area before. If there are any further submissions he himself wishes to make, of course, he can do it through our government caucus, but it would be helpful to put those also into the mill with those who we get from Mr. Bostrom and from the other groups and I would welcome that.

MR. HARPER: I have no further comments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to comment at length on this. I wonder if the Minister could give any indication of how many lakes or what percentage of the lakes are not under permit that are sort of open for harvest by individuals?

MR. MACKLING: I'm given to advise that most of the lakes that have been identified as having natural wild rice or wild rice potential, from the point of view of seeding, are under lease or have been exploited but there is still an ongoing search by some for extension of that and I am sure that there's probably more area that could be developed.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, it's a fairly lucrative business and I just wonder what control is there to detect or to pick up poaching or bootlegging, whatever word might suit some people acquiring wild rice that may be aren't in accordance with the permit terms or in the best interests of the industry, is that just conservation officers keep an eye out for it or is there any specified watch or control?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the honourable

member is right it's a very difficult area, the enforcement, because it is not regulated in a way like cereal grains are regulated by a board or commission and, once it's off the lake it is hard to identify, and it's difficult. And, oft times I'm advised by staff that what will happen is that a foreign buyer - I say foreign, I mean they're usually Americans - have just dropped into a lake at harvest time when they know harvesting is going on and they buy the rice at lakeside and away they go.

A MEMBER: They set up a tripod and the scale is on there and away they go.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, that was part of my concern, it would be a very very difficult thing to watch I know and, as I say, it's maybe not restricting free trade or free enterprise in anyway, but there are some areas where I can see a great percentage of the product going out into an illicit market or a blackmarket, so to speak, without any way of detecting it at all.

MR. MACKLING: Well, I just have to agree with the honourable member, it's just difficulty of enforcement. However, those involved in the industry are watchful and it's like, I have some experience with the trucking industry, and those who are involved are the observers and enforcers to a degree and I think probably what's happened, over the course of many years, is that without there being a recognizable market for processing of the green rice here in Manitoba, people involved were happy to sell to someone who would take the product off their hands because it does deteriorate if left unprocessed.

MR. BLAKE: That's my main concern, I'm not interested in a lot of it, I mean, a few pounds usually does me over the year and I didn't want that source cut off. I don't like paying \$8.95 a pound for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we're on 6.(e)(1) Salaries.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, are we passing this item?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I would hope so.
The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I defer to the Member for Inkster.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Inkster.

MR. SCOTT: Thank you. I just wanted to make a couple of comments on the industry as a whole. I think there has evolved in the past couple of decades, or a past decade really, an attitude that I agree with certainly and that is that the first chances for many of the leases should go to the Native people in the areas that reside within the general area, especially the east side of Lake Winnipeg which is of course the area that we're talking about.

But I have a couple of concerns on some of the areas that I have come by in canoeing in that area in the past myself. The one operator, in particular, on the Black River which is now, I think it's just south - I'm not sure if his area is within the New Nopiming Park or

not — but in this area the person who is operating it — it's a fly-in area — they had crashed a road through because there's no gravel to make a road so it's just basically a continually widening mud path through the bush with junk strewn and bits and pieces of vehicles strewn all over the place.

But the most upsetting thing was that he had gone down below one of the beautiful falls about a half or three-quarters of a mile below his operation — and his operation was on just a small adjoining lake really that drains into a widening of the Black River and is called Black River Lake — and he had in a very very crude fashion started dynamiting the top of the falls to lower the level of this widening in the river.

There was still dynamite lying around. Where it had been dynamited the rocks whenever you do dynamite especially if you use no mats or whatever, there's jagged rock cast all over the ruddy place. It's in a very good canoeing area, a pristine area, very much so a pristine area and what they have done by this person going through — and I don't know whether he had license to be able to go in at that point in time and carry on like he had or not — to be able to change the water level.

But I think the permits — and he's supposed to have a permit to use dynamite in the first instance — the permits for what they can do on a water regulation I think has to be addressed not just on the benefit to the industry itself or to his lands but also what it is doing to other uses within the area.

To just focus on the Whiteshell, for instance, a little bit of history. I just found out in the past couple of weeks talking with someone who is from the area said that the wild rice industry is much less than it was years ago, at least the potential was much less presently than it was a number of years ago because of water regulation which raised the levels of many lakes.

I believe some of the lakes are around White Lake and Brereton was as well, Red Rock I believe as well and these areas of water were raised for recreation purposes and are now — and I'm not certain I'd recommend that change at all — but the whole regime of water regulation, I think, has to be looked at on conflicting uses, particularly when you're dealing within what is supposed to be a natural park. I put on the record the other day what a natural park is supposed to be.

I certainly agree basically with the recommendations coming from the Ross Report here on the traditional form of harvesting rather than going in and turning it over purely to the mechanized harvesters. So I guess in concluding my concern is, that when we start looking even at seeding new areas and new lakes if there is not wild rice in them, then there is perhaps a reason why there isn't wild rice in them just from a natural perspective, that has to be continually seeded.

If we get into the idea of more intensive farming of the areas and having to introduce fertilizers and what not, then you are talking about major chemical balance change in the water and I don't know that that's necessarily desirable, especially when we're talking about provincial natural parks. So, when we're dealing with the changing of the water levels and management of the water with farming itself, of whether we should be seeding new areas, when you are seed-

ing new areas are you upsetting the present balance in the area for staging waterfowl in particular and also nesting waterfowl.

So all I'm really asking for, Mr. Minister, is when we are reviewing this report through whatever mechanisms have been established, that we start looking not just simply from the point of view of productivity of the wild rice — certainly we have to look at that — but I think we also have to start doing some of what I hope will be coming forth before too long, is environmental assessment review processes. When we are talking about introducing farming of wild rice into areas where presently it is not in existence or trying to upgrade for higher levels of production, present wild rice producing lakes.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his observations. It is true that there have been wild rice operators who appear to have taken matters sort of into their own hands in respect to water control measures and that is not permitted.

An operator must get approval from the Water Resources section of the department in connection with any alteration of water levels and I am advised that one operator has presently been referred, the actions that he or she took. In respect to altering water level it's with the Attorney-General's Department for possible prosecution. There was a dragline involved altering the water level. I don't know whether the department is aware of the instance that the honourable member talked about.

So there has to be an ongoing supervisory role in respect to any wild rice operator's developments. Although as the Ross Commission indicated, water control is a factor and of course in the production of wild rice and that has to be carefully supervised.

In respect to the use of fertilizer in wild rice production our staff indicate that to their knowledge hasn't been the case to date. I would think we would want to look very very carefully at fertilizer use in wild rice production because of the environmental concerns the honourable member refers to. I suppose it should not be automatically ruled out because it would change the environment but we'd have to look at it very carefully because fertilizer heavy in phosphates can alter the character of the waters themselves and perhaps very quickly. So certainly we will be interested in that concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(e)(1) Salaries.

The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just before we pass this item I do want to put a few things on the record.

Firstly, that I find it perfectly understandable that a new administration would want to choose somebody such as Mr. Bostrom to review and to assist the Minister and the department in finding some solutions to this rather fascinating subject of wild rice.

Mr. Minister, part of the reason that we haven't got all the answers solved is because although it's not a major part of his department, it doesn't lend itself to easy solutions and simple answers to the resolution of the problem about the wild rice industry. That's because the industry is different things to different people; it's very much part of the cultural background

of very substantial numbers of people - I refer, of course, to our Native people that are involved in the industry. It is a business; it's a fairly lucrative business for some of those that are involved and, of course, I concur wholeheartedly with the comments made by the Member for Rupertsland that a greater role should be found to maximize the opportunities of the industry in the province.

However, Mr. Minister, you will undoubtedly find out, if you haven't already, that there have been many good efforts made by successive governments, including one that you, Sir, were part of and one that I was part of.

I would like to believe, Mr. Minister, that in the appointment of Mr. Bostrom you will not simply be trying to rework all the ground that I believe Mr. Ross covered fairly well. Whether or not you accept the recommendations of the report are, of course, entirely up to the present government, but let me put on the public record that I deliberately chose a person like Mr. Ross because, although he has many many years of dedicated public service to this province and to many different governments, he had no particular connection with the wild rice industry and while, at the time of his appointment, that was seen by some as something lacking or failing in the person that recommended him for this report, I found it to be just the opposite. You'll find very quickly that anybody that is in the wild rice business has very fixed views, there's a great deal of vested interest involved and much of it understandable. So, I deliberately chose a person that had no prior background in the wild rice industry, but I believe that Mr. Ross, I know that Mr. Ross, carried out his responsibilities with a great deal of responsibility; that he spent a great deal of time with all of the people involved in the industry, at the lake level, at the processing level. He, I think, has understood some of the kind of traditional values in the wild rice industry, particularly as you relate to the Native people, I think that is reflected in the report. I think he has also tried to understand that there is a very genuine conflict here with respect to methods of harvesting, traditional versus mechanical, and has also attempted to have some feeling, some understanding of the role of the provincial government and their responsibility where this occurs in a provincial park; that the park ethics, if you like, have a role to play as well.

So, Mr. Chairman, with those words, let me recommend the Commission of Inquiry that was carried out by Mr. Ross to this Minister. I would hope that Mr. Bostrom avails himself of Mr. Ross' very serious look into this inquiry when he is doing his review and making recommendations to the department and, Mr. Chairman, certainly not in any patronizing way I wish the Minister well in finding a resolution to this problem.

It is not because there haven't been serious efforts made. There have been different approaches, co-operative approaches been made, the willingness to pretty well leave it in the hands of Native co-operatives to harvest this resource, have been tried and for one reason or other have failed in the past, so, good luck, Mr. Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank the honourable member for his remarks. Cer-

tainly, we will need good fortune but I guess we'll need to do a lot of hard work. I know that Mr. Bostrom will be communicating with people who have made submissions and I hope that he has also communicated with Mr. Ross where he feels that that would be helpful.

The Harvey Bostrom review will be much, I suppose in a way it'll be looking at the Ross Report and the reactions to it and giving us further commentary on that. I think that the Ross Report was a good effort, despite the fact there are people who aren't happy with its recommendations, and we'll have to evaluate the recommendations in light of the constructive criticism we're receiving on it.

But, we will need goodwill, and I don't know whether, even after we develop, hopefully, a long-range policy, I'm sure that there will still be requests for improvements over the years and let's hope that with goodwill the industry will continue to grow and improve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 6.(e)(1) Salaries—pass; 6.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 6.(e)(3)—pass; Resolution No. 106.

The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, not to hold up the Resolution at this point, but because our rules prevent us from speaking to a Resolution that the opposition took a negative position to, I do want to put it on the public record what the exercise was all about yesterday when the vote was requested for the passage of Resolution (d)(2) having to do with Crown Lands Registry. I say this for the public record, I think, individual members are aware. Mr. Chairman, the Minister has, on a number of occasions, indicated that, and understandably so, we've acknowledged that, that he has not in all instances had the opportunity or indeed perhaps the inclination to express any strong views about any particular matter in these Estimates which, as he correctly stated, have substantially been put together by a different administration, a different Minister and certainly with little opportunity for his own influence with respect to these Estimates.

However, Mr. Chairman, it is not acceptable, certainly to the Members of the Opposition, for a Minister to indicate to us in the committee that he has serious reservations about an item and is not prepared to defend the inclusion of that item in his Estimates, particularly when a Member of the Government side takes a pretty critical position about the inclusion of that item as the Member for River East did. It was deemed important to us to find out whether the Minister and the Member for River East was prepared, despite his opposition at this committee, to the inclusion of a particular item, to then have to stand up and vote for them.

Mr. Chairman, what that simply demonstrates is a Minister is responsible for all the items that he's putting before this committee and the Minister cannot take a position of; well, I don't really necessarily support what's in my Estimates, but it's there in front of you. That's not the way the rules work, Mr. Minister. I know you're aware of that. Whether you have had the opportunity of familiarizing yourself with all these Estimates, the fact of the matter is, you, sir, are pres-

enting them to us for approval and if we sense in you, sir, something less than support for your own Estimates, it leaves us very little choice than to suggest — even though we might have had a role in preparing those Estimates — we are prepared to learn, sir. If a new, enlightened Minister has reservations about some of these Estimates that we've prepared then perhaps we were wrong, and that was what the exercise was all about yesterday with respect to the votes.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that if the honourable member's concerned about my enthusiasm, it's only tempered by the lack of appreciation for the intricacies of the department so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution No. 106.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,547,500 for Natural Resources for Lands—pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we're on Natural Resources, No. 7, Forestry, on 7(a)(1), Salaries.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, again we seem to be working out alright under the arrangement that allows us some leeway in the discussion of these things.

My first question to the Minister would be to indicate the change from the 3.9 million over print to 4.3. That doesn't represent a great deal of an increase. The Forestry Division has in my judgment, required some recognition that we in Manitoba are not doing as well as we could in terms of making sure that this very valuable resource is not harvested in such a manner that puts us into a too seriously negative position, by that I mean cutting more than natural growth will allow. Of course, Mr. Minister, through natural causes Manitoba has suffered some very serious years of deprivation as a result of forest fires. The extremely dry conditions of two summers have had their toll on Manitoba forests. It seems to me that heightens the concern for acknowledging in this division of his department some additional elbow room. It would have been my hope, Mr. Minister, to have accomplished that, perhaps never to staff's expectations, but certainly such things as the expansion of the capacity for our seedling and planting program at Hadashville, certainly, at least the start of a somewhat enhanced reforestation program. I will ask you specifically, Mr. Minister, how we compare in Manitoba with respect to our reforestation program as compared to some of our sister jurisdictions. It's my concern that we are not in good shape. So, we have to recognize that, and I think the Minister has to look within his own department if funds are a problem as they are, if they are limited, whether or not the division of forestry doesn't receive some extra attention.

I note in a general perusal of the Estimates, Mr. Chairman, that by and large there is no change, only allowances for inflationary costs of the operating and the salaries within the department. I think that's probably a fair assessment of the Estimates as I see them.

Well, Mr. Chairman, with those few opening remarks, I would invite the Minister to participate in the deliberations at this time, particularly those two questions. I suppose any capital improvements would not be shown here but would be shown somewhere else? I

ask that because I make the specific allusion to expanding the capacity at Hadashville or somewhere else, and the possible expanded reforestation program. Thank you.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Honourable member for his remarks.

In respect to the member's observations about capital; he is right. There are some capital expenditures that will be reflected under Item No. 13 that have application to this section of the department. In addition, I might say that if you look at the items, Item (g) doesn't have dollar items set on the right-hand side, again there and, as I'm understood in the Enabling Vote and the figures I might give now; that's Item (g)(1), Salaries, 300,900, and Other Expenditures, 1,860,900.

MR. ENNS: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, is that an Enabling Vote?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, I'm given to understand that is out of the Enabling Vote.

I'm given to understand that of the items in Capital, that is in Item 13, the capital items in there do not include anything in respect to expansion of Hadashville at this time and deal with resource roads or forestry roads only, so far as this department is concerned, this section of the department.

By way of general comment I think the honourable member, his observations respecting reforestation, the further development of the Hadashville Nursery, if I can call it that, are well founded; I think we want to look at that. Certainly, we may; I think my department will confirm to me that we may not compare as favourably as we'd like in respect to our reforestry program and nursery program as sister provinces. We'll certainly want to be looking at that in the future.

I think I'll limit my comments to those because I don't want to take any more time with the member's time than is necessary.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I know that the forest-fire costs are not involved in these Estimates and if I may be allowed, Mr. Minister — and I do so not for my own purposes but simply to acknowledge the excellent staff work and the people involved in the development of what we refer to as the fire attack crews in providing in Manitoba a corps of professional firefighters. Forest fire prevention has in the past, relied to a large extent on being able to commandeer, summon help from wherever it's available and that has worked reasonably well, but it has always been recognized by staff that what was required was at least a corps of professionally trained firefighters who were knowledgeable about the new equipment that was available to them, that could be airlifted, dropped in by helicopters, particularly to catch the fires at their earliest possible moment. All records indicate that kind of suppression is by far the most successful, if we can airlift a crew in at the very earliest outbreak of that fire. It was my good fortune to have attended an on-site demonstration of the capacity of these fire attack crews. There was every effort made, to develop an genuine esprit-de-corps within that group, and most of the firefighters involved come from our Native communities; they

were just excellent in terms of their capability in carrying out this important work. Well, Mr. Chairman, I make just that general comment about the forest fire suppression at this time, even though they are not contained in these Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, on another matter, when I was Minister responsible, there was always a considerable amount of attention paid to the Abitibi Forest Management Agreement. There was, Mr. Chairman, and the Hansard records will prove, considerable opposition to that agreement when it was signed by my predecessor, Mr. Ransom. A lot of the opposition came from a person who is now consulting you, advising you, Mr. Bostrom, who was then the Member for Rupertsland. I would ask you to offer some advice as to what the new administration feels about that Abitibi Forest Management Agreement, and specifically, there was always a question that was raised by the Honourable Member for Rupertsland at different times, and I'd ask the member to consult the staff as to whether or not he can confirm that the agreement is working, is beneficial to Manitoba, and that this government has no intention of substantially altering that agreement. One particular concern that was often expressed, both at the signing of the agreement and has come up since the agreement has been in effect, is that a number of private operators, or independent operators, have been forced out of business as a result of that agreement with Abitibi. I wonder if the Minister could advise the number of private or independent operators that have forced out of business, if indeed, there are any. Can he give us some indication as to whether or not that is a legitimate concern?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In respect, first of all, to the concern about the fire suppression activities of the department. The Honourable Member is quite right about the desirability of early fire suppression, and the apparent effectiveness of the fire attack arrangements which do have the capacity of getting to a small-scale fire and minimizing it. The dollars and the vote is not included under this Item; it's under 12.(k), under Regional Services and there's 66 staff involved in that. My staff indicate here that it's about \$4.5 million dollars involved in that operation.

In respect to the Abitibi Agreement, I haven't personally yet made an evaluation of that, but my staff indicate to me that in respect to the concerns about individual woodcutters, those concerns about their being displaced have not materialized, that the system seems to be working very well without hardship to those individual cutters. Their rights were protected under the final arrangements.

MR. ENNS: Just to be somewhat more specific, the Minister then, cannot advise me of any particular number of independent cutters that the department has had to force out of cutting rights as a result of the Abitibi Agreement?

MR. MACKLING: My staff indicates to me that it doesn't appear any quota-holder that had a quota prior to the agreement has been forced out of timber cutting or operation.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,

it always came as somewhat of a surprise to me that the arrangements, particularly those regarding forest management, reforestation programs, etc., are considerably poorer at the government run mill, the operation at The Pas, ManFor than those run by the private multinational, Abitibi. I wonder if the Minister can confirm that?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, my understanding of the matter is that is when agreements were initially signed with Churchill Forest Industries and the other participating companies, agreements in respect to stumpage and the general forestry operations, did not provide for reforestation and their long-term agreements with respect to forest use, and in effect, a pretty hard bargain was driven in respect to forest extraction in those original agreements. They have a long time to run. Of course, even though it is now a Crown operation, presumably, I suppose the government could force a renegotiation of those arrangements, but what they do in that area, I understand, is not provide for reforestation by man. It's left as a natural reforestation. There are differences in the north. There was a very, very extensive cutting area provided for that originally, Churchill Forest, now ManFor operation, and presumably there is sufficient timber and pulp within the cut area that's authorized to that company that provincial foresters, I assume, do not see a need currently, for reforestation. Now, I suppose that's subject to review, but that's my understanding of the situation, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I would have to take exception to the suggestion by the Minister that the Crown operation at The Pas owes or, indeed, is in anyway tied down to some agreements by a company that was put into receivership taken over by the government, a government that you were part of, Mr. Minister, I remind you and indeed its principles sought after for criminal action, I think it's stretching a point to suggest that there are agreements or commitments that this government, as indeed the government of the past four years owes any particular obligations, moral, legal or otherwise to some of those original agreements that might have been in the works or in place that the Minister refers to.

Surely, Mr. Chairman, as I think the Minister himself realized as he was giving his explanation that it is a government-run operation, it is a Crown Corporation. You appoint the directors of ManFor and as such can impose policy with respect to the ManFor Forestry operation and my question still stands.

It is my understanding — and I am suggesting it because there has been a suggestion that from time to time particularly from members opposite — that any dealings with multinationals of course is not in the interest of Manitobans but in this instance I am led to believe that the Forestry Management Agreement that Manitoba signed with Abitibi is among the more progressive in this country and certainly treats our valuable timber resource in a better way, in the area that Abitibi is involved, than for instance does our own government-run operation at ManFor.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, unquestionably the Abitibi agreement was made between a pulp opera-

tion that was in a weaker bargaining position than Churchill Forest Industries were at the time those agreements were signed. Obviously given the bargaining position of the companies involved, one can anticipate that the results are different.

I don't quarrel with the honourable member's words about the Abitibi agreement, he may be absolutely right that it's an excellent agreement, I haven't made that evaluation. But in respect to the Manitoba forestry's operation, it's still based upon the agreements that were made with Churchill Forest Industries.

However, I am given to understand that as a result of the department's activities, Manitoba Forestry resources will be submitting proposals in respect to some reforestry operation which would include planting and thinning and other activities. I might say that recently arrangements were made with Moose Lake Loggers for some thinning activity there which would have the effect of providing more adequate growth of higher quality timber in the result.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, in another area that certainly I acknowledge not having succeeded in my short duration as being the Minister responsible and that is to secure for Manitoba a better deal out of Ottawa.

The Federal Government correctly acknowledges that the forest industry generally in this country is one of the main export money earners for this country, the major employer in this country and as such is significantly involved in the supportive role in the development of forest management agreements, in the development of free forestation programs and so forth throughout the country.

It was always my hope that we could strike a harder bargain for Manitoba in this area. I appreciate the climate for enhanced federal aid is waning but nonetheless it seems to me that that's the tragedy of Canada, that at a time when we have untold millions to spend on various concepts of what this country ought to be and what is required for its unity, whether it is hiring of Bruno Gerussi for a couple of hundred thousand dollars to promote the metric system because we believe that that's going to be a great nation builder, it seems to me that these gutsy, hardnosed programs that are so vital to the preservation and the enhancement of major natural resources of our country, such as forestry, have tough sledding when it comes to getting their fair share of attention from Ottawa.

So I would want to encourage and indicate to the Honourable Minister certainly the wholehearted support of the members of the Opposition in his efforts to secure for this branch, I think some of that extra attention that I spoke of quite frankly, could come from Ottawa and I'm simply saying, don't treat Manitoba any better or in a special way than the Federal Government treats Quebec or British Columbia or Ontario, but at least on a per capita basis or on a resource allocation basis, treat us as well as some of the other jurisdictions.

It is my information, and the Minister may be able to get that from his staff, that traditionally and historically we have not been treated as well. I appreciate that Manitoba doesn't rank among the major forest producing provinces in the country. Our forestry is

marginal in comparison to British Columbia's or to Quebec's and Ontario's, but nonetheless that doesn't take away from the legitimacy of our insistence on getting a fair share and forestry to Manitoba is important. The two main operations as well of course, is the number of the smaller independent ones. So I encourage the Minister to pursue that with all the vigor he can.

Mr. Chairman, one final question if I may, going back to the Abitibi matter for just a moment, would it be the Minister's intention to avail himself of the services of Mr. Bostrom in any way at some future date, to advise and consult him on possible changes of the Abitibi Forest Agreement?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether that's constructive advice on the part of the honourable member or not but if it is I will have to take it under advisement. In respect to the generality of his remarks particularly regarding the lack of general assistance on the part of the Federal Government in respect to our forestry industry, I haven't had a position yet to make a comparison as to the Federal Government's inputs to Manitoba as compared with sister jurisdictions. If the honourable member is right you can be certain that this government will be pointing that out to the Federal Government and asking for our fair share, not more, but our fair share and hopefully with somewhat of an improved climate between the Federal and Provincial Government, we may be able to do something.

I might point out that our industry is a very valuable industry. The economic value to the Province of Manitoba is approximately \$400 million. So it is a very important industry in this province and it does rate consideration by the senior government when it comes to shared-cost programming of various kinds.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, I've just one or two questions of a general nature. On fire damaged timber, what is the policy followed on allowing operators in there to retrieve fire-killed timber before it gets into the rotting stage?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised by my staff, and I should have introduced Mr. Harry Laws to the committee, he hasn't been here this far and he's our Provincial Forester. I'm advised by Mr. Laws that, in the case of firekill, and this is the practice that has been ongoing for sometime, that existing quota holders are encouraged to take out the firekill, as much as possible, and then, when it becomes apparent that the existing quota holders won't be able to harvest all that is available, we go to the public and encourage members of the public to take out timber permits to extract fireburnt timber.

MR. BLAKE: This was followed in the Porcupines, that bad fire there. Most of that timber was retrieved as far as possible by the existing operators that were there, eh.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised of that firekill that the honourable member refers to, about 200,000 cords have been salvaged which represents about one-quarter of what was available for salvage.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, just as a comment, there was a problem in the Riding Mountain National Park and, of course, it's Parks Canada policy that there's no harvesting done there but we had about 100,000 acres burnt out in there and that's just a shame that timber and rails and wood has gone to waste.

Another item of interest that I receive comments on every time I go up north, with a number of people that have switched over to partially heating their homes with a woodstove now that there's a lot of deadfall and waste timber, if there was only a bit of a bulldozed road pushed in the odd section, I'm particularly referring to Flin Flon area, that they could get in there with a little two-wheeled trailer and load out some of this firewood at a pretty reasonable price. I wonder if the government is going to follow any policy to make that situation available?

MR. MACKLING: I'm advised by Mr. Laws that we have done that in some areas and certainly we could look at more of that in areas like the member refers to.

MR. BLAKE: It was interesting, Inco have opened up an area where they're going to open a new open pit and they've allowed the townspeople to go in and that's been very very well received and I think that there's a great many areas where this can be accomplished with a little co-operation with the townspeople.

Also, in Norway House, the Band have a sawmill in there that has been a fairly successful operation and they've indicated there was a timber berth close to that area that required about 13 miles of winter road and I just wondered if the department was following a course of making that access road available to the Band in order that they could get in there and take out that timber berth and provide that mill with another six or seven years of operation.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Laws advised me that there's nothing in Item 13 on Capital on that road expansion. However, that suggestion certainly can be considered and I'll ask staff to pursue it.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, the committee and the Band group are pretty aggressive and I'm sure that if some assistance were made available to them they would probably build that road in there themselves with very very little cost to the Treasury. Maybe, if Mr. Bostrom has a weekend left on his latest consulting contract, he might go and have a look at it and provide the Minister with an up-to-date report.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that if Mr. Bostrom isn't available the honourable member and I will immediately we get these Estimates through, go up there and take pick and shovel in hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour is 4:30 p.m. I'm interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on Natural Resources, 7.(a)(1) Salaries.

The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: I think my questions on the various

items can wait, Mr. Chairman. I will defer now to whoever is on your list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would just like to have a few comments and a few questions that I'd like to present to the Minister.

Firstly, I'd like to encourage what I thought was his comment that he felt he was going to enlarge on the Reforestation Program in the Province of Manitoba. I believe he indicated that our sister provinces possibly had better programs in regard to the reforestation than we have.

I certainly believe that the Province of B. C., which I think their major industry is Forestry, and they I believe have a very good program where for every tree that is cut there has to be one planted. I most certainly encourage this kind of approach, especially in the southeast where we have a lot of pressure. We have a limited amount of supply there and a variety of quota-holders out there all wanting to get their maximum out of it and I think there is a program in place right now if the Minister is possibly looking in the future for expansion of the Hadashville plant, and I'd also like to suggest to him that he could look at the southeast corner and maybe establish another one out there. There's a lot of interest there and I'm sure there's lots of need for this.

A question that I have is could the Minister indicate the percentage of allowable cut for quota-holders in the southeast at the present time? I believe our situation is a little bit more unique out there. In other parts of the province I don't think the pressure is as extreme as it is in the southeast.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the southeast region is a very important region to forestry because of its proximity to market and the honourable member is right. This is an area where reforestation has been an ongoing concern. I don't know whether it's tree for tree, but there has been, over the years, extensive reforestation in that area.

In respect to the reduction in cut, overall cut, I'm advised that in 1980-1981, there was a 5 percent to 10 percent reduction in softwood cutting because of the limited resource space there.

MR. DRIEDGER: It's two years ago, three years ago, I believe, when the initial agreement that was set up in terms of the 15-year period for quotas — am I right in that — came to an end and then we had all kinds of negotiations at that time and especially I think there was extreme negotiation going on in the southeast of young people wanting to get into the woodcutting industry, with the quotas the way they were. Anyway the whole system finally got sorted out, I'm just wondering, is the Minister or the department still getting pressure from individuals who feel they would like to get into the industry by applying for additional quota or new quotas?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, a number of woodcutters have been in to see me and we certainly are going to respond to their concerns. We have to look at the problems that are involved in reduced

quotas and the cut in the area.

MR. BLAKE: Is there any additional quota being allocated to new cutters at this time, new applicants?

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, then further, the decentralization of some of the area offices took place in the last few years, including the one, I believe, that went to the southeast Steinbach office, administering the policy or the program for the southeast. Has this decentralization taken place, has it been completed?

MR. MACKLING: Not yet, Mr. Chairman, but I think that's kind of in the hopper.

MR. BLAKE: Is there any change anticipated in the decentralization program that was initiated?

MR. DRIEDGER: Well, Mr. Minister, we'll be watching that very closely in anticipation that there should not be any change. I would also like to draw to the Minister's attention that we have offices in Piney, as well as in Sprague, and from time-to-time there has been concern about having the staffing reduced in some of these areas, and as I have my problems, to some degree, with the previous Minister, who then saw the light of the day and decided there would be no changes, I would hope that the present Minister would also keep that in mind. I think the need is there. This is in the heart of the forest industry; the major quotaholders are located in that general area and I would hope that there is not going to be any destaffing of the offices in Sprague or Piney.

MR. MACKLING: No, I won't respond to that. That's just advice to me, I think, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DRIEDGER: Yes. I further have a comment, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister that, because of the availability, distancewise to the City of Winnipeg, there is an extreme amount of pressure on the cutting of firewood, especially under the energy crisis that we have. We have programs in place where people can apply for cutting of firewood - a permit for so and so much - and considering the fact that many of our resource people are maybe not as active in the winter months as they are in the summer, there has been concern expressed by people in the Marchand area, which is sort of the trunk highway into the forestry area there, that there is an awful lot of wood that is being moved out there possibly without permits and things of this nature. I realized it's difficult to monitor this but the concern has been expressed by people, and if some of the forestry people would ever see the amount of traffic that moves through there on a given week, or weekend, hauling out wood, I just want to bring this up because the people in the area feel that considering the amount of permits issued there seems to be a lot more wood moving out of the area. Rather than having the people sitting here in the offices in Winnipeg maybe contemplating activity for the next year, maybe some of them could be out there monitoring it a little closer. I realize it's a problem, but permits are required and I don't think there's too much checking

done on that aspect of it.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I think maybe the honourable member could be correct that there could be an increase in surveillance and enforcement, but as the honourable member appreciates, that involves extra costs, extra manpower and notwithstanding, we haven't adopted a policy of acute protracted restraint, we are nevertheless going to be very prudent in our hiring practises and our spending practices. I think we have to moderate our wishes in order to make sure that we don't overspend. We'll have to look at that very carefully and if we can improve our surveillance or monitoring with existing staff that will be pursued first. If it appears that further staff are warranted then we will have to consider that.

MR. DRIEDGER: I just have a few more questions and comments, Mr. Chairman. This is regarding the relationship between the forestry people and the local government district councils. The councils, especially in the LDG of Stuartburn and Piney, have certain difficulties in terms of operating under a very low tax base where, I think as I have indicated a few times, 80 percent, or approximately 80 percent, of the land in the LGD of Piney is non-private owned. I don't believe, at the present time, there is a system of compensation, to some degree, to help them carry the required services because they don't have the tax base. Is the Minister considering at all the possibility in the future of assisting, sort of a grant in lieu of taxes, in some of these forest stands. The land, for very obvious reasons, cannot be sold, it's forestry, it's good forestry land. Still, they are, to some degree, stuck with providing certain services, roads, drainage, etc. to the private landholders in the area, and a lot of this goes through the forestry section. There is a bit of inequity here. Is the Minister possibly considering that there could be some kind of arrangement worked out with some of the local government districts in terms of providing these services?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, this again is an area that would involve a departure from previous provincial government financing and spending, and again, it would involve increased spending, and I don't want to repeat what I said earlier, but certainly anything like that is possible, but given our finances we'd have to be very careful in any review of that kind of proposal.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Considering the fact that your department does build roads in certain areas, like Forestry or Parks roads farther north in the province, to resources, to parks, to lakes, etc., this is why I brought it up. That same principle could possibly be applied. Just because it is an LGD, should not necessarily exclude them from having some of the same privileges. Out there the department undertakes the financial aspect of building some of these roads and then the LGD's do not accept any of that responsibility. I would just like to draw that to the Minister's attention, and hopefully, if he is considering any change of policy, that he can possibly look at some of these aspects of it and the concerns of the LGD's, who, as provincial governments, have even greater difficulties providing some services.

MR. MACKLING: Well, the same observations, Mr. Chairman, in respect to public expense.

MRS. CHARLOTTE OLESON (Gladstone): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in regard to the Spruce Woods Forest in my constituency. Is the Minister, or his department, making some effort to come to an agreement with the people at the Shilo Firing Range to protect that forest in times of high risk of forest fires? We have had a problem, as you are well aware, a few years ago in the spring we had extensive forest fires which were expensive and I am wondering if you have some agreement with them at this time.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I haven't had an opportunity to be briefed in respect to that, but let me assure the honourable member that I'm asking staff to make note of that and brief me in respect to that, because I would share the honourable member's concern as to that problem. We don't want to see unnecessary waste of resources because of those occurrences.

MRS. OLESON: I am wondering also if your department would undertake discussions along that line when you are considering your further leasing of that land, and whether or not to lease it. Would you take that under consideration that some agreement could be made with the federal officials that more care would be taken in that regard?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the honourable member for making that suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're on 7.(a)(1).
Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE (Roblin-Russell): Mr. Chairman, I just have a couple of brief questions for the Honourable Minister. I wonder if the Minister can advise if we can anticipate any change in policy regarding the timber allocations, permits or quotas, in Duck Mountains?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I haven't, as yet, had an opportunity to look at that. I haven't had any recommendation to me for change but I have had some concerns brought to my attention in respect to local people wanting to be able to get some additional timber cut, and we will look at those things.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well that was basically the point that I was interested in raising. I'm wondering if the Minister or his staff had any ongoing discussion with Roblin Forest Products in the last few months?

MR. MACKLING: No, apparently not, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MCKENZIE: The plant is shut down on a holding type of basis and I guess basically due to the soft market of the timber industry although it's my understanding the treated poles are still selling at a reasonable rate, but the industry is having some problems as we sit here today.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think the hon-

ourable member is correct. There is what you'd call a soft market and that is producing a problem for a number of operators, not only in that area but in other areas of the province including The Pas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This question may have been covered and if it has I won't pursue it. In the leasing to private operators of timber rights — I think they are five-year licenses for harvest in a given area, or is it 15 years?

MR. MACKLING: I'm given to understand that from 1965 to 1980 they were 15-year leases. But the leases from that time have been 10 years but they are reviewable at the five-year interval.

MR. ORCHARD: Are there any leases going to expire and up for potential renewal in the next year, two, three years?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, all existing leases will come up for review in 1985.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7(a)(1) to 7.(c)(2) were all read and passed; 7(d)
The Member for Inkster.

MR. SCOTT: I think this is a more appropriate time to say a few words that I'd like to add to the discussion here this afternoon.

This is regarding forest management and as you are well aware — and most members here I think are likely well aware — there's been several advances in silviculture over the past decade or so; more recognition of the natural practices that are necessary to maintain for future generation's healthy forests. One of the things that I have some concern with, and I just heard a geographer speak a couple of days ago on it, and that was dealing with monoculturing of our forests, and ended up on a longer term, but with much the same impacts that you can have in agriculture and monocropping and means that generally our mills in the past have been geared towards making pulp in particular and also a good chunk of the lumber too from spruce. I think that the bulk of the reforestation programs are generally geared toward white spruce, and with that you have a constant drain on the soil resources of a common tree taking the same nutrients from the soil generation after generation. I asked him how many generations of trees could that take, and he was quite concerned that probably when we're getting into the third or fourth generation you're going to maintain an intensive silviculture and intensive forestry industry alongside of it, you're probably only talking in the vicinity of 200 years in the southern part of Manitoba. Although it may seem like a long time for those of us sitting here with life expectancies of another 30 or 40 years, it is certainly not.

MR. MACKLING: Oh, come on. Larry and I are going to be around here for another 60 years.

MR. SCOTT: Some of us may be around for another 60 years, some may be not be quite so lucky.

Anyway, I would like to know if there is any practice of if there is any investigation and research going on in the department toward the impact of monoculturing, and is there any consideration being given towards using interim — I don't want to call them crops but I guess they are — of reforesting with the natural shrubs and the birch, the aspen, the crops that normally come back and only last for about 35 or 40 years anyway, and then they rot and you get your further succession of the evergreen.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the honourable member's concern because in the brief time that I've had to discuss with Mr. Laws, our forester, some particulars about our forest industry, I have been assured by him that in reforestation practice in Manitoba it isn't all white spruce that's the subject of reforestation. It's a mixture. It's white spruce and black spruce, jack pine and red pine, and I have indicated to him the generality of the concerns of a good many people that in our forest operations we don't want to be emulating the New Brunswick position where our forests become one-species forests. When they're in that situation, then if we have a pest or a disease, our forest is much more vulnerable to being devastated. The closer that we can maintain patterns that are natural to the area — the pattern of growth and the species of growth that's natural to the area — then the safer we are from a long-term forestry point of view. I'm happy to say that I believe my department has that point of view. There is a genetics research program that is ongoing.

MR. SCOTT: One thing I'd like to give the department some congratulations and credit on, is the establishment of better monitoring of stream crossings. It certainly has made a major improvement over the last few years, largely from what I can understand, are fishery officers and conservation officers patrolling that much closer, the activities of the various cutting operators.

We have concerns still though I think, in just how much of a corridor is being left along streams through various watersheds. I've seen practices, not necessarily here, but in other provinces, where they think a 10-foot corridor is sufficient and it just is not sufficient when the wind gets up and there's no protection of the narrow little group of trees that are growing alongside the streams. They get blown over into the stream and causedamage much as if it was levelled right off in the first place in stream blockage.

I'd like to spend a minute on the implications of forest fires in the life of our forests. I have great concern that we have — even though it's beyond our capacity to fight it completely — but with fire management I think we have to recognize that fires are a necessary component in any forest. If it weren't forest fires in the past we would not have forests anywhere near as healthy as they are today. I think something we should be looking at, is sort of virtually mapping the province's forests and looking at areas where we will fight fires, where fires are needed, and where fires will be let burn once they do start on their own course. I think to go in and say automatically because there's a forest fire it's a bad thing. It's a very narrow-minded view and it is something that the silvaculturists throughout the world now are starting to recognize of

essential nature. —(Interjection)— I'm speaking of natural causes for the Member for Lakeside's benefit. So along that line as well, the fires are putting back essential elements into the soil. The Member for Lakeside may find it humorous that forest fires are necessary for healthy soils and for healthy forests, but I can assure him that without them, if he'd go into an area where there are no such things as forest fires anymore and there have not been for a long length of time, the health of the soil and the health of the future forest are severely limited.

One last point and maybe this should rather be brought up under Forest Protection but it's still part of management, I guess, and that is, with the aircraft that we have, I'm wondering if there would be any consideration into doing a review of how much money we spend leasing large aircraft, and I believe we have one large bomber now, I think it's a Canadair CL-215. —(Interjection)— Is there another one coming? You have one on order?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sure there's difficulty recording this conversation for Hansard, so . . .
The Member for Inkster.

MR. SCOTT: I was wondering, because of the heavy investment in these aircraft and given what must have been a sound decision of the former government to go ahead and buy another CL-215 instead of paying continued leasing costs, which probably could have bought a plane in the past five years had we brought in the second one earlier — I am wondering if the province has any policy towards leasing these aircraft to other jurisdictions when we're not in a forest-fire period here and not being threatened by forest fires?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, one of the difficulties we face as the Honourable Member for Lakeside is suggesting, is that we can't get water bombers at the drop of a hat because the may be tied up elsewhere. I'm not suggesting El Salvador. It's my understanding that we have two units and one on order, and hopefully paid for. In respect to the observations of the honourable member in respect to fire and its relationship to forests generally, his observations are correct. There is a balance in nature, a cycling in nature, and fire has a beneficial value at certain times in certain forests. I know that sounds kind of horrific but it nevertheless is true that Mr. Laws will confirm to you that there is a natural reforestation that succeeds fire in a forest that has significant value. Mind you it's hard to accept that that could be the case but nevertheless it's true. So I appreciate what the honourable member said, and in the evaluation of our forest we certainly will take into consideration what area, if it were burned, would not be a tragic loss. I think we have to identify our resource and identify what areas have to be protected intensively in case of fire and so we'd be able to put some degree of measurement on them, so that in the event of a loss, at least we can understand and we can evaluate more closely the resource loss and the degree of protection we need in certain areas.

MR. SCOTT: Just one final word, I'm wondering regarding a lease of the aircraft, we do not have forest fire problems here in the late fall and the winter and

the early spring and there is others areas of the continent where there are significant losses. I'm thinking particularly in California where they are traditionally short of aircraft for brush fires, and I'm wondering is does the government have the, I guess, right to be able to lease aircraft in another country for use such as in the southern United States when they are sitting here and they could be gaining revenue for us and earn valuable revenues to help pay for our own forest fire protection and paying for the aircraft themselves.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, that observation certainly will be noted. I'm sure that reciprocal arrangements are made, and as a matter of fact, staff have indicted to me that there is consideration being given to the establishment under the aegis of the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers, for a fire control centre in Winnipeg which would provide for interchange of resources, and that would be a very beneficial thing. It would mean that all jurisdictions would benefit by utilization of resources from all regions in a co-ordinated fashion.

But I'd rather that, Mr. Chairman, all of that discussion which under Forest Management is appropriate because of the relationship of fire and forest management but fire suppression and its organization itself really should be under Regional Resources. Maybe if we talk about it now we won't talk about it then, but I couldn't be sure of that.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, I would just like to take this opportunity to congratulate the former Minister, Mr. Chairman, on having the foresight to arrange for this fire control centre in Manitoba. Under Forest Management, just one question that bothers me, Mr. Chairman, and the appropriation for under Salaries. It wouldn't appear that the Salaries under Forest Management are going to receive the normal increases that has been granted to the Civil Service. Do they plan on cutting staff, or where will the additional funds come from, there is not even 10 percent in there? Are they all red-circled, or . . .

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that the figures you see are just the merit adjustments and classification changes that occur. It doesn't provide for what happens in negotiations.

MR. BLAKE: No, that's all the questions I have on that one, Mr. Chairman, if you want to pass (d).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina had his hand up so if he's willing to pass (d) then . . .

MR. ORCHARD: It doesn't matter, Mr. Chairman, if forest protection and the aircraft were raised by the Member for Inkster; there are some questions I had. Does the Forest Protection Branch arrange their own leases or is that all done through Air Division?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the practice has been that Government Services are the authority that arranges or leases, and then we pay through them. They organize the equipment.

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, I think the actual writing of the

lease falls under Government Services and I believe the past arrangement between the departments has been that the expertise in air division from Highways and Transportation has tried to search out the best kind of deals and availability of aircraft with, of course, Government Services completing the lease as is their mandate. Now, is there any plans within forest protection, once again I may be in the wrong item, to establish their own forest protection air division?

MR. MACKLING: I am not aware of that, Mr. Chairman, and that item will come up under, what is it 12.(k); we will be under fire suppression under Regional Services, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, okay, Mr. Chairman, I will pose my questions at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1)—pass; 7.(d)(2)—pass; 7.(e)(1)—pass; 7.(e)(2)—pass.

The Honourable Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: The Minister might just comment on the Dutch Elm Disease Control Program. Are we winning the battle or are we losing it because we have some fine Elm trees in Minnedosa and we don't have a problem at all with this disease and I just put that on the record, these city people have contaminated the province and we don't want it to spread past the perimeter. I believe it's gone to Selkirk already, I guess.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that cost-sharing agreements covering Dutch Elm Disease Control . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, we are having difficulty taping for Hansard, Mr. Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that cost-sharing agreements covering Dutch Elm Disease Control have been signed this year with the Towns of Dauphin, Stonewall, Selkirk, Morden, Gimli, Carman, Pine Falls, and Neepawa and the Cities of Brandon and Portage la Prairie. And I am advised that the agreement with Winnipeg will be coming up for signature very shortly. Under new legislation developed the province will cost-share with any urban or rural municipality and local government district control programs involving sites, specific shade tree inventories, elm tree sanitation, including removal, disposal and pruning, basal spraying to control native elm bark beetles, injection of high value elms with fungicides and natural biological agents, elm tree replacements with disease resistant and alternate species and establishing elm tree disposal sites.

The basis for a cost-sharing agreement is 50 percent of the cost of the programs up to a maximum of \$1.00 per capita for the municipality, town or city. Manitoba's Dutch Elm Disease Program is based on the latest and most up-to-date technology and emphasizes integrated control. It is expected that close co-operation will be maintained between the province and the municipal governments in implementing the programs.

MR. BLAKE: That sounds like a fine program, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could tell us when that legislation was passed?

MR. MACKLING: I don't know the currency of that legislation but I can assure that I didn't introduce it, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. I had a situation last year in the Village of St. Pierre where the Dutch Elm Disease Program was in place and we ran into some difficulty and I'd just like to bring this up as a caution possibly. What's happening is, and I think many people are not aware of this, our people, I understand, are going out on private property and testing the trees for the possibility of Dutch Elm Disease and the particular case that I'm referring to, on one side was private property, there were very nice trees that had been there for many many years, and three of the key trees were infected and had to be removed, and right across the creek, just adjacent within 50 yards, was sort of no mans land, all kinds of elm trees there infected, these trees were not touched and this individual could not understand why his trees should be removed when infected trees just 50 yards across the stream from him were not even touched. And this is a common thing, where we actually were going into people's private yards, checking out the trees, if they are diseased we remove them, still allowing the normal rivers, like the Rat River, for example, where you have a variety of areas that are infected with the Dutch Elm disease, we do not at the present time, I understand, process them or weed them out or treat them.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that in this program there are sensitivities in respect to the removal of trees. I am sure that staff that are involved endeavour to make sure that there is no unnecessary removal and that the proper notice and co-operation has been obtained in respect to the program. There's bound to be, I suppose, some areas where some people aren't happy with what appears to them to be still a very satisfactory tree, is found to be diseased and has to be removed, and if there are trees that are infected that are in a neighbouring area I couldn't understand why they wouldn't be removed as well. If the honourable member has a specific problem or instance then certainly he should bring it to the department's attention and we would see it was looked after.

In respect to his concern about elm trees in southern Manitoba, generally, not in communities, the program just does not cover them. I am advised that there are tens of thousands of elm trees in southern Manitoba, outside of communities, and to treat those trees, if that's what the honourable member is suggesting we ought to do, would involve this department in very very extensive amounts of money. That is something that I don't think the previous administration considered, despite the knowledge of the problem, and I don't know how we could tackle that problem with the kind of expenses involved in this program.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to belittle the problem; I think it is a major problem. I might, if I could, maybe suggest to the Minister that - and it's pretty hard to explain to some of these people why their trees in the yard should be removed when the rest of the trees in the outside area are not - and I would suggest that possibly either some kind of education program or awareness program was maybe instituted through the municipalities, through the news media, to some degree, to let people know exactly what's happening because there's a feeling of discrimination in some cases. I might just add, with all due respect to the staff people working in the field, some of them haven't been the most tactful in sometimes presenting this kind of an approach. They come in and have the right, obviously, to come into an individual's yard and touch the trees, and sometimes the promotional work or the selling job has not been the most gentle, I suppose, especially where this kind of feeling is starting to develop, that they're being discriminated against to some degree. I would just encourage the Minister that maybe an education awareness program of exactly what is happening could be instituted.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, there is an increase in staff provided for in this area. We have additional office staff in Brandon and in other communities and I'd like to point out that, although we don't duck responsibility for public information and our involvement in the program, the department advises that it's the Municipal Government that actually removes the trees, not the Provincial Government foresters.

MR. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Chairman, the comments from the Minister indicated that he was in the process of negotiating agreement with the City of Winnipeg. Are the funds in this appropriation for that agreement?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, yes.

MR. DOWNEY: The funds are in for the agreement that they'll entering with the City of Winnipeg as well as all the other towns and villages in the province.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, that's how I'm advised that anticipation of that agreement is being made on the same basis, yes.

MR. DOWNEY: Does he have a breakdown on what the amount going to the City versus rural Manitoba would be?

MR. MACKLING: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that the expected and budgeted appropriation in respect to Winnipeg program would be about \$346,000; in respect to the rural communities, if I can use that term, already in the program something like about 100,000 to date.

MR. DOWNEY: I don't understand then. They have \$1,326,100 in the request and what you've indicated there is something like less than \$500,000 in total. Where would the balance of the money be spent?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the \$500,000 that we've identified in those two areas is the grants to the communities, but the balance of the appropriation is for all of the staff, equipment and all of the necessary people on our side of this program.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, then they've already got 564,000 in that appropriation that was just passed for Salaries, and 19,500 for Other Expenditures. There appears to be some discrepancy here.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, we'll have to investigate the former government's administrative arrangements in that but let me indicate that these are staff positions apparently.

While I give my staff a bit more time to reconcile — (Interjection) — no, I hope not. If what I thought I heard it was.

Mr. Chairman, while my staff is looking at the numbers that the honourable member is concerned about, let me correct some information that I'd given to the Honourable Member for Pembina in respect to the aircraft requisitioning or who arranged it. It's my understanding that the Department of Highways and Transportation Services is the government department that leases the aircraft on behalf of the department, and not Government Services. I'd given you the wrong information.

Now, I don't know whether my staff has got me a note that I can fully answer that question. Mr. Chairman, if it's convenient for the honourable member I will give him the details of that later. I'm advised that the expenditure is in accordance with the pattern of the previous year but with the inflation provided.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, I just want to be clear on it. I understood the \$1,326,100 would be for grants to both the City of Winnipeg and to the rural communities.

MR. MACKLING: No.

MR. DOWNEY: You've appropriated money for the wages and for other expenditures and I just wanted some clarification on that. I'm prepared to wait until tomorrow if it gives the staff some opportunity to put that together for you.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, in respect to the Salaries item, that is for Forest Protection, and that's not merely for the Dutch Elm Disease Control Program. That's the Salaries for the entire department. I'm just reading the line and that's for forest insects, diseases, and the whole works. Now, the Dutch Elm Disease Control Program is flagged as a separate item that includes the grant and then all the staff and all the equipment for that program separately identified to give it some political pizzazz, I guess.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(e)(3) Dutch Elm Disease Control — the Member for Dauphin.

MR. JOHN PLOHMAN (Dauphin): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just want to compliment the Minister on the Dutch Elm Disease Program, and just to show that I am very fair-minded and I want to set the tone here at this table I wanted to thank the previous government.

Of course, he didn't give me a chance, the previous Minister, to thank him for it because he has to take some credit and also the Minister before that, because they reacted to some very hard and effective lobbying from several communities on this and I have to say that Dauphin was one of those communities that was very active. I happened to be on the Parks Board at that time and we were very much concerned about the disease spreading to areas such as the Community of Dauphin which, right now, the town does not have any disease and we are now involved in the cost-sharing program as well as in a pilot program there, which will deliver, I believe, approximately \$10,000 worth of work on trimming and preventing of the disease in Dauphin over each year for the next five years. I think that it is a result of very astute departmental personnel locally who brought the matter to our attention, as well as the lobbying that went on at the municipal political level, and responding by the government to that.

The one question I would ask though; there was some delay in getting the program actually underway in Dauphin; it is taking place right now. They seem to have some difficulty obtaining private contractors to do the job. I wonder if you could clarify, Mr. Minister, how many private contractors are there in the province that are able to do the kind of work that is necessary in the prevention of Dutch Elm disease?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Laws indicates to me that it's very limited, perhaps three or four.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is my understanding, and I wonder whether the department, under your direction, Mr. Minister, has looked at the possibility of the government in being involved in providing some of this equipment to municipalities to undertake some of this work.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, we would have to take that under consideration.

MR. PLOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'd just like to raise that with you and hope that it will be considered because there is a delay in the work. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. CLAYTON MANNES (Morris): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister what the latest forecast is of this disease? Is this dreaded disease subsiding, or is it in fact becoming worse?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, it's a disease that has not subsided. It's under control in the areas where active treatment is being carried out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. DOWNEY: I don't want to delay this item, Mr. Chairman. To keep the record straight and to give the Department of Agriculture some credit, seeing that the Member for Dauphin said the previous Minister, previous to the last Minister of Natural Resources, that program was administered by the Department of

Agriculture. Mr. Chairman, it was the Department of Agriculture that deserved the credit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(f)(1) Salaries; 7.(f)(2)—pass; 7.(g)(1) Salaries;
The Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. I have a little difficulty with this Enabling Vote business here. We see quite a few of these places where the Enabling Vote . . . Could I get some clarification, like the Minister very properly gives us the figures to put in there, but actually they're not recorded on there and how do we go about justifying the figures? We've done this on the previous page and I just wondered if I could have some clarification?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I gave the honourable members the figures. I don't know the magic of having them in the Enabling Vote rather than having them voted here. Presumably, it's because of the Federal Government involvement in this programming that it's done this way and that's the only answer I can give you on that.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, where would this enabling vote then be recorded? Somewhere along the line there must be a record of the expenditures that we're looking at because . . .

MR. MACKLING: On page 114 of the Estimates, the honourable member, you will be dealing with that item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(g)(1) Salaries—pass; 7.(g)(2)—pass; 7.(g)(3)—pass. Resolution 107.

RESOLVED that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$4,349,100 for Natural Resources of Forestry for the fiscal year ending the March 31st, 1983—pass.

The hour is now 5:30, the committee will return this evening at 8:00 p.m

SUPPLY — COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The Committee will come to order. We are considering Item No. 7. Corrections and Probation Services, No. 7.(b)(3).

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry was speaking.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I had virtually concluded my remarks on this particular point, I just wanted to say that I welcome the initiative being undertaken by the department, by the division, with respect to the establishment of a new halfway house in Northern Manitoba under the aegis of the Native Plan Organization and the fact that the Provincial Government in this department, Community Services and Corrections, have incorporated an appropriation of \$75,000 in their 1982-83 Budget to provide for the implementation of that new facility.

I just want to clarify my position with respect to new facilities in the Corrections' field, Mr. Chairman,

because I may have been somewhat declamatory yesterday in saying that I was not advocating the addition of any new facilities or the building of any new correctional facilities. I would hope there is no misunderstanding on that point. What I meant to be suggesting to the Minister is that I certainly am not advocating the building of brick and mortar jail buildings in the conventional sense, but there is no question that we need more facilities in the system and particularly in those parts of the province that are under service by virtue of geography, transportation, distance, relatively small populations, et cetera, in other words, the north and other remote and rural parts of the province. There is no question that we need additional facilities to support society and support the community and to rehabilitate both juvenile and adult offenders in Northern Manitoba. That doesn't mean we need brick and mortar jailhouses, but we certainly do need facilities like halfway houses such as contemplated in this initiative. I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that it's the forerunner of a fairly substantial responsible but substantial program in that respect.

So I think I was attempting to make that point yesterday, Mr. Chairman, when Committee rose and I appreciate the opportunity to complete that portion of my remarks. My other questions on this particular line, Mr. Chairman, have to do with the actual external agencies and halfway houses themselves and insofar as those that are already in existence are concerned. We know what is contemplated with this new halfway house in the north to be operated by the Native Plan Organization. As noted, we are looking at a budgetary appropriation of \$75,000.00. But for those already in the spectrum, would the Minister advise the Committee of what the budgetary position is for 1982-83? Are there budgetary increases and what are the sizes and scopes of those budgetary increases?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Community Services and Corrections.

MR. EVANS: The halfway houses go from \$175,300 in 1981-82, Mr. Chairman, to \$267,800.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(3)—pass — the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: What about the External Agencies, Mr. Chairman, please? The Minister has referred to the halfway houses; there are half-a-dozen external agencies.

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe I read each one of these external agencies yesterday, I read out the numbers for each one.

MR. SHERMAN: With the budgetary increase?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MR. SHERMAN: Oh, well, then I will have to check the record, Mr. Chairman, I'm not requesting that the Minister be repetitious about it. I didn't know that we had that information.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I could advise the member

that in total if you add the halfway houses and the external agencies together, the amounts go up from \$414,900 to \$594,900 so by subtraction, if you don't have the numbers in front of you, you could calculate the increase for the external agencies.

Just as a matter of interest I thought I might point out that the Native Clan Training Camp will be supported by the Daughter Foundation of Canada. They have approved a grant of \$150,000 and I understand also that the Correctional Service of Canada has undertaken to utilize the facility, at least, they have advised us in a general way. We believe the federal Department of Manpower and Immigration has agreed to provide some monies as well over a period of three years, part of which would be to pay instructors' salaries as well as participants or the inmates' allowances.

There have been other members of the community who have been very much involved in this, giving of their time and their advice . . . has been taken by various people. So, this is truly a community effort and I welcome the member's support for this which he indicated yesterday when we discussed the Native Clan as being the one new halfway house now being added to the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(3)—pass; 7.(b)—pass; 7.(c) Care and Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders: 7.(c)(1) Salaries — the Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: To begin with on this item, Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise us what is the status of the proposed young offenders Act and where the province and the provinces generally stand in respect to it?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, surely we would want to and have supported the federal position which is to make the age of 18 universal as the age at which a person is considered to be an adult.

As the member knows this varies from province to province and some are much lower than 18, but Manitoba has been at 18 for some time and it's certainly in our interests to go along with what the Federal Government is proposing. It fits into the system that we already have established and we will have been and will continue to be supportive of the Federal Government in this regard.

MR. SHERMAN: But how far is that Federal Government initiative gone, Mr. Chairman? Where does The Young Offenders Act stand at the present time in the mill of federal legislation? Does the Minister have any estimate or any measurement on that?

MR. EVANS: Now that the bells have stopped ringing hopefully some additional progress will be made on the bill. It has been I'm advised through second reading and it's now in the Committee stage and we understand that the Government of Canada has a few minor amendments to make to the bill and, of course, then it's a matter of how quickly the House of Commons in its collective wisdom will deal with it.

It's at this point, Mr. Chairman, that the age of 18 as the universal age is being decided upon and it could lead to a lot of controversy. A lot of provinces are very unhappy. They want to leave it at 16. Some want to

leave it as low as 16 or whatever and, of course, making it 18 presents those provinces with more work and more expenditure. But as I said and as the member knows, that is no problem for the Province of Manitoba.

So the short answer is that it really depends I guess on how quickly the government and the Opposition in the House of Commons can now come to grips with this legislation.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Ms. Mary Beth Dolin)(Kildonan): The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: The Minister is certainly correct, Madame Chairman, when he says that there is a matter of expensive involved for those provinces who currently do not have an age of 18 provision and that was going to be one of the questions or is one of the questions that I want to discuss with the Minister. There's a very heavy cost involved for implementing The Young Offenders Act across the country.

Can the Minister advise the Committee to what extent the province and the provinces generally have had discussions with the Federal Government in the past few months — well even, Madame Chairperson, for my information in the past year — because I was not as close to this department in the past year as I was two or three years ago, obviously. My colleague the then Honourable Member for St. James, the Honourable George Minaker was the Minister and I frankly am asking as much for my own information as for any other reason where we stand on The Young Offenders Act.

There is going to be a very heavy cost involved if that's implemented across the country. Has the province and have our sister provinces had meetings with the Federal Government in the last year aimed at working out some kind of an agreement that would provide Federal Government assistance to the provinces to implement this costly proposed legislation?

MR. EVANS: Well, I don't know if I caught all of the member's remarks but the last meeting was held of Justice Ministers in December — I didn't attend that meeting but it was on various items — and I don't know if it was an item, yes. That was attended by the Attorney-General of this province; not by myself. The items that pertained to us were very short on the agenda — there were other items to be discussed — and in the hurly burly of being new to government again and so on there was just not time for both the Attorney-General and myself to go. I believe the staff went. The Director of Corrections for the Province of Manitoba attended.

I just might say that I'm advised that only Quebec and Manitoba are at the 18-year level and both provinces are supportive of the Federal Government. There may be some increased costs for Manitoba but these, relatively speaking, are minor.

MR. SHERMAN: But, Madame Chairman, The Young Offenders Act will not be a federal statute with respect to which provinces can opt in and opt out, I believe. There will be no Young Offenders Act unless it's in place across the country in all the provinces.

I'm not suggesting that there are necessarily any enormous expenses involved for Manitoba although

no doubt there will be some, but there certainly will be substantial expenses involved for some provinces, the Minister has already acknowledged that.

My question through you, Madame Chairman, to the Minister and certainly I think it's not imprudent or unfair to take the next step and say well then, even through the Minister to his officials who are sitting with them — the Deputy Minister and the Commissioner of Corrections — can they advise the Minister and can he advise the Chair and me, Madame Chairman, whether any agreement has been worked out or whether any agreement is close between the Federal Government and the provinces for some kind of financial assistance that would make it possible to implement the Act?

MR. EVANS: Obviously we can't give the member an exact figure or even a guesstimate because we're far from a final situation. We are assured by the Federal Government that they will pay a share of these increased costs. I don't know what percentage even it will amount to but they're willing to pay provinces who — I guess it depends on where they are as to how much federal money they'll get in absolute dollars — but they're prepared to pay toward an incremental cost that comes about from any province moving from where it is into step with the national or federal legislation.

I'm reminded too and I think the Member for Fort Garry talked about it. Well, the province will have to make up their mind to get in or not, apparently there's no option. Once the legislation is passed, the provinces must use the age of 18 as the majority.

MR. SHERMAN: That's right.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The Member for Flin Flon.

MR. STORIE: Thank you, Madam Chairman. It's a pleasure to join the debate for the first time. I have a couple of questions for the Honourable Minister about the care and rehabilitation of juveniles that I suppose reflect my Northern interests.

First I would like, if the Minister could indicate perhaps some of the size of the facilities that are available for the care and rehabilitation of juveniles and their location.

MR. EVANS: Madam Chairman, in answer to my colleague, the Member for Flin Flon, there are only two provincial organizations, as such. One is the Manitoba Youth Centre which is, I suppose, one of the largest centres, or the larger of the two. It provides shelter, care and custody for juveniles detained under The Juvenile Delinquents Act and for juveniles requiring institutionalization at the Doncaster Centre. The average daily population in 1981 was 89.9 persons and the Doncaster Centre, which is really part of the Youth Centre although it's given a different name, is located under the jurisdiction of the Manitoba Youth Centre and utilizes two of the nine cottages for The Juvenile Delinquents Act committals. The other institution is the Agassiz Centre for Youth which is at Portage la Prairie. It provides care, custody and programming to male juveniles, and the average daily population in 1981 was 80.2.

MR. STORIE: I'd like to thank the Honourable Minister for that information. I have a couple of other comments that I'd like to make about the care system for juveniles. The first being, coming from Northern Manitoba, and having been a former guidance counsellor, I am well aware of the difficulties that families face, when and if one of their members should become delinquent or be declared delinquent, and be forced to move from the area that they happen to live in and come to Winnipeg. I think we can all recognize that they face severe difficulties, both family difficulties and difficulties with their peers and so forth that are difficult to overcome, and I understand the cost implications of each regional centre asking for facilities to look after their youthful offenders, but I wondered whether there's an alternative approach to the care and rehabilitation of juveniles that may not include, necessarily, rehabilitation facilities or institutions that wouldn't necessarily preclude them either, but I wondered if there are other ways of dealing with this increasing problem. I recognize the costs that would have to be borne if the Department of Community Services and Corrections undertook to locate facilities of this kind in other centres. But I wondered whether there are alternatives available that the department is investigating that would satisfactorily rehabilitate juveniles?

MR. EVANS: There are only 80 boys and about 10 girls now being held in provincial institutions. A great number, the vast bulk, are handled through the Child Welfare system and they're put out into — (Interjection) — If they do get into trouble the judge can turn them over to Child Welfare Directorate; or they may turn them back even to their own homes under the supervision of a probation officer. Actually the ideal is to have them back in their own homes with the Probation Service as opposed to any form of institutionalization, even including the group homes. As the member knows, life is sometimes complicated and it depends on the individual family and the individual circumstances. But certainly I think the preference is always to keep the child out of the institution.

MR. SHERMAN: Madame Chairman, the Minister a few moments ago provided the Committee with some figures of the average daily population of juvenile offenders in juvenile corrections facilities in the province. Did that include those juveniles who are housed and accommodated in the juvenile sections of adult correctional facilities?

MR. EVANS: No, Madam Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: Madam Chairman, can the Minister please advise the Committee what those institutions are, the adult correctional institutions that have juvenile sections, or juvenile accommodation facilities. I know that there is a juvenile section at The Pas, and what are the juvenile populations for those facilities, or facility components?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: This is an average and it is, at best, a

quick calculation here. At The Pas it averages about a half a person; at Brandon, three, we believe, and Dauphin, one; total, four-and-one-half. This is the daily average over the year. As the member would understand, you could have several people, perhaps, on certain days and then on other days there would be no one. On average, this is what it works out to.

MR. SHERMAN: What was it in Brandon?

MR. EVANS: Three.

MR. SHERMAN: Three? Mr. Chairman, do I understand the Minister correctly that the average daily juvenile population in The Pas is a half? It seems to me that we were building that, when we were coping with the old facility, we were looking at — well, I must say, in the visits that I paid the old facility, there were always four or five juveniles in there and that was one of the problems; the fact they weren't properly separated from the adult population. Now, certainly one is not going to decry a decline in the population of juvenile offenders if it's gone down from four to a half, that's wonderful, but I'd like to know what wondrous techniques, philosophies, applications and services have been in place in this province that have enabled us to reduce the population to that extent; that is, the population of juvenile offenders.

MR. EVANS: I think the answer to the member's question can be given by noting that you must build facilities to meet peak capacities, and indeed sometimes, particularly weekends I understand, you can indeed have several juveniles at these centres - five, six, seven, eight and more. So, this says the City of Winnipeg Transit System has to get x-number of buses to meet the peak demand and find those buses operating rather empty off peak hours and getting you an average figure which is, lets say hypothetically 20 seats when on average 20 seats per route are being used, whereas there may be 200 seats per route available in terms of capacity. Likewise here.

It's the question of the average versus the peak capacity. So the better way of looking at it, we don't have these figures, but the better way of looking at it is just actually how many are there on peak days? What's the average for peak day and how does that compare with the kind of facility and size of the facility that is available.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister assure the committee that the facility at The Pas provides for those juvenile offenders in that region of the province, who legitimately would qualify for treatment, detention and rehabilitation insofar as that is possible through the programs and capabilities available at that institution; and that young offenders from that region, or that the system is not finding it necessary to transport young offenders from that region down to Winnipeg or down to the youth centre.

MR. EVANS: I should remind the honourable member that the facility such as the one at The Pas that he talks about is not a long-term detention centre, it's a holding facility, so people stay there on a very temporary basis. So I don't have that number for The Pas, per se,

there are six places for temporary detention only at The Pas.

I also said earlier, that the system is such that there is a probation service which is a good option if that's a workable option, whereby the youth can be sent home with the family and under the supervision of a probation officer. Then there is the other avenue which is some sort of a foster home or even a group home, but certainly foster homes.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, what is the extent at the present time of that problem that has been long standing and ongoing in Manitoba of having to transfer juvenile offenders down to Winnipeg, out of their communities, out of their environments, away from their friends, away from their relatives and down to Winnipeg for incarceration? Is the division and is the program spectrum getting a handle on that problem? Are we making any inroads in reducing the intensity or severity of that problem?

MR. EVANS: Well, it's rather difficult. They are transferred down now as they were before, but it's a matter of working with the community and trying to get local people involved in assisting the department, I guess particularly with regard to foster homes, for example.

MR. SHERMAN: I raised this question earlier, Mr. Chairman, under the Child and Family Services Division of the department, but I would just like to raise it again because it applies more directly to this area of the juvenile offender, that juvenile who is considered to be severely, emotionally disturbed or troubled and fits into a special category of problem and of treatment. Are there a number of juveniles in that category who are currently be detained for any length of time in the youth centre with no facility or no treatment available for them outside of that which is available at the youth centre?

I'll be perfectly candid with the Minister, Mr. Chairman, I am not trying to lead him into a trap but I happen to know of one situation, one circumstance where there is a youngster in that category who has been at the youth centre for seven months and really should be in a facility for severely emotionally disturbed adolescents. I am fully aware that we don't have such a facility and I was part and parcel of the initiative to build one and its under way, I know that, but in the meantime are there young people languishing for five, six, seven, or eight months in the youth centre who should be in facilities of that kind, out of province facilities, out of country facilities in most cases, and who are blockaded by the system and not able to obtain access to that kind of treatment?

MR. EVANS: There have always been two or three cases of very difficult children with these problems that the member referred to and I guess there have been some that have been sent away and some have come back without any success in dealing with them.

Apparently there are cases where the other locations have rejected the children because they couldn't deal with them, so I guess they end up back at the youth centre, or wherever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(1)—pass.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: But if the psychiatric and psychological counseling capabilities at the youth centre or through the youth centre concur that a particular young person in this category could be helped by such a facility and should be in such a facility, and if the family has applied to have their child accepted in one of those facilities and had their application accepted, then what the Minister is saying is that there is nothing I suppose short of budgetary limitations that prevents their being transferred to those out-of-province or out-of-country facilities, is that correct? But once the institution has accepted them and the responsible experts at the Youth Centre have agreed that's the type of treatment that this young person needs, provided there are enough dollars in the budget for out-of-province placements, there is nothing that stands in the way of that youngster being sent to such a facility, is that correct?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I can assure the member that there's not been one young person denied out-of-province treatment for financial reasons.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, do we have wilderness camps operating in this province, or any wilderness camp, so-called, for hard-to-handle juveniles?

MR. EVANS: Yes, there is one but not in the correctional system as such. Sir Hugh John MacDonald runs one type of facility, but it's in the child welfare setup, not in the correctional system.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there's no change I note, in the staffing complement for this particular branch of this division if I read the Tables correctly, 211.5 staff man years in '81-82 and 211.5 again in '82-83. Does that reflect an attempt to restrain and postpone necessary growth or expansion, or does it reflect reasonable adequacy in the context of the responsibilities, challenges and pressures that the system faces?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that we have a very good staffing ratio right now, so the size of staff is quite adequate. And of course as we have alluded to in our conversation here this afternoon, we do have the child welfare system right adjacent to the correctional system dealing with rehabilitation of juvenile offenders and that's a large system, but it has to be considered that it's there to serve as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(1)—pass; 7.(c)(2) Other Expenditures.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Did the Minister provide the committee with a breakdown of those Other Expenditures?

MR. EVANS: The breakdown of \$883,500 is as follows: The Central Directorate \$31,000, this is general expenses incurred in operating the office; The Manitoba Youth Centre \$586,700, again these are the operating expenses incurred in providing the shelter, care and custody to the residents; and \$265 . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. Would you give me that Manitoba Youth Centre figure again? Is that the total budget or the increase?

MR. EVANS: That is the total budget in '82-83. I'll back up and give the totals for the two years. Backing up to the Central Directorate in '81-82 it was \$27,500; in '82-83 it becomes \$31,000, a very small increase. That's the total Other Expenditures of the Central Directorate. The Manitoba Youth Centre \$530,400 last year, this year it'll be \$586,700; the Agassiz Centre \$237,900 last year, and this year \$265,800. So, in total, last year was as shown in the print 795,800 and this year it amounts to 883,500.

MR. SHERMAN: Okay, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(2)—pass; 7.(c)—pass; 7.(d) Probation and Parole Services; 7.(d)(1) Salaries.
The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: I note a slight increase in staffing requested for this branch, Mr. Chairman, two staff man years I believe that's correct. Will they be probation officers or what category will they constitute, and where will they be, in what region will they be applied?

MR. EVANS: One is for bail supervision related to Court Services in Winnipeg and the other is clerical support.

MR. SHERMAN: How many probation officers are there in the system, Mr. Chairman, please?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, they are not classified in the data I have before me in the terms that the member's referred to, but I can tell him there are 93 professionals and they fall into this category and there's 14 probation workers, so-call paraprofessionals; so that's 93 professional and 14 technical support I suppose.

I can give you the whole breakdown. There are 156 staff positions; 16 are management; 93 are the professional probation officers; 14 are the paraprofessional probation officer, the technical type; 32 clerical, 1.5 term positions, for a total of 156 persons, and they are located in Winnipeg and the rest of the province.

MR. SHERMAN: And are some of those still associated with the Winnipeg Remand Centre, Mr. Chairman?

MR. EVANS: About 6 at the Remand and 10 in Centre.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister provide the Committee with some information about the probation services in the North? Again it's the same challenge in this area that we've referred to with respect to a number of other lines in the Estimates for this division.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, just generally speaking, the probation service is scattered throughout the province, including remote areas such as Gods Lake, Norway House, Roseau River, Fort Alexander, Cross Lake, Garden Hill. You have them throughout the City

of Winnipeg, Flin Flon, Swan River, Minnedosa, Thompson, Brandon, Selkirk. It's an establishment that's been in existence for some years essentially. It's the same type of setup. They're dispersed around the province in accordance with the need that the department perceives and of course even though they're located in a particular office — they may be located in Steinbach — but still will serve an area around that community.

The probation officer in Brandon is serving the entire WestMan Region, they have a Minnedosa sub-office, but together they serve the WestMan Region; and likewise Swan River and Dauphin serve the Parklands Regions and you have Flin Flon and the Pas serving the NorMan Region and Selkirk serves the Interlake Region. That's all. It's essentially scattered geographically in accordance with the need for this type of service.

Just one other very important point. The probation staff is supplemented by approximately 100 volunteer probation officers. People in the community have taken an interest, they apply and if they're of good character of course and meet the other standards, they are then given a certificate and authorized therefore to act as a voluntary probation officer and I think that's an excellent program. It's a reasonable program, it's very reasonable from the taxpayers point of view and certainly it's a good program inasmuch as it involves the members of the community.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, is the situation with respect to probation services available in the North improved, or is it sufficient, or are there pressures, or shortages, any undue difficulties, or is the Minister satisfied that there's adequate available probation services in the North at the present time?

MR. EVANS: I'm advised by my officials, Mr. Chairman, that we're fully staffed, we're adequately staffed in the North with no problems and I guess again I can relate to the volunteer set up which assists us greatly.

MR. SHERMAN: Would that service in the North make substantial use of Native probation officers? I recall when I was associated with the department and the division, that I think there was a significant number of the probation officers in the North who were Native Manitobans. Is that still the case?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, not only it continues to be true, but we are steadily increasing the number of Native people in the probation service.

MR. SHERMAN: Are there any probation officers coming into this system or into the service particularly in the North out of the New Careers Program?

MR. EVANS: No, there are not, Mr. Chairman, but we have a separate training program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. GERRIE HAMMOND (Kirkfield Park): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister. I'm interested in the volunteer program that helps out the probation officers. What kind of training would they get and

would it be just on-the-job, or it would be something a little bit more formal than that?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I can advise the honourable member that they indeed do get the on-the-job type of training that she refers to but of course also they're under the direct supervision of a probation officer who is trained and we do provide for various training seminars, so there is that element as well involved in training people.

I might point out that the majority of these people are located in the remote areas of the province and they do provide in effect continuous on-site probation services that couldn't otherwise occur because there is not, if you like, the same demand in those remote communities. There is infrequent demand for this type of service.

MRS. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, have they considered using the volunteers in the city at all, like in Winnipeg? When I was asking about the volunteer program, I'm certainly in favour of it because any auxiliary service is bound to help and community input is always very good.

MR. EVANS: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that we do have many volunteers in the City of Winnipeg and in particular we get quite a few of these volunteers from the School of Social Work at the University of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1)—pass; 7.(d)(2) Other Expenditures; 7.(d)(2)—pass; 7.(d)(3) Program Development.
The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Would the Minister sketch for the Committee, Mr. Chairman, the range of activities encompassed under this general heading of Program Development in this division?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I can refer to five program areas, one we just touched on in the past few minutes so that is the whole area of volunteer involvement. That's one element.

There's another program element which is referred to as the non-judicial screening program, whereby we provide funds to hire certain university students and members of the community to interview and provide basic assessment and referral services to juvenile first offenders.

The third area is referred to as Community Programs and this breaks down in different ways including short-term, high-impact programs. This is for special need and high-risk offender groups. Another element of Community Programs is the so-called Project Adventure, which is a non-profit federally sponsored corporation providing intensive programming to a small number of high-risk juvenile offenders in the core area of Winnipeg, which is done by contractual arrangement with the Probation Services. Another element of the Community Program is the so-called Community Program Agreements whereby citizens are involved in direct service delivery role with clients under supervision of the court and the emphasis in this part of the Community Program is in rural and northern Manitoba.

The fourth program element is called Community Service Orders whereby we have a fee-for-service agreement with community organizations as such to supervise persons on probation. And the fifth and last element of the program relates to adult placements. It provides short-term alternatives to incarceration for adult offenders, because we're talking now about probation of adults and juveniles.

MR. SHERMAN: Could the Minister provide us with the budgetary positions for those activities?

MR. EVANS: These are programs; the staff that we referred to earlier run these programs. If you're asking why there's a reduction, the explanation is that there was an overestimated amount provided last year. In other words, we didn't use all the monies provided for last year, so it was deemed advisable to simply reduce the level to a more realistic amount. So there's no really program implication of any program reduction as I understand in the smaller number.

MR. SHERMAN: Was there one area in particular or were there one or two areas in particular, Mr. Chairman, where last year's budget was not taken up fully and as a result left the division in the position of finding itself underspent?

MR. EVANS: One element, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that the judiciary didn't respond with alternative sentencing that we thought might occur, but at any rate more specifically, the overbudgeting occurred in the money for volunteers. It occurred in the Community Program agreements; this is the agreements involving citizens providing direct service delivery role with clients under the supervision of the Court and Community Service Orders. This is where an organization will enter an agreement with us on a fee-for-service basis, so those three areas.

Again, and there's another dimension, some monies were taken out of here and turned over to — this is from last year — the John Howard Society for the Detached Youth Worker Program.

MR. SHERMAN: I appreciate the Minister's information, Mr. Chairman. I hope that he also appreciates that it's a little bit difficult to catch everything he says at the time that he says it, and I may miss the odd thing from time to time. I'm not clear whether in the areas that he's just outlined where there were underexpenditures he included the area of Community Service Order Program. Was that underspent in '81-82?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it was underspent. We had 18,000 in there last year and we are down to 5,000 this year. That would indicate some degree of underspending, I guess.

MR. SHERMAN: That would be the second year in a row then, Mr. Chairman, that program is underspent. It was underspent in '80-81 at which time the division was budgeting something in the nature of \$30,000. Then in the current fiscal year that budgeting came down to 18,000 and it's underspent this year, so for '82-83 it's being budgeted at \$5,000.

Can the Minister proffer any explanation as to the

viability of the Community Service Order Program? It seems to have, at least, got itself into a position of a program that is not being taken up. What is the rationale for maintaining it?

MR. EVANS: Hope springs eternal, Mr. Chairman, and if we can get the judiciary system of Manitoba interested more in sentencing people to community work, then we would need more monies here. But as I understand it, it's the lack of response on the part of the judicial system in sentencing people to work-type programs.

I think one area we want to look at, indeed are looking at, is the Fine Option Program and I'm sure the member opposite agrees that the fewer people we can have in the institutions — I'm talking about non-violent people, I'm talking about people who normally are fine, but have committed some crime and for whatever reason are found guilty, and so on. If we could get into a Fine Option Program, there's a group of people there who might very well work under the Community Service Orders, but that's something that has to be evolved with the judiciary of Manitoba, and to the extent that we have the ability to interest the judiciary in this, is the extent to which we will need funds here. So, there is a small amount. If necessary of course I would be very glad to arrange for more monies here if that would ever come to pass.

MR. SHERMAN: What we're talking about here, Mr. Chairman, essentially are the restitution-type programs, community restitution, is that the essence of the Community Service Order Program concept?

MR. EVANS: It's really an alternative to, instead of spending x days or months in jail — when I was referring to the non-payment of fines — you work in the community, you're assigned to work in some nursing home or hospital, or I don't know what. There are various areas where a person would be given a community work order and we then, under this category, may have to provide some funding to that organization for taking on that person.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, it seems unfortunate, Mr. Chairman, that a program that is designed in this way and has this kind of objective and this kind of a rationale should be, in appearance at least, somewhat less than appealing to principles in the system, particularly in the judicial system, and find itself underused. As I suggest, we are looking at a three-year period here in which the program has been consistently overbudgeted, underspent, and obviously underused.

I would agree with the Minister and his officials in terms of the efficacy of the principle of this kind of program. I think it's a highly desirable direction in which to be moving. Is the Minister, in consultation with personnel and principles in the corrections field and the judicial field, generally, and with his colleague, the Attorney-General, in discussion about the utilization of this kind of program and concept with a view to spreading the gospel a little more effectively and producing a greater response on the part of the judicial system and society, generally, to implementation of this concept and utilization of the available funding?

MR. EVANS: Yes, there is one encouraging development, although I don't know where it's at. There is an amendment to the Criminal Code which would, more or less, enshrine this principle of providing for community work options, but it's in the system someplace. I can't say that I personally have talked to Crown Attorneys or members of the judiciary and so on, but senior staff have, indeed, done so. I have not had the opportunity, nor the occasion thus far, but certainly the senior people in the department have done this and there have been extensive discussions ongoing I gather.

MR. SHERMAN: Hopefully, Mr. Chairman, we can assume that it is an ambition of the Minister's though, through his officials, to pursue the application and the utilization of this kind of concept, this principle. Can we rest assured that the Minister is interested in pursuing it and promoting it as effectively and broadly as possible?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I have no problem in giving that assurance. As I said the other day I'm, in a sense, a libertarian at heart and I don't think that, in spite of the intentions, in spite of the good personnel, in spite of the philosophy behind a correctional institute, I really question whether they have work, not necessarily just in Manitoba, but anywhere. I think it goes back, certainly to - I guess I'm not very clear on my history of penal systems and so on - but I suspect they arise in the 19th Century where the thought was that instead of imposing a direct penalty on someone found guilty of a crime you take that person, you house them in some sort of a jail where a correctional process will occur and that the person will come out better than when they went in.

I think as we all know, and I'm not reflecting on the Manitoba system, I'm making this as a general observation in western society - at least I can't talk for other parts of the world with which I am a little less familiar - but that very often the system has failed. The correction has not taken place. Very often the people come out worse than they were when they went in.

In spite of good intentions, in spite of efforts, in spite of good people, somehow or other it doesn't seem to work and it seems to me that the philosophy that evolved - I don't know whether I have my dates right but I thought it was early 19th Century, you see prior to that you would be punished directly and somehow or other you would pay a price; there would be no attempt by society to correct you. But it seems to me that, given the fact that the system of incarceration has not always been successful - I'm not talking about violent people, of course, I'm not talking about people that are a danger to persons around them for whatever reason; I'm talking about probably the bulk of the people incarcerated who generally are not dangerous - I just wonder whether many of those could not and should not be out of the institutions and paying their penalty, whatever that is, by working and hopefully doing good works through community organizations that are serving all of us in some fashion.

So, I have no trouble in giving the member an assurance that I have a very great interest in this. How

successful we'll be remains to be seen. Some judges apparently take the view that they cannot offer these options to incarceration because it's not provided for in the Criminal Code and others apparently will interpret the code differently and say, yes, this can go on.

Then you have cases where one court level will say, yes, to a community work option and then it gets to an appeal court and the appeal court turns it around and says, no you can't have a community work option, you must be incarcerated. There are problems throughout this system and, again, I'm not reflecting on any one individual. I'm just saying, for whatever reason, it seems that it's been difficult to get these Community Service Order Programs more extensive and widespread than they are.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(3)—pass; 7.(d)—pass; 7.(e) Marriage Conciliation; 7.(e)(1) Salaries.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there is a requested increase of a very minimal amount in the Salaries appropriation for Marriage Conciliation. I assume that there is no change in the staffing pattern, or staffing establishment, of the Marriage Conciliation Branch; what about the workload situation; would the fact that the salaries being requested in 1982-83 are really precisely the same as '81-82 with the exception of a small amount to accommodate inflation, reflect the fact that the field of activity in Marriage Conciliation is being maintained at a status quo, or is there any increased pressure for Marriage Conciliation services?

MR. EVANS: The staff level as the member indicated is constant. There's really no significant change in the structure of staff and so on, but the work load is increasing apparently as the courts get more confidence in the system, the courts are referring more families for counselling service to this group in the Corrections and Probation Services area. There are figures in the Annual Report if the member wishes to look at them or I can read the figures here.

There's a small increase. This is the very last table in the Annual Report, Section 7.(c), Table 1: The Marriage Conciliation Service Counselling and Assessment Interviews, 3,397 in 1979; 3,372 in 1980; then up to 3,458 in '81, and then there are figures - if the honourable member's got the report, I don't have to read this I suppose - but there is an increase in the enforcement caseload. There is no change in the court reports, or a slight decrease, I'm not sure what the significance of the letters are, but there are a lot more letters being written. We go up from 2,382 in '79, up to 3,502 in '81 and then the phone calls have gone up.

It's really the first line, the counselling, and there has been a bit of an increase there.

MR. SHERMAN: Those are interesting figures, Mr. Chairman, does that significant increase in the reciprocal-enforcement caseload reflect a particular emphasis that's being placed by the branch on that activity, or a high rate of success and achievement under the legislation dealing with reciprocal enforcement and maintenance orders? That's fairly new legislation as the Minister knows; one would hope that it's

success has been substantial and that it is that kind of substantial success that's being reflected in these figures. Is that the case?

MR. EVANS: There is more co-operation, there is more success as the member infers and also apparently we have better records on people in Canada. I guess you could be critical of that as a libertarian, you know, shades of George Orwell and that, but we have more documents, more records on location of people so apparently that assists in improving the level of enforcement of orders.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, where do the personnel for these counselling services come from? Essentially, what sort of discipline or profession or field do they constitute and reflect? Are they all marriage conciliators or marriage conciliation officers in the conventional sense of the term or are some of them psychologists, or psychiatrists, or social workers, or counsellors of other types?

MR. EVANS: That's rather interesting. I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that they're all social workers who have their Masters degree in Social Work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(e)(i)—pass; 7.(e)(ii) Other Expenditures.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: When we're dealing with a budget of a quarter of a billion dollars, Mr. Chairman, as we are in this Committee certainly \$6,000 is not a massive sum. Everything is relevant after all, but in this particular instance, we're looking at an appropriation for Other Expenditures for 1982-83 that is 6,000 greater than 1981-82 appropriation of 10,800, virtually \$11,000, so it's a matter of arithmetic and fractions. In this case we're looking at a 50-percent increase for other expenditures in this branch. Could the Minister explain that to the Committee please?

MR. EVANS: There is an accounting explanation for this. Apparently this is the first year that marriage conciliation was broken out from the rest of the Probation Service itemizations and in the breakout, there was some underestimating of the funding needed for Other Expenditures, so what we're doing is correcting for that underfunding. It's an accounting adjustment. Although I must say by way of general observation, that with the large increases in letters going out and the fact that the post office is now charging 30 cents a letter, that could have something to do with it because of that 16,000 being requested, a good chunk of that is postage, a large amount. I can't tell you exactly because postage and telephones are combined, but a good chunk of that is postage.

MR. SHERMAN: Why would there be such a huge increase in phone calls and letters, Mr. Chairman? Would that be because of the overweening popularity of the Minister?

MR. EVANS: I have to remind the honourable member that these are historical figures that I've been using, '79, '80, '81, so if there's a popularity contest, I have to

bow to the Honourable Member for Fort Garry who had some responsibility, plus the former Member for St. James, for Minister graphs.

I'm reminded, Mr. Chairman, then again they could be complaints.

MR. SHERMAN: It was precisely the popularity of those two previous Ministers that I was referring to, Mr. Chairman, but we shall watch in 1982-83 and perhaps the volume of phone calls and letters will continue to rise, which will then make it necessary for me to reconsider that position, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(e)(2)—pass; 7.(e)—pass.

That completes the Estimate items for Corrections and Probation Services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$25,237,200 for Community Services and Corrections, Corrections and Probation Services for the fiscal year ending 31st day of March, 1983—pass.

We return now to Item No. 1. Executive Function, 1.(a)(1) Minister's Salary.

The Member for Fort Garry. 1.(a)(1), on page 23.

The Member for Niakwa.

MR. ABE KOVNATS (Niakwa): Just on a point of order, you've got Clause 8. Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets, are you not going to read those into the records? I don't imagine there's going to be any debate, but . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: To my knowledge, there is no resolution there.

MR. KOVNATS: To my knowledge, there is no resolution there either, Mr. Chairman, that's quite observant. But I would think that possibly it should be read into the records because there was a sum expended previous. I think if there is going to be any discussion, it would be under Minister's Salary. I'm just asking that it be read into the record so if there was going to be any discussion, it could come under the Minister's Salary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the Member for Niakwa and read it into the record. No. 8. Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets, Item No. 8. If we are all in agreement, return to No. 1. Executive Function, 1.(a)(1) Minister's Salary, 1.(a)(1).

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it's not my intention to prolong the examination of these Estimates by lengthy debate on this particular item. I think we have covered a great many of the issues and concerns that the opposition has with respect to the programs scheduled for 1982-83 and the appropriations attached thereto by the government in this department area, Community Services and Corrections. So, I won't be repetitious, Mr. Chairman. Nor is it my intention to suggest that at this juncture, we have any particularly heavy criticism to direct at the Honourable Minister.

I would simply like to restate and recast for the record however, Sir, our concern with respect to one

or two program areas in which we were keenly interested and continue to be keenly interested, and with respect to which we urge upon him a very very considerate and conscientious thought.

The first is in the area of day care legislation, a subject that received fairly widespread examination and evaluation the other day of the Opposition and I think it can be rightly suggested the people of Manitoba are anxious to know what it is the government has in mind in the way of new day care legislation. It is not a subject that has suddenly cropped up in the public arena overnight. The Minister and the government have talked about it for some considerable time, going back indeed to many months prior to the previous election, and we would expect that legislation would be pretty thoroughly conceptualized in the minds of the government by now.

Therefore, we await with considerable anticipation and interest, that bill so that we might see in the House, in this Chamber what it is the government has in mind, and we might be able to proffer our opinions, both pro and con.

I think we have laid the base for debate on that legislation if intensive debate on it is necessary. Many of my colleagues and I expressed to the Minister through you, Sir, in this Committee the other day our concerns that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's now 4:30, and time for Private Members Hour so in accordance with Rule 19(2), I'm interrupting the proceedings and will return at the call of the House.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ANDY ANSTETT (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, once again in view of the fact that there is no Private Members' business before the House, I am wondering if we could have leave to adjourn the House at this point and then continue in Supply from now till 5:30 and again at 8:00 p.m.

If that is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, then I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry that the House do now adjourn.

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

SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS (CONTINUED)

MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The Committee will come to order. We will continue with the debate on Executive Function No. 1.(a)(1) Minister's Salary.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time of the intervention for adjournment of the House, I was attempting to make the point that my colleagues and I expressed through you, Sir, in debate in this Committee the other day as effectively as we could to

the Minister, I believe our concerns, that the legislation — the forthcoming day care legislation — not be draconian in terms of limitations and strict parameters that it may lay on the day care community generally, that it neither act in such a way as to limit the opportunity for day care operations and activities and that it not be framed in such a way that it impose such regulatory standards that the costs of the whole system will become extremely onerous.

We believe there is a case and a place for a mixed system, as between publicly operated, non-profit community day care centres and operations and private day care activities and operations. We believe that there is a willingness on the part of many Manitobans in both the public, private and community sectors to participate in supplying and offering that kind of service; that a mixed approach provides the people of Manitoba, the parents and the children who need day care, with the best opportunity of having their needs fulfilled without laying on excessive expense where the public and the taxpayers are concerned, simply to conform to some kind of a particular philosophy in the day care field, that is, related more to idealism than realism, related more to abstractionism than to the practical requirements of the day.

Further to that, we would hope as I've suggested and my colleagues have suggested, that the legislation does not impose such requirements in the way of standards that additional burdens are imposed on a public treasury that is already heavily burdened through the responsibilities that it must meet in the interests of Manitobans and their welfare over the whole spectrum of public activity ranging across the 23 departments of government and beyond; so that's one of our major concerns, Mr. Chairman.

Another of our major concerns was best articulated I think by my colleague, the Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, and has to do with the proposed recreation complex at the Manitoba School. We are disappointed that the decision to build a \$2-million recreational complex with two swimming pools on the site of the Manitoba School, thus making swimming pool activity available both to the residents of the school and to the residents of the Community of Portage la Prairie generally, has been suspended and placed under review and may indeed, undergo some considerable change, and worst than that, may undergo long and, I believe, unnecessary study experience once again.

Such long and unnecessary study experience would simply be redundant, in our view, and will postpone the day when the residents of Portage la Prairie and particularly the residents of the Manitoba School can enjoy the opportunities that such a pool would provide. We think they've waited long enough.

We think that the considerations having to do with utilization and the viability of the site location have all been explored and examined thoroughly and fairly with a wide community hearing and wide community input, and we fear that the issue is being resurrected now in an arena that should not be permitted, or certainly should not be encouraged to impede progress on that project, that arena being the arena of philosophical debate between those persons who legitimately and sincerely hold the view that all institutions for the mentally retarded should be emptied,

that we should have total de-institutionalization, and on the other side, proponents of that view similarly sincerely and legitimately held that says that there will always be, unfortunately and regrettably, a need for institutions in the mental retardation field and that there are some residents of facilities for the retarded who cannot live and function anywhere else, who could not operate anywhere else and who need the care and protection and safekeeping and attention that is offered through an institution.

That debate which has been somewhat lengthy and historical already will no doubt continue for some time, but it should not be permitted to deprive the residents of the Manitoba School of their recreational facility and their swimming pool. So, we would urge the Minister to permit that debate to continue where he may and as he may, but not permit it to have direct and immediate effect on a decision that has already been made to go ahead with that complex on the site of the Manitoba School.

Mr. Chairman, beyond that, we have considerable concern about the necessary review of the child welfare system to ensure that there is a proper tracking and record maintained of persons, particularly children, who suffer from abuse in the home which leads to their physical, mental and emotional impairment and concludes in many cases with their appearance at Children's Hospital in Winnipeg and at other hospital out-patient departments and in many cases emergency departments requiring medical attention.

The whole area of child abuse is one that we must be concerned about, continue to be concerned about and one in which our concern I think must be intensified. I'm very pleased to see the government continuing with the initiative undertaken by our government to establish a special Child Protection Centre at the Children's Hospital, and I wish the principals in that centre and the government well in pursuit of that initiative and in achievement of that initiative. But at the same time I think as I've said, a review of the child welfare system is highly desirable because of some events that have occurred recently and some comments that have been offered by such experts in the field as Dr. Charles Ferguson to whom I've already referred in the course of the examination of these Estimates, and which constitute observations which I think commend themselves to the very earnest attention of the Minister and his officials, notwithstanding the best efforts of people like Dr. Ferguson and Dr. MacRae.

The system is not on top of the child abuse problem and the doctors at the Child Protection Centre at the Children's Hospital wind up with the product or the result of that sad, sad social problem. With greater communication and liaison between the child-caring societies and agencies, the Children's Aid Societies and Child and Family Services Division of this department and specialists working in that field, much better tracking, much better records could be kept and many repeat cases of abuse no doubt could be avoided and prevented.

So those essentially are our main concerns with respect to the current directions of this department, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that I'm pleased by some highlights that occur in the Minister's Estimates for '82-83, one of them being that Child Protection Centre

and its establishment, as I've already noted. But over and above that, there is an excellent initiative being taken through the Native Clan Organization to establish a Halfway House in Northern Manitoba to cope with the problem of treatment and rehabilitation of adult offenders in that badly underserved part of the province, and that is an excellent step in the right direction. I commend the government and the Minister on taking that step.

There are certainly laudatory ambitions outlined in the Minister's program in the field of expanded group home capacities and group home capabilities for persons with mental impairment, either mental illness or retardation, and we welcome those initiatives. Services and funding for both the mentally and physically handicapped are being expanded under the Minister's proposed 1982-83 program and the opposition endorses that trust. I'm pleased to see and increase in Respite Care funding. This is an extremely valuable program that deserves the highest recognition, the highest profile that all of us in this Chamber can give it, in the spectrum of community service programming. So that is good news.

I suppose the biggest difference between the Estimates for the Department of Community Services and Correction, as we look at them for 1982-83, Mr. Chairman, and the Estimates for this department in past years, comes about as a result of the restructuring of the Regional Personal Services Division, which serves both this department and the Department of Health. The initiatives that were launched by our government and have been continued by the present government are designed as practically and as sensibly and as reponsibly as possible to retain the integrity of that single unit delivery system and make it available in an efficient administrative way, and responsible in an efficient and administrative way, to both departments without increasing the size of the administrative or delivery bureaucracy necessary to perform those two specific and separate functions. Those two specific and separate functions being the delivery of Community Services in the Health field and the delivery of Community Services in the Community Services field, as separate and distinct from each other.

In the past, as you know, Sir, the division served both departments, the entire payroll and staff complement for the division appeared under the Department of Community Services and Correction; but the duties of course that rest with the regional offices, and the regional directors of such services, range across a spectrum of social programs and health programs which, although interrelated to a considerable degree, are nonetheless separate and distinct from each other. The new restructuring and reordering of the delivery line and reporting line for that division is designed to accommodate that fact while retaining the single unit delivery concept.

So '82-83 becomes something of a watershed year in the printed format for that division, and we're seeing that expressed in this year's Estimates for the first time. Roughly two-thirds of the staffing and budgetary commitment for that division have gone over to Health with roughly one-third remaining in Community Services I know that the Minister can count on officials in his department and the Executive Director

of that division, and eight excellent Regional Directors that we have in our system in this province to make sure that it works and works efficiently and well.

My only other word, Mr. Chairman, would be to assure the Minister that he has excellent staff and personnel working with him and alongside him. I had the privilege of heading that department for a period of years, and I know that the Minister will find the support of his Deputy Minister, his Assistant Deputy Ministers, and senior officials, and his Regional Directors, and branch and division directors, and all those who work under them very gratifying. They have served the people of Manitoba well, they've served faithfully and loyally the Government of the Day, whichever that government may be, and I know that the Minister can count on their continued support in the future as he occupies that portfolio. So I wish him well in those challenges.

Many of the things that we see before us in these '82-83 Estimates are programs and initiatives that our government maintained from introduction in earlier years, or programs and initiatives that we introduced ourselves, so there is very little Mr. Chairman, that I would quarrel with or could quarrel in the Estimates this year; that may not always be the case. The Minister of course inherited a set of programs and initiatives and I think, with the exception of those three or four concerns that I've raise with him, he has done a conscientious job of maintaining those courses of action and pursuing those valuable initiatives. But now, of course, he comes into his own as Minister on a full-year basis, '82-83 will be his first complete fiscal year in this portfolio, and the programs and initiatives that we see in front of us a year from now will be such programs and initiatives and courses of action as he has had a chance to put his stamp on over a twelve-month period. There may be a number of situations or developments or departures at that time which will produce, for the Minister, a position of some discomfort; he may find himself under more criticism at that point in time, as has been the case as we explore and examine his Estimates this year.

But at this point, Sir, I can do little but wish him well in continuing on the course that preceding governments in this province have started; in undertaking new initiatives which have merit and in inheriting a staff which is loyal, faithful, and hardworking, and on whom he can count very heavily and very assuredly.

So with those words, Sir, the Official Opposition is this House and in this committee send the Minister on his new course and remind him that we'll be watching very carefully because he presides over one of the most important departments in this government.

Thank you.

MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I'd like to thank the Honourable Members of the Opposition and particularly the chief critic and the chief spokesman for the Opposition in the field of Community Services and Corrections for his comments. I want to thank him also for the very careful and courteous examination and analysis of the Estimates of this department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)(1)—pass. That completes the Estimates for the items for Resolution No. 30, as well

completes the items to be considered under the Estimates for Community Services and Corrections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$1,539,500 for Community Services and Corrections, Executive Function, for the fiscal year ending the thirty-first day of March, 1983—pass.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: As a matter of information and suggestion, and I see very timely — the Minister of Northern Affairs has arrived — I wonder if it's in order to suggest that I shall be guided by my colleague as well and the members opposite whether we rise now until 8 o'clock, at which time it may be a suitable time to then begin the Estimates of the next department, which is the Department of Northern Affairs. Is that agreeable?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's the will of the Committee to interrupt at this point and resume at 8 o'clock? I'm leaving the Chair and I'll return at 8:00 p.m.

Committee rise.