

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 18 March, 1982

Time — 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas): We're on Natural Resources, Fisheries 8.(a)(i)—pass; Salaries — The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, the Estimates for the Fisheries Branch shows little change. I point out the one change where it shows a reduction in Item 8.(d) Biological Services. Does that in fact reflect a loss of staff? It's not a great deal.

There is, of course, some change in the administrative salaries as well when you consider the inflationary costs in the operation of these departments and it would appear that there are some slight changes occurring there. Perhaps the Minister could indicate what they are in his response.

Mr. Chairman, there are and maybe I can just indicate a few of the subjects that I would solicit some advice and comment on from the Minister. I'll run through a few of them that may enable the Minister and his staff to as best they can provide some of the background and information on.

When I last had the responsibility of the department we had, to my knowledge, not concluded a set of negotiations that had been going on for some time. That has to do with the regulations governing Treaty Indian access to fish. These were relatively complicated negotiations involving the Federal department and of course the Band members themselves and I would invite the Minister to indicate what the status of those negotiations are, whether they have in fact been brought to completion. There had been a lot of diligent work done by a person that I would like to acknowledge in the public record, former Deputy Minister, Mr. Dennis Surrendi, who worked very hard with the Four Nations Confederacy. These negotiations were coming along reasonably well or at least that was my impression. Organizational changes within the Four Nations Confederacy perhaps haunted or delayed these discussions. I would ask the Minister to comment on that problem. It is an ongoing concern to the department and this division of the department to have those matters to the extent possible straightened away.

Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of the department's enforcement agencies is in this area of recognizing the legitimate Treaty rights with respect to the Indians' access to this resource as was promised him through various agreements and Treaties, but at the same time seeing that questionable abuses of the system do not occur where severe damage can be done in sensitive fishing areas to the province's capability of maintaining their responsibility in ensuring that these resources will be there for all Manitobans to enjoy.

Mr. Chairman, of more recent days, of course, the Minister and the department has raised the question. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, that's not quite fair, I think

others outside the department helped raise the question of illegal fishing and the trade in illegal fish by-passing the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board. Any information, I think, that the Minister could enlighten the committee on with respect to scale, scope of it, and what precisely the department is doing, or can do, to prevent this from occurring. Specifically, are there, in the area of fishing, any particular prosecutions or convictions that are being pressed at the moment?

Going only by media reports I note that the department has pressed charges or pressed prosecution in the case of a wild game charge but we are dealing with the Division of Fisheries right now, what, if anything, can the Minister indicate has taken place in this area?

Mr. Chairman, I know that this Minister will be subject to perhaps even additional pressures than I was, or the previous Ministers were in the Department of Natural Resources, with the ongoing demands for access to the fishing stocks of Manitoba. I say, perhaps even more, because certainly as a general economic situation, the province doesn't always offer the best of opportunities in alternatives: in terms of employment, in terms of making possible other forms of employment. It seems to add pressures, particularly on those communities that are adjacent to or near our fisheries — poor additional stocks. I know the department has tried to respond in several instances by allowing special permits, special quotas, in perhaps principally in Lake Winnipeg's fisheries in different areas. I would be interested in hearing from the Minister whether or not he has anything new to add in this regard. I think, Mr. Chairman, that probably suffices to begin a discussion of fisheries in the committee at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

HON. AL MACKLING (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, first of all, dealing with the Budget item that the honourable member was concerned about respecting — I think it's Item (d) Biological Services, I'm advised that there was a study that was taken in the Cross Lake Fishery and with the completion of that there was a reduction in staff involved.

In respect to the area that the honourable member referred to in respect to negotiations with Treaty Indian Bands relative to their right to harvest wild game and yet conform to the requirements of good conservation within the province. That is an ongoing matter. My staff advise me that those negotiations have never been completed. The honourable member quite rightly refers to changes within the structure of Indian organizations themselves, and that I'm sure will be an ongoing process regardless of which Indian Bands or how they're organized, because there will likely be, given the fact that Treaty Indian people have much more access by law to our wild life and our fish resources. There will be ongoing concerns there, but I think with consultation and good will, a good deal of the difficulty that otherwise would occur can be avoided.

In respect to the problem that our society encounters with breaches of the regulations, the illegal fish-

ing operations and bypassing of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board, obviously this is not something that is relatively new nor will it go completely away I suppose, because there are always some who wish to bypass the law. There was an effort by the department recently as the honourable member knows, to try and identify the scope of the illegal fishery operations and the illegal game operations. Some initial progress had been made in identifying the scope of that problem, but as the honourable members know, however it happened, the preliminary report became public and that will not make the ongoing work any easier, because those involved are therefore forewarned that there is much more active consideration to the scope and the activities of these people.

As the honourable member has indicated, being a continuing demand in respect to our fishing stocks and that is of course natural that while the fishing is good, people want to continue to harvest as much of the fish stock as they can. It's difficult sometimes to resist the demands for fisheries. Recently, as my honourable colleague, the Chairman, knows, numbers of fishermen have been hard pressed in respect to obtaining sufficient fishing time in order that, when they are no longer permitted to fish, they will have put in enough time for unemployment insurance benefits so that they can achieve a little bit more income and that has presented problems to the department. We've wrestled with those problems and, I suppose, it will always be looking at difficulty there because there can always be a difference of viewpoint as to how large the fish stock is, and what the capacity of the lakes are. We have to take the best advice we can as to that and set the quotas, the limits, accordingly, and we will continue to do that. I think that's about all I wish to say, Mr. Chairman, other than I would like to introduce now the Director of the Fisheries Section, Mr. Worth Hayden, who will be my whisperer or my note-writer primarily this evening.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I suppose always one of the disappointments that any Minister has in not having been able to succeed in pursuing a particular course of action that he believes would have had an impact and would have assisted in the field that he was responsible for, in this case fisheries, and that has to do with the, as yet unresolved question of utilization of the millions of pounds of raw fish that are harvested annually out of our fisheries, by and large underutilized, in some instances constituting an environmental hazard or problem. We are aware of course that there's limited utilization taking place by the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board itself. I'm thinking particularly too, of the operation up at Eddystone, I believe it is, that has been underway for a while. Could the Minister confirm that that operation is still continuing, and/or expanding? But more importantly, I don't know whether the Minister has had an opportunity to avail themselves of the fact that there have been from time to time offers made to the province by persons interested in developing a utilization of the raw fish. When I left the office there was relatively serious consideration being given by a firm centred principally out of Vancouver, possibly some Japanese

interest. However, it would require some very specific undertakings by the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Manitoba, particularly in enabling such an operation to have the necessary access to the resource. In this particular case, it was felt that it could only be proceeded with if suitable arrangements could be made with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board that has a total monopoly of the species at the present time.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I'm not so much interested in the specific details of it. I just bring this question to the Minister's attention, indicate to him that we are talking about many, many millions of pounds of fish estimated by departmental officials to be anywhere from 20-25 million pounds that are simply not being utilized. These are caught up in the fisheries, in the nets; they have to be disposed of, and there are people around that suggest the product can be used. And I would encourage the Minister to search out those possibilities and indeed not to be timid in his discussions with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Board and the Federal Government if need be to try to resolve this problem.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his remarks in respect to the coarse fish or rough fish potential and would like to confirm to the honourable member that I have had the privilege of tasting some fish crunchies, a product that I found highly delectable produced by Lake Fresh Fish Products at the Eddystone facility.

They have operated what could be called a pilot project for a couple of years and intend to continue. They are seeking assistance. It's a difficult area to — it's the marketing I suppose that's one of the key problems.

I share with the honourable member as I trust with most people in Manitoba the concern that here is a, in the coarse fish availability, we have a very substantial resource and it can be processed to provide very high quality table food for human beings. It's regrettable that at the present time the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has not been able through its efforts to develop what I understand to be a reasonable market for coarse fish. The market — say reasonable market — because the market as I understand it presently is for pet food and it's sold therefore at a very low price to foreign markets primarily Europe.

I, too, want to see, as does the honourable member, that resource much more effectively utilized and I'm hopeful that there will be opportunities, challenges, and I hope that we can come up with programs assisting people to develop that resource because it is an excellent one.

I haven't heard anything as yet about interest from the Far East, the Japanese market. I did have one gentleman that came in to see me from — formerly operated an enterprise in Singapore — who had a kind of an imaginative process. His problems seemed to be in respect to foreign marketing and it would involve some dialogue therefore with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and I hope sometime in the near future to have a dialogue with that corporation and through staff in the department pursue a greater development of that resource.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm encouraged to hear the Minister say that. I simply say that I think that the key obviously is the marketing capacity to utilize this resource.

With all due respect, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, although it has made many good attempts, and has in my understanding developed certain product lines for human consumption as well, but the truth of the matter is it just had not succeeded, and I would hope that this government and this Minister will not allow any ideological blinkers to prevent it from pursuing that course. Indeed, if Canadians can't be enticed or encouraged to use the product, the fact of the matter is many offshore market sources are available. That's been part of our problem, in this sense that it's difficult for, whether it's the operation that is currently operating a little pilot project at Eddystone or even a Canadian based firm run by well-meaning bureaucrats like the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. They have not been able to secure a marketplace for that product, which you and I and the Minister has personally experienced is a tasty, edible, nutritious product. So I leave that question at that.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps it would be in order for the Minister just to give us some sense of scale and scope of the fishery operations in the province, particularly for some of our newer members in the committee, an idea of just how many fishermen, commercial fishermen, have we got in the Province of Manitoba. Is that number static, say comparable to the last three or four years? Is it growing or is it static? What is our annual yield? Some of that is of course available in the Annual Report, but just general figures, not specific figures, would give us some indication of the scale of the fisheries' operation that's taking place in Manitoba and therefore its importance, as well, of course, the number of sport fishing licences that are annually sold in this province. Does the department have an Estimate as to the economic value attached from the tourists and from the activity that economists credit the sport fishing industry here in Manitoba. So if you can think of those figures, that will give members of the committee some idea of the scale and scope of the fisheries' operations in Manitoba.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I will elaborate on the scope of the industry. My staff are drawing forth for me some figures so that I can more precisely indicate those numbers, and I would suggest that maybe someone else could go on and then I will break in and give you the detail that would be helpful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER (Emerson): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I hope that I am not bound by going in any particular order here. I have a few items that I would like to sort of cover on a general basis and leave it at that. Is that acceptable?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I guess while we're on Salaries, we are covering the whole. . .

MR. DRIEDGER: . . . thing anyway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, fine. Mr. Chairman, then to the Minister, while he is looking up these figures, I wonder if there is any way to give an indication when we come to the sport-fishing aspect of it, how many out of nonresident fishing licences for sport fishing are issued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Possibly, he could look up that information at the same time.

MR. DRIEDGER: Fine. The sport-fishing aspect of it is something I would like to pursue just to some degree in conjunction with the amount of people that are fishing here that are nonresidents. I think in my Speech to the Throne, I indicated at one stage of the game of some concern that possibly the fees for non-residential fishermen should be raised to some degree. I realize full well that the lodge owners up north are very dependent on nonresidential people coming in for their fishing recreation, but aside from that, I have the occasion to travel up north from time to time and enjoy the sport of fishing myself and I see that we have very many — especially when you get further north we have more out-of-province plates up there; people that move in with vans, set up and do their fishing.

Also another thing I've noticed, especially when you get further north past the roads is that there is a fair amount of fly-in fishing going on where the Americans fly direct to a lake, fish, and fly back out again.

The concern I would like to express in that regard is that, I know it's exceedingly difficult to establish how many fish are being moved out, one would assume that everybody is going to stay within their legal limitations. However, I believe there is room for doubt in this respect because they fly in, we have virtually no control over this kind of —(Interjection)— Well, with all due respect it's our resource and I think the question has to be raised, knowing full well that it's costly for our resource people to take and follow up on these things; but the suggestion that I would like to make to the Minister is possibly that if we issue nonresident licences that they possibly, in the application for licence, maybe indicate where they will be fishing. It might help to establish where this fishing is going to take place. Because in cases where they do fly in and they're reaping our natural resource to some degree and flying it back out; and with all due respect to our neighbors, we love them dearly all along the border there.

I'd like to refer to the Lake of the Woods area, specifically, an area that concerns me; I think it's a great fishing spot out in that area. We've had out at Birch Point up to 110 boats sitting out at that dock that I made reference to under the previous things there. One concern that I have is: the Americans can pick up an American fishing licence, plus a Canadian fishing licence, get out and fish in the marginal waters where there is no line; there's only an imaginary line, and take out two permits. This is happening extensively in the Lake of the Woods area, because they can come on Lake of the Woods from Warroad. There are a few ports on that side where the Americans come in with their big units. They operate extensively with walkie-talkies. If the fish are biting it doesn't take very long and you can see them come from all corners, as they have a good system out there.

The concern that I have that they can pick up — on a day when the fish are biting — they can pick up two limits, whereas we sort of feel restricted to fish within the limits that we have; understandably so. These are things that I know that administration in these regards is sometimes extremely difficult but I would certainly like to have the Minister look at some of these things.

The other issue that I'd like to raise with the Minister is the issue of bait. I'd like to refer again to the Lake of the Woods area where our American neighbours come in and use live bait and locally it is — you know we have only certain lakes, I believe, where live bait can be used. I personally would like to recommend that we have a consistent policy in terms of the use of live bait for nonresident fishers as well as for residential fishers. There is inconsistency in this respect and I would like to draw this to the Minister's attention, that the use of live bait should be constant throughout the province instead of just in certain lakes.

With those comments I'd like to just move on to Item (d), which is Biological Services, and I would like to question the Minister whether that is an area, whether this department would cover to some degree the fish biota that comes down the Red River, for example; maybe even look a little further down, the impact of Garrison. Is this the department that would be looking at the biota that would be coming down the Red River in the event that there are further problems with Garrison; we hope not. I'll stop for a minute and let the Minister maybe indicate some answers and then I'll have a few more questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in respect to, first of all if I could go back to the questions from the Honourable Member for Lakeside to give, as he suggested, some understanding of the scope of the fishery involved. I'm advised that the past, I believe it was the past commercial season, we're looking at last year's statistics. There were 40 million pounds of fish harvested, the gross commercial value being \$50 million. The net benefits from that commercial fishery were \$17 million. In respect to the sports fishery we don't have, I don't think, the poundage of fish taken there because there isn't the same marketing and delivery, people don't report what they catch, but there were gross revenues of \$96 million and net benefits of \$35 million. There were a total of 200,000 sports fishery licences sold, of which 160,000 were resident; so therefore there'd be 40,000 nonresident licences.

In respect to our licence fees we did increase the licence fees. The former licence fee for resident was \$3.30; we have increased that to \$5.00. Nonresident licences were \$11.00; they have been increased to \$20.00. Nonresident three-day Division 1 only were increased from \$5.50 to \$12.00. The same provisions in respect to bow fishing permits, spear fishing permits, still no licence fee required, and resident senior citizens not required licences.

In respect to the problems about enforcement that the Honourable Member, I think, for Emerson referred to; that, I suppose, is an ongoing problem where fly-in fishermen do, or it is possible that they are taking in excess of their limit and it's very difficult to enforce

because we'd have to have people almost everywhere to check them. But that suggestion he made about a requirement at the time that a licence is sold to a nonresident may be something that we could look at. I've asked my staff to take note of that. As long as it's not seen to be too heavy handed or too difficult for, because we do have a very substantial investment in the tourist industry and we don't want to discourage that.

In respect to the last concern of the honourable member in respect to biological services, I pray to God that it won't involve Garrison. What we're looking at there is changes in waters and determining what is happening. I indicated earlier that there had been a study in Cross Lake; some of our northern communities, of course, have been affected by changes in water level, diversions of water, ponding of water in reservoirs, and there's an ongoing concern, and it has to be in connection with an assessment of the capacity of lakes and our water systems in respect to fish habitat and fish growth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister then: would it be possible to maybe get a comparison? The Minister indicated the amount of fish, the poundage that was taken out and the amount of licences that were issued for sport fishing in both respects, like the commercial as well as the sport fishing: is it possible to get a comparison, let's say from 10 years ago, like which way is the trend going? How dramatically is it increasing or is it stabilizing or is it decreasing?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I think the honourable member wanted to get some quantification on volume of fish taken in sports fishery.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, if I could clarify that, no. For example, the Minister indicated 200,000 sports fishing licenses were issued and 40,000 of that was nonresidential. What were the figures let's say ten years ago? Which way are we going with that?

MR. MACKLING: Let me just start with a ten-year jump. In 1971, the number of resident sports fishing licenses sold was 108,300 and the number of nonresident sport fishing licenses sold was 23,700. I'm rounding them off roughly. In 1980-81, it was 159,600 resident licenses sold and 32,350 nonresident licenses sold. Now, the number of three-day licenses sold; I think they would be all nonresident, they were in 1971, 6,300 and in 1980-81, 8,650. So, if you add the two nonresidents, you add the 32,353 plus the 8,600, you get the 40,000 figure that we gave earlier and the 108,000 and the 138,000 in respect to the resident licenses.

Staff indicated to me in connection with the Lake of the Woods dual quota problem that the honourable member referred to, the present regulations for 1982 deal with that and make it prohibitory that any person should be able to get over one single quota. I think that's a simple abbreviation of that regulation.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Chairman, I must say that I'm

pleased with the changes that the Minister is recommending. Just looking at the figures that the Minister was quoting in terms of the increase over the last ten years; roughly it's not quite double, but there's been a substantial increase in the number of people that are taking out sport fishing licenses. When we consider the fact that the increase in licenses coming up for this year for both the residential and nonresidential, would there not be some justification in increasing expenditures for the RCO's and the P.O. to do supervision work in terms of the amount of fish taken? There would be some justification in that I would assume, because here we are, we've almost doubled the amount of licenses issued, we've almost doubled the price per license, certainly it should warrant naturally that there would be an increase in the monies allocated for the supervision of it.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, while there has been an increase in the money allocated for supervision of sports fisheries, I wouldn't say that the ratios are the same. I don't think that would necessarily follow that it would be required because the Conservation Officers deal largely with an area and if you get more people in the area there may be more work to be done, but the biggest factor is travel and incidence of contact with people. It's true, I suppose, that we could be spending more money but we'll only spend it if we have to.

MR. DRIEDGER: The final question then, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister is do we have any aerial supervision or inspection at all by our field people in terms of the lakes up north where the fly in fishing takes places or the lodges, anything of this nature? Do we have somebody that can get into a plane and check out some of these things at all or is there no supervision at this time?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, we missed seeing the honourable member when he flew in last year, I guess, but there is aerial inspection. It's not as intense as the department would like, but again it's a matter of costing and there is a co-ordination as I understand it of inspections for fire and I hope in respect to licensing and breaches of game regulations that applies both for hunting and fishing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. DAVID R. (Dave) BLAKE (Minnedosa): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to talk mainly on fish farming where the Erickson-Minnedosa area is the trout farming capital of Canada, but do we have a reciprocal arrangement with our sister provinces of Saskatchewan and Ontario on licensing, the fact that we have a resident Manitoba license. Do we buy our license in Saskatchewan and Ontario at a cheaper rate than we would as a non-resident or do we have to pay a non-resident fee there?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm given to understand that a resident of Canada is the licence requirement. Ontario residents don't pay a fishing licence, but Manitobans fishing there do, and so we reciprocate by having them have the privilege of buying a licence here.

MR. BLAKE: We would pay the Ontario rate, not the rate of an American non-resident?

MR. MACKLING: That's right, a resident of Canada.

MR. BLAKE: There is some talk, Mr. Chairman, on a drop-off in tourism. There is some fear of that in the tourist industry that there may be a falling off, and I think this particular phase of tourism is a particularly attractive one. I just wondered if the department had any plans because this is the time of the year when the fellows start planning our holidays and making our plans to come north fishing. I think we have an excellent area here to attract some tourist dollars and we all know what that does to the industry in Manitoba in all sections, so I would encourage the Minister to talk to his colleague in Tourism and make sure they dovetail these programs because I think there's an excellent opportunity and if there's a danger of that slackening off, I think maybe we could put a little extra push on and bring some extra dollars in.

Also, what the Member for Emerson says about excessive limits, there's no doubt that does go on. I spend a lot of time up north and do a lot of fishing; there's no doubt that's going on. I think surveillance is probably as good as the Conservation Officers can do and I know nowadays with propane freezers some of these camper units can lug out 200 to 300 pounds of pickerel fillets with no trick at all to it, but they are catching a few of them.

My concern would be, and the same with the report that has come in on the illegal fishing and the illegal game that is coming into the city, the fines I think are completely out of whack. You catch a guy with a couple or three moose and you fine him \$100.00. I think you've got to jack that up and rap them good and that's the only way you're going to stop it. You lay a guy for \$2,000 or \$3,000 for having a moose or an elk out of season and he's going to sit up and take notice, but for a couple of hundred dollars, the meat is worth that much, so that's an area I think has to be really beefed up.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, fish farming in our particular area, in the pothole area of Minnedosa, Erickson, has become very very popular in the last few years; a few years ago there was quite an extensive lot of research done in the Erickson area. The federal people were in and there was a lot of buildings there and the interest in that has dropped off a little bit and I suppose there's been an awful lot of research done on it. This year, particularly with the lack of moisture, there's a group in Minnedosa that are a group of businessmen or ordinary working stiffs that have become interested in this and do it more or less as a hobby. They certainly haven't made any money at it and they're hanging in there keeping this thing together. They've just had some negotiations with your department and with Highways, I know, to obtain access to a little piece of property just north of Minnedosa that the Highways people control. It's quite a good lake for trout farming. In fact, they aerated it this winter and brought in little windmills to try and winter some of their trout over. They have ordered something like half-a-million fingerlings this year, and as I say with the concern for not having much water, people are a little reluctant to order. I think they'd only

sold about 70,000 by last weekend, and as I say, they're operating on a shoestring and they're looking for whatever help they can get.

I've talked to some people in the department about a week ago, and they had talked to the federal people and there were some fairly expensive trailers in there; I think were being moved to Lake Dauphin. They're maybe going to do some research there, I just don't know what the project in Lake Dauphin is going to be, but there were some older buildings that it was indicated to them that maybe if they were to just sort of disappear in the dark of night that nobody was really concerned. They were kind of glad to clean the site up, so they may get enough buildings there to tide them over this year, but they've got to have some place to put their tanks in. I don't think these were controlled by your department, they were federal. I don't know how many days it takes to get rid of these fingerlings but outside of the rainbow trout that we farm in that area and, incidentally, I think last year which wasn't particularly a good year, I think there was 700,000 or 800,000 fish sold. So you know they grow to about a pound, anywhere from 12 ounces to 16 ounces in from May to October or November.

So it's been a fairly good little venture and it's provided a tremendous amount of good eating fish for those of us that are fortunate enough to live in the area which makes us happy because we can't buy pickerel fillets. They're shipping millions of pounds across the border and they're selling for \$7 or \$8 at Eaton's, but we can't buy a pickerel fillet in our store. You can buy cod or anything from the east coast; you can buy scallops for \$8 a pound, but we can't buy good pickerel that we harvest right here in this province. That is a concern to us and I think the Freshwater Fish people are missing the boat in not really marketing a lot more of that produce right here.

But if the Minister would have a chance to talk to some of the people in his department — these people are carrying on this operation, as I say, with a half-a-million fingerlings this year — they will be doing the studies and keeping records on how they survive and whatnot. That information is going to be available to the department and any support — and everybody nowadays looks for grants, of course, and if they could get a grant they'd be extremely happy. Because to put in a building of the size they should have to put their tanks in and their icing facilities — even a pool building is going to be \$7,000 or \$8,000.00. There's a group of local chaps that just don't have that kind of money to put up for a bit of a hobby; they have all their nets and that now, so they're not making much money on it.

I don't know what the department has done. I'm sure they're continuing to follow this program because I think it does have some basis for profitable venture and it's providing a particularly good product. The Minister may be able to comment and bring me up to date on it, and if he has a sale for 100,000 or 200,000 fingerlings I know the boys would be happy to unload them. They had a sale, I think, for 100,000 to Grand Rapids but the fellow wanted them delivered and they don't have a truck that's capable of delivering 100,000 fingerlings, so there are some problems there and the Minister might like to comment and let me know what has happened up to date.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I have had the opportunity of seeing the Erickson operation when they were holding the trout. I know the enthusiasm for the people that are involved in trout farming and I've tasted the product. It's an excellent resource for the people that have been involved. It's fairly expensive I guess in some respects because of the cost of the fingerlings and the work involved, but it does provide a source of excellent fish, particularly when most of those small lakes or borrow pits or oversized ponds seem to have an abundance of fresh water shrimp, and the trout don't have to be artificially fed, in that area anyway. I appreciate what the honourable member said in respect to the difficulties that may be faced by the organizers there, that organization. I can't remember the name of the group, but in any event my department I'm sure has contact with them and in the event, if they have problems, and we can assist them in any way we'll certainly want to consider that. It's a question of whether the fingerlings could be fitted into any stocking program that we might have on at the time.

In respect to the concern about the development of sports fisheries with Tourism, the observation is well made. My understanding is from my staff that the staff of the sports fisheries section of the department works very closely with Tourism because this is one of the prime attractions for tourists to our waters.

In respect to the observation about the insufficiency of fines, I share the honourable member's concern. I think perhaps too often the people that make the decision don't appreciate the effect that a sizable fine would have as a deterrent. I think that sufficient publicity and a reasonably significant fine would help to dissuade people from this; it won't eliminate it, but if the scope of the fine or a fine as a deterrent, then a more significant fine might act or ought to act as a more effective deterrent. So I share his concerns. We can't direct to the judiciary any instruction but certainly, I suppose, indirectly through the Attorney-General's Department we can convey a message that we would like to see more sufficient fines. One way that the Attorney-General's Department conveys that message quite forcibly is taking an appeal on disposition of a case, and I don't know whether that's been considered by the department. We could ask them about that.

MR. BLAKE: It's in the cases where there is an obvious breach, where they've taken a fair amount. I know in the areas up north that we promote so well for sport fishing, that all of a sudden you do a count and realize that you're up to your limit so you decide to wind your line in. I mean nine chances out of ten you're going to have another fish there when you bring it in, so you maybe wouldn't want to throw it away. So I'd hate to get myself in a position where I was a victim of my own recommendations.

Just as a point of interest, Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, the area around Minnedosa which I represent; I was born and raised in that area, and I don't think I ever can remember seeing a cormorant until I went into the northern country some time after the war and found out what cormorants were all about, but with the trout farming in our area the cormorants seem to have caught on and it's pretty frustrating for the local

fellows. They drive out Sunday morning and sort of have a look and see how the little fish are doing and they find about 30 cormorants coming out of a little pond, and I'll tell you they're a protected bird; they can't shoot them. It's pretty frustrating for them and of course the blue herrons and the shrikepokes do a pretty good job on them too; so they aren't without their problems.

I'm sure the stocking program is going on, Mr. Chairman, as has been carried on for a number of years. I know we have a — another stream runs through the area and it's well stocked with speckled trout and brown trout and it's a very very popular spot in the season and sometimes out of season unfortunately, but I'm sure those programs are going on unabated or maybe even spiced up a little bit.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's my understanding and one day I'll have to try out that stream with you, the honourable member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Dauphin.

MR. JOHN PLOHMAN (Dauphin): Mr. Chairman, I was encouraged by the former Minister, the Member for Lakeside, in his reference to Lake Fresh Fish Products in Eddystone.

I have been in close contact with that organization through the Regional Development Corporation and I think there's tremendous potential there for the processing of rough fish into a fine product. I know that the Honourable Member for Lakeside has had — obviously he couldn't have just developed those concerns — he must have had concerns such as this over a period of time and while he had a chance to do something with those concerns I'm sure that he carried out some programs to assist that processing of rough fish so there wouldn't be such a waste.

I wonder if the Minister could tell me some of the assistance that's been offered to Lake Fresh Fish Products at Eddystone over the last few years, and in view of the concern that was expressed here in assisting them to develop a product and in the marketing end particularly.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the department has worked with the Lake Fresh people and assisted them in exercising financial opportunities with the local Employment Assistance Program, the lead program that is cost shared with the Federal and Provincial Government, and the ARDA Program, again which is a cost-shared program between the Provincial and the Federal Government and has provided some equipment from the old NASA (sic) fishery facility.

MR. PLOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

I would just ask if there's been direct provincial funding for that organization?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, not through the Fisheries Branch, no.

MR. PLOHMAN: Your staff would not be aware of any other provincial funding or are they just not aware if there was some?

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Chairman, it has been funneled through the two cost-shared programs that I've referred to.

MR. PLOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to add that I feel, as I said earlier, that there is a tremendous potential there and I would like to encourage the Minister to seriously consider anything that he can do to assist.

I know that he has had a presentation from the group there and has tasted their product as he said and I hope that we can develop it because there certainly is a lot of potential not only in the Eddystone area; the Lake Winnipegosis particularly has a large amount of rough fish that goes to waste each year and there is potential on Lake Winnipegosis at Winnipegosis and at Camperville and at Meadow Portage areas as well, so there certainly is a lot of potential for industrial development there.

I want to ask, Mr. Chairman, about some questions that might be a little bit specific and I hope that perhaps the answers can be provided. I would like to know in regard to Lake Dauphin the number of licenses, commercial fishing licenses that are currently issued.

MR. MACKLING: Can I pass that one over and my staff will endeavour to find the answer for that.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, and perhaps the number — what I would like to get at is the number of pounds of fish that are harvested from that lake and whether there has been a decline over the last twenty years, significant decline in that, and then I would like to go on from there on that line of it, Mr. Chairman.

While that information is being researched, I would like to ask some questions on another matter, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I thought perhaps that what I could do is defer answering those and see what the staff could come up with, with the answers, but I thought maybe before the honourable member continued, I'd find out whether it's possible to get those answers tonight. I don't know whether we can. We can't really on some of it. We can just approximate.

MR. PLOHMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, that probably would be sufficient if it could be approximated. I'm not particularly interested in the exact numbers but I'm interested in a trend, and I think it has significance when discussing the overall well-being of Lake Dauphin and I wanted to pursue that a little bit further after getting some information on that. Should I continue with another line for now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe you just better wait till they get this information.
Mr. Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the number of commercial licenses — it's a winter fishery — were 35 commercial licenses — and the number of pounds would be less than 100,000 pounds taken. This is last year, and overall, say, in a 20-year period the honourable member is concerned about, it would be approx-

imately an 85 percent decline in fish taking.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, thank you. I think that indicates the trend, Mr. Chairman. What is this decline? Could the people in fisheries, have they determined what this decline would be attributed to?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member asked about the reasons and the best estimate or rationale that the department has is deterioration of fish habitat, particularly shoreline and stream effects. The department is, in co-operation with the Federal Government, going to be conducting some studies in respect to that this year.

MR. PLOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the department doing anything else in regard to stocking of fish in Lake Dauphin at this time, as well as doing studies on the fact that there is 85 percent loss over the last number of years in the commercial fishery there?

MR. MACKLING: There has been, Mr. Chairman, some pickerel fry stocking in Lake Dauphin, but the department is going to be involved in some pickerel fry rearing in that area. The fry, I assume were not reared in that area, but released in that area in the previous program and there will be some rearing in that area.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, has that got something to do with the movement of the trailers that the Member for Minnedosa was referring to down to the Dauphin area?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, it could be involved in that, but the Federal Research people have other things that they research in there too, presumably in respect to the area related to Lake Dauphin, not just the fish stock itself.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, has the Fisheries Branch determined any solutions to the problem of the decline in the habitat, deterioration of the habitat and the spawning habitat of the fish in Lake Dauphin?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that the reason, or part of the rationale for the study is to formulate a better understanding of what has been happening and to develop a strategy in connection with that decline.

MR. PLOHMAN: That is encouraging, Mr. Minister. I won't prolong this too much longer, I just have a couple of other questions. I wonder if the level of the lake has been determined to be a factor in the health of the lake and the fish population in the lake.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I suspect — my staff indicate that any increase in level of the lake could have positive effects in respect to the capacity of the lake or the health of the fish that are in the lake, but attendant with any increase in level of the lake, you got the concerns of other users of property around the lake, the agricultural users, and so that isn't an easy approach to the problem.

MR. PLOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Minister. On that topic, I know you will be hearing much more about Lake Dauphin over the next few years.

I would like to ask a question about the procedures, Mr. Chairman, for obtaining commercial fishing licences on Manitoba's major lakes. What are the determining factors for a person to get a commercial fishing licence?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, in respect to the lakes generally, it's a matter of the availability of licences themselves, because there is a limited number of licences available, consequent on the estimate of what the capacity of the lakes are and then applicants are judged on the basis of experience and their proximity to the lake; how close they live to the lake and so on. There is only one lake that has a detailed point system, and that is in respect to the commercial fishing licences on Lake Winnipeg. Other than that, the Native fishermen, northern Native in particular, have priority in licencing.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would gather from that then that there a variety of criteria and it varies from lake to lake.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLOHMAN: What are the determining factors for the people on Lake Winnipegosis who would like to obtain a licence?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, given the fact that there is a limited number of licences available on Lake Winnipegosis, that was the lake the honourable member referred to, the experience of the applicant and particularly if you could make an arrangement with someone who is retiring, because if all of the licences continue to be exercised there is little opportunity for someone to get in.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, are you saying, Mr. Minister, that the experience of the applicant and if an arrangement can be made with a current licence holder, that is done privately then, the transfer of the licence.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, it's kind of a yes and a no. The individual would come to an understanding with the holder of the licence that wanted to retire from the fishery, but it would have to be approved through the department and that on recommendation of the local fishermen's association.

MR. PLOHMAN: Is that, Mr. Chairman, the Lake Winnipegosis Fishermen's Advisory Board?

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Chairman, it's the Board of Directors of the Winnipegosis Commercial Operating Fishermen's Association — that's a mouthful.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, is that executive or that board that you are talking about, is that 100 percent made up of fishermen?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's what I understand.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us information as to whether these fishermen are full-time fishermen?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether we'd have that information here, it might not necessarily be the case because I think that might be a winter fishery in part. It's a two-season fishery and there may be some that fish only one season.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, would we be correct in saying that there are very few full-time fishermen?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm given to understand there are 48 summer licences and over 200 winter licences, so the maximum number of full time, if the person fished both the summer and the winter would be 48.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to debate this particular point, but even if they are fishing in the summer it's not really a summer season or winter. In other words, it doesn't occupy the whole year; it's a very small part of the year, the summer season, in the fall, towards the fall, so I believe that most of the commercial fishermen do obtain only part of their living out of fishing.

MR. MACKLING: That may be the case, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to ask about the criteria again for people who are attempting to get into commercial fishing on Lake Winnipegosis. What are the determining factors? You said earlier that the experience of the applicant was one and the other was whether there was another fisherman that was retiring. I don't believe that is the case right now and I'd like some clarification on that. I believe that one of the major criteria utilized is whether or not the person getting into fishing is going to make that his occupation. It is very difficult for people who have held licences for a number of years, for some reason or other had given up that licence for a short period of time, by mistake in some cases, or they just withdrew from fishing for a short time. They live right on the lakeshore and are totally unable to obtain another commercial fishing licence. I would like clarification on the determining factors to obtain a licence on Lake Winnipegosis.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the detail of the honourable member's questions, but I think that it would be to the Committee's advantage if I responded to those concerns in a direct way. I will undertake to ask staff to address the particular problems he's presenting to the Committee in connection with that fishery, and rather than take the time of the entire committee, we'll deal with it in that manner — unless you want to have it on the record.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, having it on the record, it's also bringing to light a very important problem that I feel has to be addressed and it's a problem that existed before you became Minister and I'm making that very clear. I want to bring out the methods that are used for obtaining a licence in that

area, the fact that there are great problems with people who are living right around that lake and who are unable to obtain a commercial fishing licence. I would like to ask then, leading from that, and of course since the answers to my questions were not all there, we have not been able to arrive at a conclusion that I would have liked to have seen in this questioning. But I would like to ask if the department is undertaking any review of this particular problem or if they will first acknowledge, Mr. Minister, if there is a problem with obtaining licences in that area and if there's any review being conducted on the licensing procedures as they pertain to Lake Winnipegosis?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I understand that the department has talked to the local fishery association and I won't endeavour to give it the full name — the Lake Winnipegosis Operating Fishermen's Association — to look at the criteria in connection with licensing, to address the problems that the honourable member has referred to because apparently these observations or complaints have been made through the department. The department has asked the local people in effect, who are concerned about preservation of the fish stock for those who are engaged extensively in fishing operations, to look at that problem and determine whether or not the criteria can be modified or some adjustment made so that those whom the honourable member has referred to as having a desire to fish but being prevented to may be accommodated. The department would rather that the matter be resolved locally than the department coming in a heavy-handed way. I think that's probably a very prudent course of action. However, if the problems cannot be resolved otherwise, I guess the department would have to look into it.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, just to keep this in perspective, this review is being conducted not by the local people in general but by the local fishermen themselves who are currently licence holders.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, could you give us any indication when that report might be made available?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, there is not a formal report, but they are meeting in May and will be addressing those complaints and problems in May.

MR. PLOHMAN: Just in closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister for his patience on this. I would urge the Minister to keep a close eye on that review and also ask for a report on the results of that review by the Fishermen's Association so that he will be aware directly of any changes that might be proposed by that group.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member and yes, we will monitor that situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River East.

MR. PHIL EYLER (River East): I have a couple of

short questions. I've heard and my sources are not from inside the department that somebody is planning to stock the storm water retention ponds in Winnipeg with fish. Is that this department?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the department did facilitate some low-key stocking of some storm reservoirs with perch but that was relatively unsuccessful, so the department is going to concentrate its efforts and respect any stocking within the Red or the Assiniboine Rivers.

MR. EYLER: So there's no intention for trout or anything like that?

MR. MACKLING: No, Mr. Chairman, the expectation is they wouldn't live there.

MR. EYLER: Okay, one other thing. Is this department responsible for testing the fish in the Red River?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, that testing is Federal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. CLAYTON MANNESS (Morris): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, two very short questions. First of all, I thank the Minister for the statistical review he gave us to a nonfisherman and gave me some insight into this industry. One other statistic, though, may prove of value, or at least to me, what are the total number of commercial fishermen in this province?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, 2,368 and there are 1,291 hired personnel making a total involved in the commercial fishery operation of 3,659 as of 1980-81.

MR. MANNESS: Does that mean there were the former or the latter number of licences?

MR. MACKLING: No, 2,368 licences.

MR. MANNESS: Would you have some figures to compare that to, say three years previous?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, we wouldn't have those precise statistics here but I'm advised they wouldn't have changed significantly because the licences are relatively stable.

MR. MANNESS: I twigged onto something that may or may not be of any significance, listening to the line of questioning from the Member for Dauphin and then taking into account that in fact the licences are virtually fixed in number. Has there been any sign of values being attached to the transfer of commercial fishing licences at all?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, there are differences of viewpoint in respect to that value being placed on a licence and there is consultation or dialogue with fishermen about that at the present time.

MR. MANNESS: So it is an emerging problem at this time and one that the industry in itself is concerned

about? Would that be a fair way of stating it?

MR. MACKLING: I wouldn't say, Mr. Chairman, that it's an emerging problem. I think there are differences of viewpoint among the fishermen as to whether or not it would be desirable. Some consider it would be a desirable thing from the point of view of the industry and others think the other way.

Mr. Chairman, I'm now given the previous year's statistics, that is the 1979-80 and there is some variation but not that much. The licences were 2,163 and 1,050 hired men as helpers, making a total of 3,213. So there's approximately 400 more licences, 400 more people involved.

MR. MANNESS: It appears that there's a moderate increase.

MR. MACKLING: Yes.

MR. MANNESS: Would I be right that the individuals that feel that values on licences may be those that presently own them? Would that be a fair statement?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, those people who have licences certainly think that they have a valuable asset. I might say, that although the statistics change they vary in accordance with the industry, whether the prices of fish are up or down, and so on.

MR. MANNESS: Just one final question. Is there any legislative prohibition at this particular time as to value on these licences?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, it's against the law to capitalize licences. It's an annual permit to fish, annual licence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. A.R.(Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just have a few questions to follow up on, the questions posed by the Member for Dauphin. Could the Minister advise how many members are on the Advisory Committee for Lake Winnipegosis?

MR. MACKLING: For Lake Winnipegosis?

MR. ADAM: Yes.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hayden is recalling by names of individuals, he believes that there are six individuals who are on that board who are fishermen, and one who is a citizen representation on the board.

MR. ADAM: Could the Minister, Mr. Chairman, advise whether these are elected people or are there appointees?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that these gentlemen were elected to the board some years back and the board has been inactive for quite a long time but there will be an election, probably next year.

MR. ADAMS: It would seem, Mr. Chairman, there are about 250 fishermen on the lake, 200 winter fishermen and 45 summer fishermen. The board members, is there a mix of winter fishermen and summer fishing, or all of the one group?

MR. MACKLING: They are mixed.

MR. ADAMS: Could the Minister advise how much fish a fisherman has to sell in order to maintain his licence? Is there a criteria as far as the amount of fish?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that for the summer fishery there is a lake quota at 960,000 pounds and each fisherman has been allowed 20 lifts. But the poundage that has been taken by the fishermen in those 20 lifts has not matched the quota because of a relative deficiency in fish stock in the lake.

MR. ADAMS: On the matter of fish stocking, there used to be a program for putting fish fry into dugouts that are in close proximity to the lake, stocking the fish there. There's ten ponds?

MR. MACKLING: The pond operation is ongoing. I think the past year there were seven ponds. It depends on the depth of the ponds and whether jack fish or pike get in them.

MR. ADAM: On the matter of licenses, is it possible for a fishermen to hold a license on two lakes?

MR. MACKLING: Not during the same season, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADAM: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Gimli.

MR. JOHN M. BUCKLASCHUK (Gimli): Mr. Minister, my questions deal with Lake Winnipeg. Can I have some indication of the number of commercial fishermen on Lake Winnipeg?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, this may be not precise, but 800 fishermen fishing 1200 licenses.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: Further to this, Mr. Minister, can you provide me with an indication of the number of Conservation Officers that are employed in the Lake Winnipeg area to see that the regulations of the department are enforced?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, ten or eleven on a regular basis and then that number is supplemented from time to time depending on the seasonality of the fishery.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: A further question, this information may be difficult to obtain, but is there any indication on the number of inspections that take place in a given year?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, we'll be dealing with that under Regional Services under Conservation

Officers, and so I'll ask staff to make note of that question and when we come up to that perhaps we will have the staff person with that information.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: This refers to something that was alluded to previously and it involves some experiments that are carried on at Lake Winnipeg where fishermen are allowed quotas in certain bays or pockets.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, that's right, Mr. Chairman, there are some localized pickerel areas in Lake Winnipeg.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: Can the Minister confirm that there was such an area designated in the Grand Rapids area last fall?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, last fall there was a fall fishery allowed for 50 licensed fishermen to fish 320,000 pounds of whitefish and pickerel mix. It was an additional season permitted last fall in the north end of Lake Winnipeg.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: Mr. Minister, you said the north end of Lake Winnipeg. Is that in the Grand Rapids area specifically?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: A further question, was this particular area considered to be a prime or a good spawning ground for whitefish?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that relatively speaking all of the north end of Lake Winnipeg is considered to be whitefish spawning area. The east side of the north end of Lake Winnipeg, probably the best whitefish spawning area, but as I said generally speaking that is the spawning area, the north end.

MR. BUCKLASCHUK: One final question, can the Minister confirm that this experiment was permitted to be carried on at that particular part of Lake Winnipeg despite the objections of biologists within the department?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that there were concerns by some biologists who had never been in that area — oh, pardon me — I'm sorry, I must correct that on the record.

There was concern by some biologists about the protection of the whitefish spawning areas, but the seasons were established with a view to avoiding the spawning time and the department felt that the fishery would not interfere with the spawning time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question that maybe while we have Mr. Hayden here, I could get an answer too. The Norway House area, the fishermen in there are allowed to fish Playgreen Lake and that whole particular area, but a particularly lucrative area is the north end of the lake apparently in season and they're not allowed to fish in

there. Could the Minister maybe tell us the rationale for not licensing those fishermen to fish the north end of the lake. When the people from Gimli travel a couple of hundred miles to come up there, those chaps are right there. I'm sure he's heard of that before.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm given to understand that when the Lake Winnipeg Fishery is closed because of the mercury limits that had been established, the fishermen who were fishing in the Playgreen Lake area had at that time had not been fishing in Lake Winnipeg. Therefore, when Lake Winnipeg was reopened for the fishery, they had not established qualifications for Lake Winnipeg Fishery.

MR. BLAKE: What is the qualification?

MR. MACKLING: The qualification, of course, for Lake Winnipeg Fishery was having worked or fished the lake one or two years before the Lake Winnipeg Fishery closure and these fishermen had not worked or fished Lake Winnipeg.

MR. BLAKE: That gives me an answer anyway. I just can't really see why something couldn't be worked out to allow maybe some of the good fishermen that want to fish that area, license them in some way to do it.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, there are only so many fishing licences and there has to be some determinants and those people who had been fishing in Lake Winnipeg, they were given the priority in licensing once the lake was reopened. You have to set some guidelines and standards; they were considered fair.

MR. BLAKE: I am thinking of the proximity, you know, they are right there.

MR. MACKLING: I appreciate that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(a)(1) Salaries—pass; 8.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 8.(b)(1) Salaries—pass; 8.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 8.(c)(1) Salaries—pass; 8.(c)(2)—pass; 8.(d) Salaries—pass; 8.(d)(2) Expenditures—pass; 8.(e)(1) Salaries — the Member for-Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, the question of fish mesh size is one that is a perennial one and, of course, causes the department a considerable amount of work, first of all, in the enforcement of the regulations as they are currently in place. I suppose one should be very careful, I am sure that the vast majority of commercial fishermen who are well aware that these regulations are there for sound reason and in the interest of ensuring the continual harvest of fish in the occupation that they're engaged in go along with these regulations, but of course there are always some that try to circumvent them and that keeps our enforcement people busy.

However, Mr. Chairman, again drawing on my short experience with the branch, there were certain factors that added to, in my judgment, at least laid some additional responsibility on mesh size problems, not

just at the fishermen's door. I'm not speaking about the fishermen that were deliberately attempting to circumvent the regulations but there have been some difficulties in the manufacturing, in the supply of nets and in their standards, their uniformity of standards, where legitimate differences of opinion arose as to who was at fault. The mesh was sold under certain circumstances that indicated that they were of legal size, and yet when the enforcement officers came upon them in use on the lakes and were measured were found to be of illegal size.

I know that the department has, I think, tried to respond to these problems in a reasonably fair and sensitive way, but I indicate to the Minister that's an irresponsibility that I think cannot be entirely laid on the shoulders of the fishermen. I have always been of the belief that the persons who are in the business of selling the nets certainly share some of that responsibility. In fact, it would seem to me that it would be and, indeed, I would support amendments to legislation that would enable enforcement officers to walk into the premises of wholesalers or suppliers of nets and ensure that illegal nets are not for sale in Manitoba. It seems to me that caught at the source would prevent some of these difficulties.

One other item that I raise at this time, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister is that there seems to have been some difficulty in coming up with a relatively easy, effective and inexpensive way of measuring these nets. The department people have an instrument that is currently in use. I'm not an expert in the matter so I won't pass a definitive judgment on it, but the fact of the matter is that the Allan measurement tool, I believe that is being referred to, is disputed by some fishermen as to its accuracy under certain conditions. It's a spring-loaded mechanism of some kind and furthermore it's a relatively expensive item.

Mr. Chairman, we are dealing here with people that are involved in an industry that at the best of times for the vast majority of them isn't all that lucrative. I know that there are individual fishermen that are making good returns. Also, I think so the availability of the measuring device would be more universal, I would encourage the department to spend some dollars in developing a fairly simple disc, a fairly simple item there somehow. Surely in our day and age we should be able to establish relatively easily and relatively quickly and inexpensively as to whether or not the size of the mesh of a net is 3-3/4 inches or 4 inches, whatever the regulations call for.

I know the fisheries' people have looked at this. I know that they are aware of this problem. I merely take this opportunity to point this out to the Minister and ask him to pursue the matter. I think it is worthwhile. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member. I think there are two great constructive suggestions and I have asked the staff to make note of them. I share with him his concerns about dealing with problem areas in respect to mesh size at these source or the closer to the source rather than out in the lake. In respect to the measuring device, I'll certainly look into that and we'll see whether or not there is a much more simple and more direct way that can

be handled.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(e)(1) Salaries—pass; 8.(e)(2) Other Expenditures; (f)(1) Salaries — the Member for Springfield.

MR. ANDY ANSTETT (Springfield): Just a quick question, Mr. Chairman. Near the Ontario-Manitoba border, there is a lake called High Lake which I understand is a Lake Trout lake. Most of it is in Ontario; a small portion of it is in Manitoba. I understand, Mr. Chairman, that there have been some infractions on that lake of sports-fishing rules recently. The infractions have been charged by Ontario wardens and it is alleged by the fishermen involved that the only reason there were infractions is because of the boundary between Ontario and Manitoba not being adequately marked on the lake and had they stayed in Manitoba, they wouldn't have been in trouble. I'm not sure of the nature of the infractions, but I am just wondering if that was the problem. If it was, if there is anything that can be done to remedy it, such as perhaps putting some shore markers on to mark the boundary — since slightly different rules as I understand it apply in the two provinces. I am not suggesting that we draw a line.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is correct that there have been apparently problems and this is not the only lake where there's another jurisdiction, and the department is endeavouring to work out some sort of reciprocal arrangements in there, rather than the more expensive and maybe aesthetically, not as aesthetically attractive boundary marking. If there can be a reciprocal arrangement in respect to fishing, sports fishing on border lakes, we're going to try that route first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The member for Minnedosa.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Chairman, just on that, I have fished that lake many times. The key there is to make sure you get a Manitoba boat when you're fishing there; it always observes the borderline.

I really want to make a comment under Item 2. Other Expenditures, Mr. Chairman. Hopefully the Session will adjourn while we're in the height of the fishing season, and Mr. Driedger and I may have a little spare time and if we could offer our services to the management group it wouldn't cost much to put us on the odd lake and let us try it out. We could call a report for them and it would be a . . .

MR. MACKLING: Harry and I have got that locked out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(f)(1) Salaries—pass; 8.(f)(2) Other Expenses—pass; 8.(g)(1) Salaries—pass; 8.(g)(2)—pass; 8.(g)(3) Recoverable from Northern Affairs—pass; 8.(h) — The Member for Arthur.

MR. JAMES E. DOWNEY(Arthur): Mr. Chairman, I have one question on the Northern Fishermen's Freight Assistance Program. How is that assistance applied; is it applied specifically to the individual fisherman, or really what is this program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm given to understand that the subsidy is a maximum of 10 cents per pound on transportation costs of fish in excess of five cents a pound. In other words, if the actual transportation costs of the fish were 10 cents a pound, there would be a five cent subsidy. —(Interjection)— There'd be a maximum of a 10 cent subsidy. —(Interjection)— Well, it's not statutory, and the subsidy is paid out on the basis of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation records to individual fishermen, or where there is a unit fisherman, a group of fishermen, and by mutual consent it could be paid out to the group of operators.

MR. DOWNEY: How many people use it, is it a fairly important?

MR. MACKLING: Well \$342,600.00.

MR. DOWNEY: All expended last year?

MR. MACKLING: Last year about \$300,000.00.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay, that's okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(h)—pass; 8.(j) — the Member from Arthur.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the last administration, there was some discussions between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources on the transferring of the operation of this loans program, the administration of it, to the Manitoba Agricultural Credit Corporation. Is that still in process or are plans still to carry on with that move?

MR. MACKLING: Apparently, Mr. Chairman, the present administration of the program is under MACC, but the money is voted under Natural Resources, and there's still some difference of viewpoint apparently as to a complete transfer of the programs to Agriculture.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, that's okay at this particular time. It has to be administered and the money has to be some place. The question is, is there still work being done? Apparently there is, discussions must still be going on. The staff are indicating that there is still discussions going on and that satisfies me at this particular time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(j)—pass.

Resolution 108: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,247,400 for Natural Resources, Fisheries, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1983—pass.

What is the wish of the Committee?

MR. MACKLING: Committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.

SUPPLY — NORTHERN AFFAIRS ENVIRONMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

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

Committee will come to order. We're here to consider the Estimates of Northern Affairs, Environment Workplace Safety and Health. Begin with Item No. 1 Executive, 1.(a) Minister's Salary — the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. JAY COWAN (Churchill): Mr. Chairperson, it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to have the honour of introducing to the House these Estimates of Expenditure for the Department of Northern Affairs, the Environmental Management Division and the Workplace Safety and Health Division for the upcoming fiscal year.

I want to use this opportunity to assure the members of this Legislature and through them the people of Manitoba that we will attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of our spending plans for the next 12-month period. At the same time, we will endeavour to answer those specific questions which are addressed to us to the best of our ability. As well, during the course of this examination we will be outlining those major initiatives which we will be undertaking over the next few months and indeed over the next few years.

We welcome this chance to discuss these programs and these projects in an open and frank way and to share with Manitobans our hopes and our aspirations. We undertake this objective because we know full well that the economic times which confront us will place special demands and strains upon each of us to use our limited resources in the most effective and the most efficient way possible.

We also recognize the valuable role that the official Opposition can play in providing suggestions and constructive criticisms. This is especially true in this year when they have played such an influential role in developing the spending plans which you have before you, for these are truly transitional Estimates. The timing of their preparation, coupled with the timing of the recent election, offer a unique combination. In effect, these spending plans are actually hybrids; they are in a large part based upon the spending plans of the previous government. At the same time, we have attempted to include into them a number of our urgent priorities and programs. So they are neither fish nor fowl and for that reason it can be said that they highlight the new government's priorities, while at the same time they clearly acknowledge the previous administration's influence.

I believe it is necessary to take a brief look at the history of the Department of Northern Affairs, if one is to put this year's spending plans in the proper perspective. I must add at this point, I will only be dealing at this stage with the Department of Northern Affairs. I will deal more thoroughly with the Environmental Management Division Plans and the Workplace Safety and Health Division Estimates as I present those specific items to the House. So I intend to provide similar overviews and general introductory comments at that time.

But to go back to the Department of Northern Affairs specifically, in November of 1972, the department gained the status of a Provincial Government department. The present Northern Affairs Act received Royal Assent in June of 1974. The department has jurisdiction in respect to 50 communities which are located north of a line which starts at just below the

53rd parallel on the western side of the province and in a somewhat zig-zag fashion crosses the province to a point just south of the 51st parallel on the eastern border. There are approximately 11,000 residents in those Northern Affairs communities. All communities on and north of this line, except for those wildlife management areas, provincial forests, municipalities, local government districts, cities and towns, and Indian reserves are considered to be Northern Affairs communities.

The recognition of the many special demands placed upon any government by the historical circumstances and the geographical and economic structures of Northern Manitoba was essential to the development of this new department. Correspondingly, the passage of The Northern Affairs Act provided the legislative mechanisms by which this department operates.

So, while it has had a short history, the department has in fact experienced many changes, not all of which have been positive. Starting with a staff of approximately 50 employees, the department grew rapidly reaching a total of 332 permanent employees and 215.26 term employees by the fiscal year of 1981-82. This rapid growth created new demands upon government as awareness of options was increased through training and program delivery. This growth was not accomplished without experiencing certain difficulties and, of course, without certain strains being placed upon the department as it reached out to meet these escalating but justifiable demands.

As well, this expansion was made easier at that time by an expanding economy and the subsequent ability of the government at that day, the Schreyer government, to direct significant sums of money towards the formation and development of this newly created department.

With the change in government, an election of a Conservative administration, this growth came to an abrupt halt. There were numerous firings and layoffs and the transfer of existing functions from the Department of Northern Affairs to other line departments. For example, in the fiscal year of 1977-78, the last year of the Schreyer government, the budget of the department was \$14,806,400.00. That figure by the way, excludes Northlands programming. In other words, that was the figure which was budgeted for program delivery for that department and excluded the Northlands programming which was budgeted for delivery by other departments.

Using that same criteria for the fiscal year of 1980-81, which was the last year of the Conservative Government, that amount had actually fallen to a total of \$10,294,300.00. At the same time, the department was stripped of its co-ordinating role for northern programs. Programs such as extension services, the Churchill Prefab Housing Plan and the Minago Contractors were totally eliminated. Many government functions such as the construction of winter roads, the maintenance of winter roads and construction of water and sewer facilities were placed in other departments. These significant alterations to both the purpose and the functioning of the Department of Northern Affairs had a profound impact on the daily lives of northern Manitobans. These changes were also built into the Estimates which were on my desk

the day I assumed my office.

Since that time we have or we will be asking for an increase in the staff of the department of a total of 7.26 staff. I hasten to add that this is not a major increase, but it is what we believe to be a judicious application of our resources to allow for the implementation of our campaign promises and, as well, to lay the basis for restoring to Northern Manitoba many of the services and programs which it needs and which it deserves.

As well, we have through increased spending and expanded programming highlighted several priority areas. The first of these is our intention to provide adequate support to enable Northern Affairs communities to assume a greater self-governing status and by that process to take greater control over their own destiny. To fully understand the complexity and the urgency of this important task, it is necessary to briefly provide an historical backdrop to those actions.

When the department was first formed in the early '70's, there were 23 self-administering communities and 24 which were held in trust. At that time, there were no jointly administered communities. Last year, there were only 20 communities with a self-administering capacity and 27 were held in trust and 4 were under joint administration. Obviously, this trend away from self-government has to be reversed. The new government has already begun to accomplish this by returning to two communities, South Indian Lake and Camperville, self-administering status.

Over the next year, we hope to increase the number of self-administering communities to a total of 26. At the same time, we hope to take seven communities out of a trust status, the extra community of course being placed in a joint administration status. But turning a community into a self-administering community is more than just signing an Order-in-Council and offering best wishes to the members of that community. That is why we repressed a significant increase in the community operations component of the Local Government Development section. This increase will allow for increased honourariums for locally elected officials as recognition of their increased responsibilities. It is important to note that this is the first such increase since the formation of the department.

We also intend to institute a Community Employment Benefits Program which will provide a pension and life insurance plan for community clerks. I'm especially pleased with this new program as it provides greater recognition to the role which a community clerk plays in helping the communities they seek to serve. This new benefits plan will follow very closely that plan which currently exists for municipal employees.

We have also identified in this year's Estimates three new staff positions which will be filled with training officers. These new training officers will work with existing staff to expand and to enhance our support services to communities as they move towards greater self-government. It is hoped that with these new initiatives we will significantly further the cause of self-government for all Northern Affairs communities.

You will also note that there is an increase in the Executive Section of the Estimates. This includes a number of added costs which reflect the fact that all the salary and all the expenses of the Minister of Northern Affairs will now be accounted for in a single

department. This compares with the system that was in place last year when the Minister for Northern Affairs was also the Minister for Municipal Affairs and those costs were shared equally between those two departments.

But also included under this particular function in the Estimates is the funding necessary for the development and the implementation of a Native Land Claims Commission as was promised in the recent Throne Speech.

My Legislative Assistant, the Member for Rupertsland, is already involved in preliminary consultations with a number of groups and individuals as we begin to put together this innovative and important approach to resolving outstanding land claims for Indian Bands within Manitoba. It is also important to note that this commission will also be addressing the issue of Metis land claims within the province.

This government is also enthusiastic about the overtures which have been made to us and which we have made in return to Native organizations throughout this province in respect to setting up official and comprehensive lines of communications between those organizations and individuals in the Province of Manitoba. There is now in place a Native Affairs Committee of Cabinet, which has met, and will be meeting with individuals and organizations representing Indian and Metis Manitobans.

As an indication of the importance we have placed on this improved process of communication, the Premier, himself, chairs the Native Affairs Committee. As Minister for Northern Affairs, I am honoured to be vice-chairperson and Co-ordinating Minister for that committee.

I believe that this open door approach at the highest level of government will immensely improve relationships between the Native people of Manitoba and the Provincial Government. As well, it will provide a new opportunity for the frank and open exchange of ideas, suggestions and criticisms. At the same time it will ensure that the Provincial Government is taking a co-ordinated approach to some very complex and complicated issues which affect Native people.

Many of these issues which affect all northerners, as well, are going to test the abilities of all of us over the next number of years. Foremost among them will be the challenge of providing productive and fulfilling employment in Northern Manitoba for Northern Manitobans. That is why the Department of Northern Affairs is now examining ways and means by which we can ensure that northern Manitobans who wish to work have the opportunity to exercise that wish. We know that there's not one single or simple approach or action which upon its own will accomplish this worthy goal. The answer to structural and chronic and historical unemployment in the north must be a package of short-term and long-term programs. Correspondingly as a government we are developing just such a package; one that recognizes the immediate needs and at the same time develops a foundation for longer-term programs.

We'll be bringing forward a series of actions to allow for and to encourage this necessary growth. One part of that package will always be short-term emergency programs such as the Winter Works Program which we recently implemented.

The members opposite often take great delight in criticizing these programs, but I can assure them that for all the weakness of that approach and for the limited nature of that approach, programs such as the recent one mean a great deal to those northerners who have not had the opportunity for gainful employment for even a short period of time. So while we don't want to rely upon them, nor do we over value their effect, we do recognize that these sorts of short-term emergency programs meet very time and place specific needs. For that reason, they must be a part of the entire package.

There are a number of other new and expanded initiatives in the Northern Affairs Department Estimates such as the Fire Control Program and the Community Operations Program which we will address throughout the debate. I don't want members opposite to misinterpret the emphasis which has been placed on certain programs and policies in these introductory remarks. I don't mean to reflect poorly on any program or any aspect of the Department of Northern Affairs activities by not dwelling in great length on any specific program.

However, I'm certain that members of the Opposition are anxious to put their thoughts into the record and I don't want to prevent them from doing so this evening by taking up too much of the time by outlining those programs when we very soon will have the chance to review them in detail. But in closing, I do want to address one crucial area and that is the ongoing negotiations between the Provincial and Federal Governments on the Northlands of the Northern Development Agreement and the Special ARDA Agreement.

These two agreements are extremely important to the long-term development in Northern Manitoba. The Special ARDA Agreement which expires March 31 of this year is in the final stages in negotiations, and I expect to be able to discuss the specifics of those negotiations in the very near future. The Northlands Agreement on the other hand has had a somewhat rockier past, and as most of you who are here tonight are aware, we are now in the midst of a number of amendments which have been put in place as a result of the previous government and the Federal Government being unable to reach an agreement to continue the Northlands Agreement. That is a situation we faced upon assuming office a few short months ago. Since that time I've met with both the Honourable Pierre DeBane and the Honourable Herb Gray to discuss the options for a new agreement.

During those months my Legislative Assistant has been conducting a series of consultation meetings with northern and Native groups and individuals. We have undertaken this consultation process because we believe it is important that those who will be most affected by any new Provincial Federal Agreement have an opportunity to speak to the nature of that agreement. We know that they possess great experience and expertise and we hope that they will provide that to us, and we know they have provided that to us through the consultation process.

We have sought their input because we know so well the value of their input. We have listened to them because the story they have to tell is one that contains great wisdom and insight.

They have told us many things over the past few months. They have told us that the old agreement was well intentioned and useful, but now the time has come to improve upon that which needs change and to expand on that which has been found to be successful.

They have set both the Federal and the Provincial Government to a difficult but worthwhile task. Staff have now taken that direction and are attempting to put together a comprehensive and complete package which will be acceptable to both senior levels of government. I can assure you that we are doing all that is within our power to insure that not only do we listen to those whom we seek to serve, but that we pay heed to their words and to their advice.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, I want to thank my staff who have given me capable and dedicated service over the past few months, and assure them that I'm looking forward in the future to working with them as we move closer to putting in place those goals, which I know all of the members of this House seek and wish to have put in place.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed, if I could direct the members' attention to the visitors gallery. We have 13 visitors from the St. James Constituency, the 27th Brownie Pack from Linwood School. These visitors are from the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources constituency.

We welcome you here this evening.

SUPPLY - NORTHERN AFFAIRS (Continued)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, at the outset I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Member for Churchill on being appointed to Cabinet and to serve as Minister of Northern Affairs, and also the many other responsibilities that he has on the Executive Council. I can assure the Honourable Minister that I wish him well in his endeavors and the very important responsibilities that he has undertaken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The debate is not finished on the Minister's Salary. I believe it is customary to allow members of your staff in when the debate is being completed on the Minister's Salary. We have an opening statement on the Minister's Salary at the beginning.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I also recognize the important and dedicated work of the senior staff, the administration, the field staff; not only in Thompson but the other offices that are located throughout the province. I realize, of course, that the Deputy Minister, Dale Stewart and the Assistant Deputy Minister Reg Robson are no longer with the Department of Northern Affairs. They are serving the government in other departments of government.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the important role played by Dave Tomasson, who served as Direc-

tor of Agreements Management, and his work and knowledge related in the many and varied problems of the Indian and Metis people, particularly in Northern Manitoba and especially in the areas of land claims and the Northern Flood Agreement.

Members opposite who are now the government have continuously promoted more commitments to local government in the northern communities and more local control over budgets and capital spending. Again the Minister made reference to these points tonight, and I don't argue with this objective. However, after having said that, I would hope that the current Minister would benefit by the experience and mistakes of his current Deputy Minister, who was Minister of Northern Affairs for a number of years.

During the term of office of our government from 1977-81, millions of dollars were spent in endeavouring to rectify some of the projects that were introduced by the former NDP administration, and again the Minister made reference to these in his opening remarks, and I would like to just dwell for a moment on some of these.

Water and sewer program; when we took office in 1977, I wasn't the Minister at that time, but I understand that there were approximately three functional water and sewer systems in the northern communities out of some twenty odd installations that had been worked on prior to 1977. Some of the examples of the problems was the water intakes were downstream from the sewer outlets. There were pump houses and the pump houses were built below flood level, so you can appreciate the problems that this would create in some of the northern communities. It was very costly to correct some of these installations after they had been placed in that kind of manner.

The arenas at Wabowden and Norway House, these were handled by local communities, for the most part on their own and this is fine, but there was a lack of supervision from Northern Affairs staff obviously. As I mentioned, they were greatly over-expended. They spent a lot more to complete these buildings than was originally budgeted. When they thought they were finished, there was no occupancy permit obtained, and again I don't blame or fault the communities for this as much as I do the Northern Affairs people who should have insisted that the Department of Labour had been contacted to get occupancy permits before these buildings were occupied, so fortunate for all of us, that there was no serious accidents occurred, with the result that inspections had to be undertaken at a later date and there was serious deficiencies in both the Wabowden and Norway House Arenas. They were of similar construction and they were handled under the same manner and there was just not close enough supervision paid to these structures.

In order to correct these deficiencies in these two arenas it cost the Department of Northern Affairs and the people of Manitoba over \$1 million. Two buildings that had only been opened for a short period of time, had originally cost more than had been expected, and then another million dollars had to put into them to bring them up to labour code standards.

Another example, the South Indian Lake homes and store, and some of the improvements to foundations on the homes, and these homes were new in 1975. We've spent over a million dollars putting in new

foundations on some 65 or 70 homes in the South Indian Lake Community. I just forget the exact amount of money that is required to fix up the community store that is operated by the Community of South Indian Lake, but here is another million dollars that went in to rectify the situation at South Indian Lake.

So in the four years, we were required to spend millions of dollars trying to correct the facilities and services that people became dependent on. That money could well have been used to provide other facilities and services to other communities in the North that we didn't get very much credit, actually we didn't get any credit at all, we got criticized for not doing many things in the North, but as I say, we spent millions of dollars trying to correct some of the projects that had been undertaken by the administration that was ahead of us.

The NDP policies and philosophy in the past has discouraged private developments in Manitoba and their previous record is really proof of that. For instance, the last three years of the NDP administration, 1974 to 1977, they had created some 10,000 jobs, of which 8,000 were in the public sector and approximately 2,000 were in the private sector. Compared to the first three years of the P.C. administration in 1978 to 1981, where 30,000 new jobs were created, of which 27,000 were in the private field and only 3,000 in the public service.

Mining exploration, well known to everyone I'm sure, was almost non-existent during the NDP era. Hydro development came to a halt in mid-1977, which had been maintained longer than it should have been as an economic stimulus to the province. As a result, the only kinds of jobs for the most part in the North were government make-work projects. I don't knock this completely, but we had to actually end up scrapping most of them and the Minister made reference to some of them - the Minago Contractors, Mystic Creek Logging, the Churchill Prefab Plant, Athapap Builders and Pukatawagan Log Builders. These were costing an enormous drain on the provincial taxpayers; there was no hope of them ever becoming self-sufficient, or at least that's the way it looked back in 1977-78, but we did take a very close look at all of those projects that were put in place and there were some of them that we did maintain - the Moose Lake Loggers, which has turned out very well, and has operated in the black since 1978; Channel Area Logger experienced a very similar type of operation to Moose Lake Loggers, but it was in a different location in the province. Granted there are a lot of general topography problems in the area of Berens River where the Channel Area operation is maintained at Berens River. I just can't think of the actual location point — south of Berens River — but again the management was lacking with the Channel Area Loggers.

Another main problem was the absenteeism. Now these projects were started, all of them, to supply employment to northerners in the Northern Affairs' areas. In the case of the Channel Area Loggers, there are some 70 or 80 jobs available there of which a third are handled by the Metis population in the area and another third to the reservations. Another third is handled by private contractors that come in from the outside. This was originally not set up and when I came into the department in 1979, I know that the

management there had experienced a continuous problem with absenteeism. They couldn't get their production up to where they had projected and for the most part, jobs were going, wanting there, and it was costing Channel Area Loggers somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$120,000 \$130,000 a year because the production couldn't be brought up to where the projections were made.

However, Channel Area Loggers is still operating and I'm not up to date on the current situation with Channel Area Loggers this year although I know that another private contractor was brought into the area to try and get the production up to make up the commitment that had been made to Abitibi. As I understand it, the production has gone very well; however, there's been other problems in the marketing and the marketing for pulp, of course, has not been the greatest during the last 12 months.

Another project that was kept alive was the Communities Economic Development Fund. This provided high-risk capital to entrepreneurs in the north and remote areas and I would say that in our four year in office that the CEDF has shown probably the best job creation and/or retention during those past four years. I would expect the current year probably is a record for the number of jobs that have been created or retained through financing of projects through the Communities Economic Development Fund.

During the past couple of years and perhaps longer, the current Minister has accused the former administration of gradually seeking more centralized control over community responsibilities. I know a number of times, he's used the examples of South Indian Lake and the Camperville communities to substantiate his claims. What about the mass resignation of the Council at South Indian Lake? The main reason, they claim, was interference over the awarding of a garbage contract and I believe at that particular instant — the Council have guidelines to follow, they advertised for a garbage collector; they got five quotations or tenders — but they chose to not take the lowest one. The lowest one obviously was in a position to handle the contract, but they awarded it to one that was, I think, some \$2,000 or \$3,000 higher. Of course, the staff from Northern Affairs naturally interfered in this because it wasn't following the guidelines that had been established. So, the Council resigned en masse and an area manager was appointed together with a co-ordinator to examine the whole South Indian Lake situation and with respect to the garbage which sort of brought on the resignations, it was found that there were thousands of dollars of unauthorized expenditures and bills that had not been paid. So, I think that this would be completely irresponsible to let this sort of thing go unchecked.

I am very pleased the Minister has announced that the elections took place in February and there's a new council in place. I'm sure that we're all interested in seeing them fulfill this role and hopefully that they'll continue to operate under a self-administrating situation.

The Camperville situation was another one that has been cited. The Mayor and Council chose to ignore The Northern Affairs Act regulations and set their own indemnities well in excess of the maximum allowed and they also approved numerous other

unauthorized expenditures. They defied instructions from me, as Minister, to repay these accounts and again this sort of thing could not be tolerated and subsequently, they were placed in joint administration. It's just as simple as that, I think, a very straightforward situation and it would happen as well in an incorporated municipality if this sort of thing went on.

If communities are serious about managing their own affairs, they have to act in a responsible manner and if they chose not to be, the onus is on you, Mr. Minister, to protect not only the citizens of those communities, but the taxpayers of this province.

I would hope that this Minister will not go back to the old NDP arrangements of a Department of Northern Manitoba, as he indicated at the start, when he was going back over the historical reference. Saskatchewan has fallen into this trap and is now apparently trying to work its way out of it to try and divorce themselves of a lot of the responsibilities that they've built up and taken on in the Department of Northern Saskatchewan. So, I hope that your new administrator doesn't lead you and the people of this province astray.

I'd just like to briefly comment on some of the comments made by the Minister of Northern Affairs in his opening remarks. He indicated that there was a Lands Claim Commission appointed to look at the outstanding land claims by the Treaty Indians and Metis people and I think this is commendable. However, I think that as I recall a lot of the Indian reservations had not identified a lot of the land area that they wished to participate in.

The Native Affairs Committee of Cabinet is similar to a subcommittee of Cabinet that we had as well to deal with issues affecting the Indian people as well as the Metis people. Certainly, members on this side would be interested in getting more information re employment package that the Minister made reference to and certainly we want to take some time to go over the line by line entries in the Estimates and we would like to find out a little more about the consultation process that the Minister made reference to and his Executive Assistant has been working on.

We'd be very interested in seeing the types of activities that have been identified through this most recent consultation process to see how they differ from the number of activities that we had identified in the submission that had been refused by the Federal Government in developing a new Northern Development Agreement.

So, Mr. Chairman, those are the comments I have at this time but we will be dealing on the line-by-line as we go through the Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed with Item 1.(b) Salaries and Wages further, I believe it's customary to allow the Minister to bring in some departmental officials. If you'd like to do that at this time.

MR. KOVNATS: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. KOVNATS: I see my associate getting up to speak. Will he be speaking on 1.(a) sort of on an open subject, or will he be going to the next line?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is my understanding that it is customary to have opening statements on both sides and then proceeding to Item 1. (b) Salaries and Wages.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection if, either at this time or when the staff were in here, the Member for Pembina wishes to make some general comments. As a matter of fact I'd appreciate his comments at this time and would not want to unduly restrict him. Without violating the procedures and the rules of the House, I just wish you to know that I have no objection whatsoever to that sort of a general comment at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm assuming that it would be possible for any member to make any comments at this time under 1. (b) Salaries and Wages. The discussions in here have tended to be rather broad-ranging and we certainly wouldn't want to limit debate.

The Member for Concordia.

MR. PETERFOX (Concordia): Mr. Chairman, on the point of procedure, I believe the Member for Niakwa is correct.

Our procedure has been that there was an opening statement and an opening statement in reply from the other side; and then we proceeded item by item. I have no objection to any one person making a statement, but I do believe if we give the Honourable Member for Pembina, then we've got to give everyone else the same chance, and maybe even I would want to make a 30-minute presentation; not necessarily that I'm an expert on Northern Affairs, but it's just the thing that we have a procedure and I think we should try to stay with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just in response to the Member for Concordia, I have just indicated that although we're on Item 1. (b), there would certainly be no intent on my part to limit discussion and that the debate in the preceding Ministry was very wide-ranging and I hope that would continue. —(Interjection)— It's unanimous then? The Member for Pembina.

MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina): Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that I missed the first portion of the Minister's remarks. The Minister made, I believe, some general statements and I might be unfair in summarizing them from the standpoint that from the period of 1969 to 1977 everything was done well in Northern Manitoba in the Department of Northern Affairs. I'm summarizing and paraphrasing the impression one might get.

He said specifically there were problems, but those problems, if I might paraphrase the Minister and he can correct me if I have not, that they were handled much better from 1969 to 1977 than from 1977 to 1981 would be a what a general recommendation or a general theory that the Minister put forward. He mentioned a couple of very laudable goals and those being in the area of self-government, which my colleague the Member for Swan River, has commented on. He mentioned some specific areas in which he identified a problem, and I think my colleague, the Member for Swan River, in his term as Minister, addressed those problems in probably the only way that was possible

and we will support this Minister in his efforts to achieve that laudable goal of self-government amongst the communities in Northern Manitoba.

We would not want to see the Minister overlook some of the circumstances that cause some of the actions that his predecessor took at the communities mentioned, because the laudable goal of self-government carries with it the responsibility of doing things correctly and in the best interests of the citizens in those communities. If from time to time that self-government, shall we say, strays slightly from the procedures which are best for the community, we would fully expect this Minister to take appropriate corrective action; and failure to do so we would very much draw that to his attention.

Now, he mentioned a couple of other things that I think deserve a wee amount of expansion. We ran into kind of problems in what seemed to be a very rushed program in certain construction of facilities, houses, that caused our government to take some quite expensive remedial repairs. I think this Minister, in listening to him over the past four years, has a lot of ambition in Northern Manitoba.

He wants to attempt to do a lot of things for the communities of Northern Manitoba, but I would ask him not to make the same mistake that his now Deputy Minister made in administering the department and proceeding hastily and without due regard in some areas to cost the taxpayers in future years many more dollars than those projects should of, and the examples were laid out very clearly tonight, because those dollars that we had to spend to correct the errors in some of those construction programs naturally deprived the implementation of other programs and further spending on new projects in Northern Manitoba and I'm certain that this Minister would agree that that was not in the best interests of Northern Manitobans.

I have a great deal of concern, and I know the Minister will allay all of those concerns, that now the gentleman who's stint is Cabinet Minister responsible for Northern Affairs, and in the term that those errors were made, those mistakes were made, those very costly mistakes were made, is now his senior administrative officer. If he is led down the garden path by his Deputy Minister and makes those same mistakes again. He will not accomplish those goals of assistance and help and growth in Northern Manitoba that he, I know, desires to do, so that we have on this side of the House no small amount of concern about this government's choice of Deputy Ministers for the Department of Northern Affairs based on past experience.

The transfer of functions that the Minister refers to I believe was a fairly logical reorganization of the line departments. For instance, Highways and Transportation did take over I believe in '78 — the Winter Road Program — there were certain advantages to having that function fall into Highways and Transportation administration because the department is staffed with expertise and engineering on road construction, be it temporary winter roads or otherwise. I think that if the Minister consults with the present Minister of Highways and Transportation he will find that the department is operating that program very very well. It is still being offered as an employment project in aid of Man-

itobans. Contracts are let out on all at last recount, but maybe one or two short stretches where Native communities have undertaken that construction, and I think the programs worked well.

We had some problems last year with the weather but then this Minister or the Minister of Highways and Transportation may have some problems next year with the weather. That's something you cannot change, but my colleague from Swan River mentions some projects. Well, there were some hastily done projects that we took over in Transportation.

One of them, for instance, was the Marine Division, and at this stage of the game I can't recall whether it was in Northern Affairs or whether it was Renewable Resources under the previous administration. But we inherited ferry landings that needed substantial reconstruction because they were built in a rather hasty manner in an effort to demonstrate that the previous administration under Mr. Schreyer was doing wonderful things in Northern Manitoba. So I would caution the Minister there that haste indeed does make waste, and I know that he is not wanting to waste taxpayer dollars. They're too hard to come by nowadays and when you waste them and have to replace expenditures with additional expenditures, you deprive all Manitobans of those dollars for new programming and for sustaining existing programming.

The other thing that I never quite had the opportunity to develop and present to the House when I was a Minister — I don't even know whether I've saved the pile of papers that I finally tracked down after about a year and-a-half from my department — but it was in one of those transfers of functions. I believe it was from Northern Affairs — (Interjection) — I must be a real blockbuster here — but we inherited certain functions from Northern Affairs and along with that we inherited a couple of warehouses full of surplus purchases of materials from Northern Affairs.

They ranged from kegs of finishing nails to box after box of hard hats to chain saws; it was an absolutely incredible list of materials that had been bought under the Schreyer administration through the Department of Northern Affairs and stockpiled. They were bought in those particular days because I suppose there was some concern that if you didn't spend the money you didn't get the opportunity after the fiscal year was over to re-spend it, so it seemed to me as if there was a mad rush to make sure every single committed dollar was spent just in case you might have needed 21 boxes of finishing nails for some particular purpose in Northern Affairs at some future date.

MR. COWAN: What did you do with them, Don?

MR. ORCHARD: The question the Minister asked is, what did we do with them? They were all disposed of as surplus goods because — (Interjection) — well, I don't know, the Minister says that we could use them now because we're back working up there. I don't know where he would use 21 cases of inch-and-a-half finishing nails. I don't know whether there's that much woodwork being applied in Northern Manitoba at the time, but the list of materials, and I regret that I haven't yet searched through my last couple boxes of paraphernalia to see if I could find them because they were

an incredible list of purchases that were made whilst his Deputy Minister was Minister of the department, for what purpose I don't know, because they weren't used. They were sitting in a couple of warehouses, one in Thompson and I'm not sure where the other one was and they were, Mr. Chairman, a waste of money.

They were never used; the dollars were tied up in that inventory, paid for at I don't know what cost, but his Deputy Minister now undertook those purchases whilst he was Minister. They didn't help anybody in Northern Manitoba, so that we're not, as the present Minister used to point us when we were in government, as being anti-Northern Manitobans and that we were doing nothing for them. Quite the contrary, we established a number of very useful working projects. Some of them were repairs of projects undertaken by his Deputy Minister, but northern Manitobans received a lot of services from our government. We do not object to providing legitimate services by any means to northern Manitobans, but if this Minister follows the advice of his Deputy Minister and fills a couple of warehouses with finishing nails, hard hats, stoves and other unused materials, let me assure you, we will draw that very forcefully to his attention because we don't believe that's money that's spent in the best interest of northern Manitobans.

In the Northlands Agreement which the Minister referred to very briefly, we identified — and this may have changed with consultation that his Legislative Assistant has undertaken — we got the clear message from northern communities that they wanted to have something physical at the end of the next Northlands Agreement. They wanted to make sure that they had access roads, that their streets, et cetera, in their communities were upgraded.

I'm not certain of what direction this Minister will take that Northlands Agreement. It was indicated to us by the communities that it was through the infrastructure programs of roads, et cetera, that they could better harness and utilize the resources that are in those communities, and we'll watch very closely the kinds of direction that the Northlands Agreement will take under this Minister.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I have to mention the Minister's Legislative Assistant. I had the opportunity to meet him on the telephone for the first time about two years ago. I must tell the Minister he's got a very industrious and very astute Legislative Assistant in the MLA for Rupertsland, because it was in negotiation of the then Me-Ke-Si road contract, a winter road contract which didn't include his community of Red Sucker Lake at that time about two years ago, and through a series of phone calls from the MLA for Rupertsland as Chief of the Red Sucker Lake Band — I believe the figure was \$35,000 — the Chief played a very excellent three-way game of chess between the provincial department, myself as Minister, between the Federal Minister of Indian Affairs and through the Department of Regional Development, I believe, was the third actor in the scheme and the Chief very skillfully negotiated — I won't say manipulated — but he very skillfully negotiated the three of us around until one of us made a commitment and then when he had that, he went to the other two and said, look you have to keep up. I'm proud to say that it was myself and my

Department of Highways that made the first commitment of the \$35,000 that brought the winter road at the very end of the construction season into Red Sucker Lake that year.

In the next year in the negotiations that we undertook with the Federal Government on the Me-Ke-Si contract in their last year, I believe it was their last year, we successfully negotiated the inclusion of that community plus Poplar River, if my memory serves me correctly, on the Me-Ke-Se contract, and were able to get the Federal Government to participate for a few more dollars.

The first year that we did that, we had to do it and if my memory serves me correctly the Federal Government only had \$500,000 budgeted and their share was going to be in the neighbourhood of \$625,000 and we agreed on the provincial basis to carry that extra \$125,000 of the Federal share past March 31st so they could fund it in their next fiscal year. We think that was a wise move to provide the winter road connection to Red Sucker Lake and I know that the Chief of the day was pleased for that, although I regret that he chose the wrong party when he decided to get into politics because we could have used that kind of a shrewd and skillful negotiator on this side of the House.

Mr. Chairman, with those few short remarks I wish the new Minister well. I hope that he can achieve some of the permanent employment goals that he has for the communities in Northern Manitoba. I hope that he doesn't end up as his Deputy Minister did, as Minister of the department, providing northern Manitobans with that aura of false hope that the government could do everything for them and that he undertakes real and meaningful development in those communities because those people have the ability and the resources and the skills when given the proper motivation and opportunity to develop those resources into permanent jobs that are meaningful to the community and meaningful to the province.

If this present Minister happens to stray just a bit too far away into that make-work programming and nothing else, he will receive criticism from us because that is not in the long run in the interest of those communities and I think he knows that. As long as he doesn't listen to his Deputy Minister for that kind of advice, he may well provide those long term jobs as has happened under our administration with some of the successful corporations that are now up there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the record, we're discussing 1.(b) Salaries and Wages. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. ELIJAH HARPER (Rupertsland): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make some comments as made by the Honourable Member for Pembina. First of all, I'm not a negotiator as he thought I was, because I was trying to get a contract for the Red Sucker Lake Band for the hauling of gravel for the airstrip a couple years ago and what had happened was I never got a response. The contract was given to a southern contractor. We are looking at about 4,000 cubic yards to be hauled for the community and to create some employment. Then, all of a sudden, we saw a couple of trucks come in; two tandems, one had a back hoe, another one had a front end loader. In a couple of

weeks, they were done. We didn't have anyone employed from the community, but when I read the report there were four Native people trained. I was just wondering if they were all Native people that came up there, but from what I saw I didn't see any Native people operating the machines. This gravel is sitting there, it's useless because it's too fine. It can't be used now because what they are doing right now is they have another contractor up there that's rock crushing the rock and being stockpiled on the airstrip right now. So I think there's a lot of taxpayers' money that's going to waste. Four thousand yards, I don't know how much —(Interjection)—

In terms of the winter road he was talking about, when I was talking to Don Orchard, the first commitment that we had was from the Department of Employment and Immigration at that time. So I was able to use that to get a commitment from the province.

I'd like to make a comment with respect to Jay's budget and the increase in some of the things that he has. I would encourage him to spend some of it on the reserves because we are part of the citizens of the province. Otherwise, I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for that. You know, most of the provincial governments take a position of we are a Federal responsibility. They give that excuse in not providing funds to the reserves and what we're saying is we contribute to the taxpayers, we pay certain taxes to the Province of Manitoba and we take part in the formation of the governments in the form that we exercise our rights. We would like to be part of the process of building this Province of Manitoba.

As you realize, we have a long way to go to be part of the society, especially the kind of services that we need, what is probably considered down south here a necessity, like lights, heat and things like that are luxuries for us, because some of the buildings we have don't have any lights; most of the communities use wood stoves and those kinds of benefits we don't have. The kind of situation that we're in, especially the economy, the inflation, and everything else, and I was advised just last week that in my home town of Red Sucker Lake, the gas price, it's going to go up to \$4.00 a gallon, which is very ridiculously high.

As a matter of fact, giving you another example is that my wife was here last weekend and I put her on a plane with \$200 worth of groceries. It cost me \$89 to put her onto the plane. It's almost \$300 plus freight, it's really expensive. I think you have to be a billionaire to live in Red Sucker Lake, practically you know, so in terms of trying, I hope, you know, when working with Jay that we will be enabled to arrange some sort of service to the northerners and also the Native communities in the North. That's all I have to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Thompson.

MR. STEVE ASHTON (Thompson): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say I found the remarks of the Member for Pembina rather interesting. I must say that I also find them rather disappointing at the same time, because basically in a rather partisan way, I must say that he and apparently some other members opposite are intent it seems on dwelling on the past. My view of the estimates procedure is really that we

should be looking more towards the future, what is going to be done this present year and what perhaps should be done in upcoming years. So I think we should take a more positive approach.

Now I'm not suggesting that we should act as if nothing's happened before, as if there'd been no mistakes, but I think the members opposite will have to admit that any mistakes cannot just be written in a partisan calendar as having occurred between 1969 and 1977, that they make mistakes too. If they want some examples of that I'll be glad to give them at any particular point in time. One that I think is of particular notice is the South Indian Lake Laundry, which the former Minister of Northern Affairs is probably well aware of.

MR. KOVNATS: On a point of order, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa on a point of order.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, now that my red light is on I'll continue. I would be lead to believe that the debate that is going on is not in order, inasmuch as there are some remarks to the Minister's opening statements, and that is all that is expected. I think that the Member for Thompson, if he would just keep his remarks to the Minister's opening remarks he'll have all kinds of time, at a later time, to criticize the Opposition for what he says we've not done for the previous years when the Progressive Conservatives were in government.

I think that if we're going to get into a far-ranging debate, I think that we'll all get into it. It's not a threat, it's just a matter of stating a fact, and I don't think that's what the Honourable Minister suggested when we first got started. I think he suggested that, you know, opening remarks in reply to his opening statements would certainly be allowed, but I don't think that we want to change the whole of the rules and if the member needs any encouragement to stick to the point of order, which is just to reply to the Minister's opening remarks, I think that, you know, that would be in order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Thompson on a point of order.

MR. ASHTON: On a point of order, yes, I was addressing my remarks to the previous comments in the introductory statements. I thought we weren't following any particularly hard guidelines, because I believe some of the previous statement from that category. But I can assure the member opposite if that is his concern that our remarks will be brief and we'll get on with discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would only say that in the interests of proceeding expeditiously that we keep the remarks to the items as we go through them, I think we will all be more satisfied with the result.

The Member for Thompson.

MR. ASHTON: Continuing with the general vein in which I make my initial remarks, basically what I was saying was that we should spend our time here con-

structively, whether it be in terms of defense of the Estimates put forward, or constructive opposition. I thought that some of the initial comments might lead us in the opposite direction.

I think particularly the remarks which were made, I suppose in an attempt to disparage the present Deputy Minister and indirectly the present Minister, I thought those were very unconstructive. The present Deputy Minister, Mr. Ron McBryde, is well known and well respected in the North. He is remembered quite fondly, I should say, for a number of the excellent programs he did introduce. I think the Honourable Members opposite should be well aware of that and when they start trying to disparage that particular individual they should do so very carefully.

I think they should also be aware, in fact I'm surprised that the Member for Pembina is not aware of the fact that it is the Minister who is responsible for policy; it is the Deputy Minister that is responsible for the administration of a particular department. So when that particular individual talks about the present Deputy Minister leading the Minister astray, I must say I'm rather surprised, I'm just a new member, he is a former member of the Executive Council, I assume he's not known the format in which the department operates, which is perhaps uncommon on his own past conduct.

I should say that in general people of the North are willing to look at what was tried in the past in terms of seeing where mistakes were made, and it's really a very clean slate when one looks at it because northern policy has really only been developed as such in the last 12 years, because it was not until the election of the NDP Government in 1969 that there were any real efforts made to bring northerners into the mainstream of Manitoba politics.

I would remind the members opposite of the position taken on this by the former Member for Churchill, who was at one particular time a member of the Conservative Party, and as an Independent because he felt that government was not serving the North. In fact, he ended his days in this Assembly as an Independent, Gordon Beard, a very well respected figure in the north. So we're talking about a clean slate, Mr. Chairman, approximately 12 years of policy. We in the north, we're willing to look at the good points of both the previous government and the government before that, and we're willing to look at the bad points as well.

I should point out to the honourable members opposite that one sign should be given that their approach was not totally satisfactory as far as the north was considered, and that was the fact that they previously held one seat out of five in the north, they now hold zero seats out of five, and of course that change was in the constituency of Thompson. So I can speak directly to the fact that some approach other than theirs, which was one of rather severe cutbacks, has to be approached.

So I'm hoping with all these introductory statements from both sides that we can get on with the business with the business of seeing the proposals here and hearing some constructive criticism rather than attempts to disparage personal reputations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Niakwa.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few opening remarks to be consistent.

First of all, I'm going to defend the Honourable Deputy Minister, who is sitting right in front of the Minister, in as much as he is one of my constituents and to this day I don't know how he voted in the last election. I think that New Democratic sign on his front lawn might have been indicating that he was not supporting me, but I couldn't go into the booth with him, so I'll never know.

But I would like to also just say good luck to the Minister in his endeavors as Minister of Northern Affairs. I would hope that the remarks weren't misconstrued by myself when I heard that there were going to be many changes about how the people in the north were going to be more involved with the actual running of the north. I start to think about how the Hudson Bay Company, which has been a driving force for the development of the north and does have a place to play in the future, I think that it might be in jeopardy at this point when I listen to the Minister who says that he is going to have the people in the north playing a more prominent role. I would hope that it wouldn't affect some of the people that have been up in the north, that have played a prominent role in the past.

I also would like to congratulate the Legislative Assistant to the Minister, who I have known for quite some time also, because I have visited Red Sucker Lake. As a matter of fact, the Honourable Minister was up there at the same time as I was, only he was in Opposition, and I was in government. I'll tell you, you're never going to get me out on that lake again — not when it's raining. I'll be more prepared the next time that I come out and I'll be dressed in other than my nice new suit.

I do understand some of the problems you have in the north, where you have 15-amp hydro service; where you have wood stoves to heat your buildings; where you have an airport where it scares the living daylight out of you when you're circling and whether you're going to be able to land at that airport, or take off from that airport, but the only thing that I ask you to consider is the cost. You can't just deal with your heart and, you know, the feelings that we all have for the people of the north, and we have them over on this side, just as much as you have them over on that side. But there has to be a point where waste and cost have to be taken into effect, and I would hope the Honourable Minister, before he makes any big decisions that are going to cost a lot of money to the people of the Province of Manitoba, that he takes that into consideration.

I didn't like hearing the remarks of the Honourable Member for Thompson where he is kind of gloating about how all seats in the north, all five seats in the north, are belonging to the New Democratic Party. It kind of gives me the encouragement and the will to see that's going to be reversed. It upsets me so much that I look across and a member, who has done so much for the Town of Thompson is no longer here; a member, who is a new member, is sitting there gloating about how much he's going to do. We will see, because he won't be able to carry — no, that's a remark I'd better not make. I just wish you good luck. I hope that you'll come anywhere near the previous

Member for Thompson, who was one heck of a good member, and should be in this Legislature but he's not. We'll have to do with you for the next four years. Anyways, good luck to you, Mr. Minister. Good luck to your department. Let's not cost the people of the Province of Manitoba more money than they deserve to pay for the development of the north. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could supply us with the up-to-date chart of the Department of Northern Affairs showing the positions of the staffs?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. COWAN: I'll have the staff make a number of copies for the Opposition and have them sent over in a few minutes, if that's all right?

MR. GOURLAY: I wonder, Mr. Chairman, I see there's quite an increase in the proposed expenditures under 1.(b) and I wonder if the Minister could indicate to us the changes that reflect that increased cost.

MR. COWAN: As I indicated in my opening remarks, a number of the increased costs in this section are due to the fact that the Department of Northern Affairs is now served singly by one Minister, and it's not a split ministry as was with the case in the previous years. So, in 1.(a) the member sees an increase of half of the salary of the Minister, that half which was located in the Department of Municipal Affairs previous to the change of government. —(Interjection)— I'm sorry, the Leader of the Opposition seems to have some question as to why that is the case. Perhaps I was not thorough enough in my explanation for him. Previously the Minister of Northern Affairs was also the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister's Salary was split between the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Northern Affairs.

MR. GOURLAY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order please. On a point of order, the Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: Are we not dealing with 1.(b)? The Minister is talking about 1.(a).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we are dealing with No. 1.(b). The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: Thank you. I'd provided that information only as a bit of a background and I'd hoped it would have been taken in that. In respect to the section of 1.(b), there is an increase of four staff person years: one of those would be for an Indian Land Claims Commissioner, when we have that commission set up; the other will be secretarial support to the Commissioner, when we have that commission set up; there is an increase in respect to secretarial staff, one new secretary in the Ministerial office; and there is an increase of a Special Assistant to the Minister

which accounts for the four staff person years which are the increases we're talking about in this instance.

Now, I want to point out that the Special Assistant to the Minister and the Executive Assistant to the Minister were split in two departments previously, the one Minister having a Special Assistant, I understand, and an Executive Assistant, but one in each department. So, while you see an increase, again, I think that reflects more accurately the fact that you've combined two departments — that's phrased incorrectly. The fact that one Minister is now responsible for that department only, so that while there's an actual increase in staff in that respect, it does not mean that Minister is being served by one more Special Assistant than was the previous Minister.

MR. GOURLAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, does the chart that you have, is it up to date to show the new positions?

MR. COWAN: The chart which I'm having zeroxed right now would not show those positions. It's just a general chart of the department. I can have a more comprehensive chart drawn up and presented to the member tomorrow, if he so desires. But I can read off to him, if he wishes, the positions that are now in that particular section of the Estimates. It includes an Executive Assistant, that position is vacant at the moment; it includes a secretary to the Minister, which is filled; it includes a Deputy Minister; it includes an assistant secretary to the Deputy Minister; a secretary to the Deputy Minister; an Indian Land Claims Commissioner, which is vacant; a secretary to the Indian Land Claims Commissioner, which is vacant; a Special Assistant to the Minister, which is filled; and two secretaries in the Minister's office, both of which are filled.

MR. GOURLAY: I think that covers that section; unless someone else has further questions on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(b)—pass; 1.(c) Other Expenditures — the Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could give us a breakdown on those increases? It seems to be up considerably from last year.

MR. COWAN: Yes, last year the adjusted 1981-82 vote was 77.1, this year the 1982-83 request is 130.8 for an increase of 53.7. Forty thousand of that increase is for operating funds for the Indian Land Claims Commission and 6,000 is for increased travel funding and 7.7 thousand is an inflationary increase.

The details of the Other Expenditures are office operating costs, which the member is aware includes the telephone, the printing, the stationery, the copying, etc., is 22.1 thousand; travel and automobile costs are 68.7 thousand and I understand that out of that travel costs come the travel costs for the Legislative Assistant as well; operating funds for the Indian Land Claims Commission is 40,000; for a total of 130.8 thousand. I must also add that this request includes travel and costs which will be incurred in regard to the Environmental Management Division operation and Workplace Safety and Health Division operation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: I wonder if the Minister, I'm not sure that this is the place to ask this question, but with respect to the Indian Land Claims Commission, can he give us some indication of the terms of reference this commission will be following.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: Yes, this is the appropriate place to address those questions, this and the Minister's Salary being the two most appropriate places to address them. We are now in the process of designing the terms of reference for the Indian Land Claims Commission. My Legislative Assistant is involved with preliminary discussions and consultations with different groups which have expressed an interest in regard to the development of an Indian Land Claims Commission, and once we have compiled that information, we'll be sitting down and discussing the actual format of the Indian Land Claims Commission.

So at this time I can't be more specific in regard to the terms of reference of the Commission. I will be tabling that information before the House when we have put together a comprehensive package.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. STERLING LYON, Q.C. (Charleswood): Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell us whether or not the basic bench marks that were established from 1977 onward, when this problem started to be resolved, with respect to the number of people in an Indian Band, with reference to the number of acres to which they would be entitled, is that fundamental to be changed?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: I would hate to prejudge the activities or the deliberations of the Indian Land Claims Commission, but I am certain that they will be addressing that issue, among other issues which are outstanding and have been outstanding for some time in respect to the settlement of land claims.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wasn't talking about antipathies, I was talking about the public interest and those matters that would be fair to the Native population of Manitoba and fair to all other citizens of Manitoba, those guidelines that have been established and have been worked upon at least for the past four years with respect to eligibility for Treaty lands to be taken from Crown lands to be applied to the existing Bands of Manitoba in a fair and equitable way. Cannot the Honourable Minister tell us whether or not those fundamental bench marks are anticipated to be changed?

MR. COWAN: What I can tell the Leader of the Opposition is that we too endeavour to strike that balance, which takes into consideration the interests and the aspirations of the Indian people on reserve who are going to be most affected by the land claims and the

interest of the general public.

We are hoping that both parties will come forward to discuss the options which are available to us and present that to the Indian Lands Claim Commission which will then make recommendations, which will then go to Cabinet as is the regular course, and Cabinet will make the decision on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission and also on the basis of what they perceive to be their responsibility to the reserve communities and the Treaty Indian people and the general public.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, having regard to the fact that the primary responsibility of all 57 members of this Legislature is to the public interest of Manitoba without regard to any ethnic or other stratification of our population, can the Minister of Northern Affairs tell us whether or not the bench marks which were being applied with respect to Indian land claims over the past four years are reasonable and equitable, having regard to all of the circumstances of the province? Or is he intending to suggest that substantive changes must be made on those, having regard to matters that are perhaps not of concern to the public interest but may be of concern to him in a partisan way?

MR. COWAN: No, I can assure the honourable member and Leader of the Opposition that I do not have in mind at this time any substantive changes. What I can also assure him is that I wish to hear as do, I believe, all members of this House and the public in general the comments of those individuals who are going to be most affected by those decisions and that includes both Treaty and non-Treaty people and take into consideration those suggestions and criticisms and ideas and opinions which they bring forward as a result of the recommendations of the Indian Lands Claim Commission and discuss that in Cabinet at that time.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be prepared to venture an opinion at this stage, having already come to the opinion apparently that some new format or some new bench marks need to be applied, as to what was fundamentally wrong with the bench marks that were being applied with respect to the settlement of Indian land claims that were already undertaken in the period prior to November 30th, 1981?

MR. COWAN: I have not indicated to the Leader of the Opposition that I have come to any such conclusion that substantive changes are necessary. As a matter of fact, I have been careful to do quite the contrary, because I would not want to at this time of prejudge the activities and the recommendations of the Indian Land Claims Commission, which will be brought forth to Cabinet and will be discussed in that environment in due course.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Minister has no preconceived notions as to anything being wrong with the previous established bench marks with respect to the establishment of Indian Land Claims, perhaps he could enlighten the committee as to what was wrong with those, such as to occasion a

review by him?

MR. COWAN: Well, the member is absolutely correct when he says that I'm stating any preconceived notions, and I'm doing that quite purposely, that those bench marks are in any way incorrect, nor am I stating any preconceived notions that those bench marks are in any way correct. What I am doing is calling upon those people who are going to most affected by those decisions to come forward and to make recommendations as to what they see as being intrinsically right and intrinsically wrong, because there will be conflict in respect to their opinions of those bench marks. Taking that all into consideration through the process of very open and public review, which I think is a proper way to undertake this activity, we will then deal with the recommendations that are brought forward. But I must add that this is a public review which is open to the general public; which will provide an opportunity for all the people of Manitoba to come forward and to provide to the government and through them to the people of this province their ideas, their suggestions, their criticisms, on how Indian land claim entitlements should be undertaken in the Province of Manitoba.

There may in fact be changes in the bench marks as a result of that, on how Indian Land Claim entitlements should be undertaken in the Province of Manitoba. There may in fact be changes in the bench marks as a result of that; there may not be changes in the bench marks as a result of that. I think that is a matter that will have to be addressed at the time when we have the recommendations and when Cabinet makes those very difficult decisions which are necessary to ensure that the Lands Entitlements are undertaken in this province in an equitable way which benefits all the individuals.

I share the Leader of the Opposition's concerns in respect to the effect that it will have on people living on reserves and the effect that it will have on people who are not living on reserves. That is exactly why we have developed what we believe to be this open review of that situation, so that we can have the benefit of those person's opinions, criticisms and suggestions when we have to make those very difficult decisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, at the risk of repeating one's self, could I then ask the Honourable Minister what caused him to believe that such difficult decisions had to be made when he came into office? Were they not already being made and were there not already established bench marks that seemed to be working to the public interest of the people of Manitoba?

MR. COWAN: There were bench marks that had been established. There were criticisms of those bench marks.

MR. LYON: By whom?

MR. COWAN: By the Indian people of this province

and in fact by people who were of non-Treaty origin in this province. They had criticized those bench marks; some had supported those bench marks. Some in fact had given severe criticism of the bench marks and having had that information brought to our attention as a government, and I was a part of that decision, we felt that it was necessary to undertake an open review of the entire situation so as we could come forward with what we believed to be the best possible policy. We're depending on the people who have supported the bench marks that exist today and we are depending on the people who have criticized the bench marks which exist today to come forward and to provide us with their discussions, their debates, their ideas and their suggestions and I think that's exactly the proper way to go about it. I think that if the Leader of the Opposition does not believe that we should undertake this in a very expedient and open way then, in fact, he is doing a disservice to those people who do want to come forward and make those comments. I believe those comments are well deserved and I think those comments are necessary to the types of decisions which we have to make and they are difficult decisions.

I have no doubt that when that government had to make the decisions which they made that they were tried and tested by that process. I have no doubt and I wasn't privy to the discussions that there was considerable debate in respect to those decisions because it's not the type of decision which lends itself to an easy resolution. I know that I don't, unto myself, have the wisdom that is necessary to make that decision; I know that my government, unto itself, does not have the wisdom that is necessary to make that decision in a solitary manner. We respect the voice and the opinion of those individuals who are going to be involved with that decision and affected by that decision and we enthusiastically seek their opinions and ask them to come forward. We listen and we take heed and I think that's what we're talking about here.

We're not going in with any preconceived notions. If we were going in with those very types of preconceived notions, there'd be no need for a review, would there? We would know what we wanted to do and we would put it in place. It might agree with what the previous government did; it might not agree with what the previous government did.

So, I think two things have to be very well understood here. One is that bench marks change from time to time and the other is that the people who are affected by those decisions must in fact play a vital and responsible role in helping to develop those decisions.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Honourable Minister could enlighten as to what fundamental bench mark changes have occurred since 1977 that would cause such a fundamental revision of terms of reference with respect to Indian Land Claims to occur in Manitoba in 1982, having regard to the fact that most of the Treaties were signed well over 100 years ago and the terms well known, even though that may come as an historic piece of new information to the Minister.

MR. COWAN: Certainly the Treaties were signed

over 100 years ago in many instances and in 100 years, the issue has not been able to be satisfactorily resolved in this province. There is still considerable debate over the issue; there is still considerable concern over the issue; there is still considerable criticism of the way by which this province has undertaken to resolve those issues. I am not casting a finger at any one government because it is an historical problem that transcends any one particular government or any one period of time. What I am saying is that we now want to come to a satisfactory resolution of that problem as quickly as possible and as fully as possible that takes into account the historical circumstances and as well takes into account the needs and aspirations, wants and desires, of the individuals who are going to be affected by those decisions.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased and at the same time surprised at the arrogance of the Minister of Northern Affairs who in one fell swoop, in the course of what he regards as an immediate term, is going to solve what he regards or what he has described and what we all know to be an historic problem of some considerable dimension, most of the perimeters of which he has not yet informed himself of with respect to Indian Land Claims. My simple question is this, that having regard to the bench marks that have been established within the past four years which built upon those bench marks that were previously established under the Treaties and by previous interpretations thereof, what does he see fundamentally that needs the kind of fundamental change and revision about which he speaks tonight and about which the Throne Speech delineated at some extent with a great rhetorical flourish without too much meaning attached to it?

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, if I appeared arrogant to the Leader of the Opposition, I do apologize. I did not intend at all to appear arrogant, perhaps I got carried away with what I believe to be the necessity for this Indian Lands Claim Commission, but I certainly do not wish him to think it was arrogance that motivated or provoked me. Perhaps it was a will to resolve the problems and I take his advice kindly, that it is going to be difficult to resolve those problems. That's why we have decided to come forward with the type of Indian Land Claims Commission which we have decided to come forward with.

I don't for one moment wish to leave the impression that we are going to be able to undo in four years that which has been around historically for many years. We are going to give it our best effort. We are going to try to accomplish it in an open and public way and we are going to try to accomplish it in a way that meets the satisfaction of those individuals who are going to be most affected. I would only suggest that perhaps it might be more appropriate to allow the Indian Lands Claim Commission to undertake its activity, to come forward with its recommendations, and then to have this type of discussion, because I think then we can more thoroughly address the areas of concern having had those areas of concern presented to us firsthand.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I would merely like the Minister, in the midst of all his rhetorical flourishes, to

indicate to us what was in his opinion wrong with the previous bench marks that were established for the settlement of Indian lands claims.

MR. COWAN: Well, I understand that's what the Leader of the Opposition would like me to do, and I hope the Leader of the Opposition understands that I think it would be unfair and prejudicial to the activities of the Indian Lands Claims Commission if the Minister of Northern Affairs, at this time, made that sort of a public statement.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend has no opinion, then we can register that in the Hansard of this House, and all who wish to read the Hansard, and all who wish to report upon it, can say that he has no opinion upon what was right or what was wrong with the previously established bench marks. What I'm asking is a very simple question, it's not intended to be a partisan question at all. It's intended to establish from the Minister why he has set up an Indian Lands Claims Commission, because presumably in having set it up, he has found something wrong, something that was omitted, something was very terribly deficient with respect to the previous landmarks, the previous bench marks that were established by previous governments. All we want to elicit from the Minister of this great open government is what was wrong with those bench marks in terms of establishing things that were right for the public interest in Manitoba.

MR. COWAN: Well, I think if the record is going to be clear, then one has to make the record explicitly clear. I have not suggested that I have no opinion in this regard. I have suggested that I believe it would be prejudicial to the activities of the Lands Claims Commission to make that statement at this time.

The Leader of the Opposition appears to take the establishment of the Lands Claims Commission as a personal affront to his government's activities in this regard. I can only tell him, and assure him, that it was not intended to be that. I can assure him that it was a Commission which has been brought forward and will be designed, by its terms of reference, to deal with a problem that went back far previous to his administration, and one in which I'm certain he had to grasp and grapple with when he was in the previous government many years ago; and one which we may have to grapple with over a number of years.

But we certainly want to try to find a way to resolve those outstanding land claim's entitlements which are presently before us, and we felt that this was one important part of that process. Just as when we went to negotiate the Northlands Agreement, we felt that it was important to consult in an open way with those individuals that were going to be most affected by that decision.

That does not mean, Mr. Chairperson, that we are going to suggest that which had been forward before was terribly wrong, as the Leader of the Opposition says, or terribly deficient, as the Leader of the Opposition says.

What it says, or what we would like it to say in a nonarrogant way is that this is a problem, it's a long-standing problem, it's an historical problem, and it's

one which we would like to resolve and we feel that we can best do so by having an open and public discussion on the whole process and how it affects those individuals who are going to, in fact, have to live with the decisions which any government makes.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, to set my honourable friend's mind at ease, nothing he could say, or nothing he would probably think of, would in any way upset my equilibrium. What I want him to know, however, is that if he is advocating that there be some new Indian Lands Claims Commission, then by a process of, I would think, elementary thought one would have to conceive that he presumed there was something wrong with the previous guidelines, the previous methodology, that was in place by previous governments to settle the self-same problem. And even he would have to admit, because historical fact would demonstrate it to him, that a number of claims had been settled under the previous bench marks.

What I'm merely trying to elicit from my honourable friend is something that is very simple, it may have escaped his far-reaching mind. What I'm trying to elicit from him is: What caused him to establish a Lands Claims Commission? Was there something so divergent in those settlements that had been made, or was there something so out of syncopation with reality and with what is fair and equitable with respect to those settlements that had been made, and/or with the bench marks that were applied thereto that would cause him to establish this great new bureaucracy that he is attempting to put into place for the resolution of what kind of real or perceived injustice?

MR. COWAN: I think what the Indian Lands Claims Commission should mean to us and what we would certainly intend it mean to those people who would be concerned about it is that we believe there may in fact be an improved way to handle the settlement of outstanding land entitlements in this province, and they are many, and they are historical, and they have been ongoing for a long time, notwithstanding the fact that a number of them were settled over the past four years.

I can indicate to the Leader of the Opposition that a number of those were settled and were exempted from the guidelines which his government had set up, which would indicate to someone that there may have been some difficulty with those guidelines. I can indicate to him that a number of them were not settled, such as: the Beren Lands Treaty Entitlement; the Broken Head Treaty Entitlement; the Churchill Band Treaty Entitlement; the Fort Alexander Treaty Entitlement; the Fox Lake Band Entitlement; the Garden Hill Band Entitlement; the God's Lake Band Entitlement; the God's River Band Entitlement; the Long Plains Band Entitlement; the Northlands Band, which is in the upper northmost part of the province; the Norway House Land Entitlement; the Oxford House Land Entitlement; the Red Sucker Lake Land Entitlement is still outstanding; the Rouseau River Land Entitlement; Shamattawa Band is outstanding; Ste. Theresa Point is outstanding; Swan Lake is outstanding; Wasagamack is outstanding; York Factory is outstanding. Those are a list of the outstanding Treaty entitlements which we are confronted with as a

government and we believe that we can best deal with those Treaty entitlements by going to the individuals that are going to be most affected by our decisions in seeking their advice and their comments, taking that advice and comments into consideration, and then make the type of difficult decisions which we know we have to make in that regard.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the Honourable Minister that I am not in the least intimidated by any of the long list of unsettled entitlements that he reads off tonight, because depending upon the year in which he read them he could have read a list three times that length, thirty years ago, or twenty years ago, two-thirds of the length, or so on. This is a continuing problem and in the past four years a number of settlements have been made amicably and one would hope equitably as well and the simple question I'm asking my honourable friend and will continue to ask him until adjournment tonight is: What he finds objectionable, deleterious to the bench marks that were established by the previous government with respect to the settlement of these claims, under which a number of settlements were made in the past four years, and what causes him to set up a new Indian Lands Entitlement Commission, with all the bureaucracy attendant thereupon, to settle a problem, the nature of which we have not yet been apprised of?

MR. COWAN: Well, I think the record should be made clear that we are not anticipating a large bureaucracy for this Land Claims Commission. The numbers are contained in the Estimates. We are looking at one land claims commissioner at this point and one secretarial support staff at this point. I'm certain that from time to time we will have to provide necessary support by way of research and by way of advice to the commission, but as far as establishing a separate bureaucracy, I don't believe we are doing that. When we have to, in fact, provide the advice and the assistance to that commissioner, we will most likely draw up on those individuals who are already involved in that process as a part of their governmental and employment activities.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, that being the case, and to get it down to specific points, why was it then that the Minister saw fit to disengage from the Department of Northern Affairs, one of the most experienced people in negotiating with Native people in Manitoba, namely, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Dave Thomasson.

MR. COWAN: Yes, the individual which is mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition was not an Assistant Deputy Minister, however, he was a director of that particular section. When we did, in fact, put in place an Assistant Deputy Minister in recognition of the fact that we wished to prioritize this entire area, that position of the director was declared redundant — that position being redundant, that individual was asked to find other employment.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, having regard to the fact that the person in question, the director, and I have wrongly identified him as an ADM, the director was excised from the public service of Manitoba, he being

a career public servant who had been on the service of the province for well over 12 years. Could the Minister tell us the qualifications of the Assistant Deputy Minister that he appointed whose appointment made necessary the redundancy of the director, the career public servant who was discharged?

MR. COWAN: I'd be more than pleased to provide that information when we come to that particular section of the Estimates.

MR. LYON: Now would do, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Well, Mr. Chairperson, I can only ask for your assistance in this regard. It is my understanding that we are now addressing 1.(b) which involves salaries and wages of a number of individuals which I have outlined already to the previous Minister of Northern Affairs as per his request. That individual's salaries or wages is not included in that list and I am perfectly prepared to address the question which the Honourable Leader of the Opposition has forwarded to me at that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A point of information, we are on 1.(c); 1.(b) has been passed.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, we're fairly free and easy in the Estimates. My honourable friend saw fit to discuss at great length the question of Indian Lands Entitlement; Mr. Dave Thomasson, who was the director in his department and who was particularly familiar with that aspect of his department's work who has now been fired by the Minister; that's a point that has now been raised by me — I would like to have the Honourable Minister refer to the reasons for that firing and to tell him how the new Assistant Deputy Minister is going to be so much more superior to Mr. Thomasson. We're awaiting this elucidation.

MR. COWAN: I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition and I don't want the fact that I am repeating that to be inferred as I am prepared to discuss that particular position at this particular time, but I've indicated to him out of courtesy that the position of the Director of Agreements, Management and Co-ordination was deemed redundant with the appointment of an Assistant Deputy Minister, and that the appointment of an Assistant Deputy Minister in this regard was undertaken in order to establish a higher profile in respect to those types of negotiations which go on under this particular department.

MR. LYON: Would the Minister give us the name of the Assistant Deputy Minister, his or her previous employment and the salary that Assistant Deputy Minister is presently getting in relation to the salary that the director was getting who was fired?

MR. COWAN: I will be pleased to provide that information under 19.(4).

MR. LYON: We would prefer to have it now, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: If the Leader of the Opposition wishes

it now, then he can pass those items until 19.(4) and we can discuss it at that time.

MR. LYON: A quiet landslide.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, I can only ask for a ruling in respect to whether or not it would be appropriate to discuss that position under this particular item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe it is tradition that questions be put under the appropriate item and I wouldn't want to stray from that. I understand that people have their interests and questions and would like immediate answers, but there are a considerable number of items to go through and it is my understanding that tradition dictates that we ask appropriate questions under the appropriate item.

MR. LYON: Persuaded as I am by your eloquence, I'm prepared to have it discussed under 2.(a).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)—pass — the Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: An explanation on 1.(c), with respect to the Indian Lands Commission, the Minister indicated that the terms of reference would be tabled in the House shortly. I'm not sure that he said how long that would be. Would it be in a month or two months or soon or this year? Also he made reference to the fact that there would be hearings held throughout the respective parts of Manitoba that would involve the Indian people and I believe he mentioned the Metis communities would also be involved in the discussions that would be held under this commission. I was wondering if you could give us a few more details as to that type of process that he envisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: In respect to the terms of reference, Mr. Chairperson, as I indicated earlier the Legislative Assistant, the Member for Rupertsland, is currently involved in preliminary discussions with a number of groups respecting their suggestions as to the possible options for the structure of that commission. Once he has provided that report to myself, I will then provide it to caucus and Cabinet and we will decide upon the terms of reference in that way. I will be pleased to table those terms of reference at this time.

I would not be comfortable in saying it would be tabled by a specific date, however, I do hope that it will be done so in the near future.

MR. GOURLAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman, excuse me, did you say this would include a number of hearings on this dealing with land claims of one kind or another?

MR. COWAN: It is anticipated that there would be a number of hearings and there is money set aside in this particular item of the Estimates for the potentiality for those hearings if they do come to pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(c)—pass; Item No. 2. Adminis-

trative Support Services. Resolution No. 115. 2.(a) Salaries and Wages — the Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Perhaps the Minister would be good enough now to answer the questions that were put to him previously with respect to those sterling qualities of the new Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs which caused the redundancy of the Director of Community Agreements, et cetera, to be cause to be disposed of from the Government of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister. The Member of Swan River on a point of order.

MR. GOURLAY: That's Resolution 114 that was passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We don't pass that resolution until the end of all the Estimates and then we return to it. The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: Under this particular appropriation in the Estimates, I can indicate that there were 18 staff positions in the 1981-82 adjusted figures and there are 18 in the 1982-83 request and that's an increase of none. In respect to salary costs, there's a 12.4 percent increase which reflects merit increases.

The positions which we are discussing in this particular area would be the Director of Administration which is occupied, the Secretary to the Director which is vacant at the present time; the Auditor which is occupied; another Auditor which is occupied; the Personnel Administrator which is occupied; the Personnel Payroll Clerk.

To save time I'll just indicate where there are vacant positions. The Clerk, an accountant, a senior tax clerk, a tax clerk which is a vacant position at the moment, a trust and revenue clerk, a budget officer which is a vacant position at the moment, a budget clerk, a clerk, a senior voucher clerk, a voucher clerk, a voucher typist, a machine operator and an audit accountant. It does not include the individual to which the Leader of the Opposition has made reference and that of course is contained in 19 (4).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo): Mr. Chairman, I believe it would facilitate our review of the Estimates on this side. At the beginning in his opening statement the Minister indicated that there were 7, something S.M.Y.'s additional in the Northern Affairs Estimates for this year. I wonder if he could just put on the record what positions those encompass now so that as they come along we'll be able to identify them and refer specifically to them. Two of them he said are in the Indian Land Claims Branch. Where are the other five point whatever? May we have that information first and then we'll carry on with this?

MR. COWAN: I would seek your direction, Mr. Chairperson, I'm prepared to do that. However I would not want to by doing so suggest that we are straying from the rules and procedures of the Legislature.

MR. FILMON: The Minister is either refusing to do that or else putting some conditions on whether or not he'll answer that question. Quite frankly I don't see any point to us continuing this kind of review of the Estimates if he's not prepared to be a little bit open about the information and a little bit flexible about the manner in which he presents it to the House.

MR. COWAN: I am attempting to be flexible. As a matter of fact if you will recall in my opening comments I think I exhibited that flexibility by suggesting in fact we would attempt to be as flexible as possible without unduly disrupting the tradition and the normal procedures.

I have indicated already to the Legislature that there are four new positions under the item I.(b) and they were the Indian Land Claims Commissioner, the Secretary to the Indian Land Claims Commissioner, the Special Assistant to the Minister, the Secretary to the Minister's Office and half-a-year for my own salary increase. Then there are three training officers which come under Section 19.3.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister identify for us the name of the new Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Northern Affairs, the salary of that person, the previous work experience and background of that person?

MR. COWAN: I'd be pleased to do that under 19.4.

MR. LYON: Now, Mr. Chairman. We'll stay here all night if need be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: The Minister keeps making reference to Section 19.4, is it Resolution 117; 4.(a)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass.
The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: No, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has a new Assistant Deputy Minister. I care not particularly under what department or under what branch or vote of these Estimates that salary appears. I ask the Minister to justify and to give to the Committee and to the people of Manitoba the name of that new Assistant Deputy Minister; the salary of that new Assistant Deputy Minister and the work background that would qualify that new appointee to be the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Northern Affairs.

MR. COWAN: I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition and I believe you have supported, Mr. Chairperson, the recommendation that we discuss that particular individual under the appropriate section of the Estimates.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I was always under the impression that either under the Executive of 1 or Administrative Support Services 2, an Assistant Dep-

uty Minister would appear. My Honourable friend has restructured his Estimates in such a way that they will appear under some further deliberation or further section of the Estimates. Perhaps he or you could enlighten us.

MR. COWAN: Yes. She appears in respect to the Estimates under the section for which she is responsible, Mr. Chairperson.

MR. LYON: Is she, whom my Honourable friend hasn't yet chosen to identify, is she an Assistant Deputy Minister?

MR. COWAN: Yes she is.

MR. LYON: And by what name? Has she, Mr. Chairman, has she got a name?

MR. COWAN: Certainly she does and although I don't think it's necessary for me to do so, I will be prepared to share that name — and I don't mean this not necessarily in an arrogant way, I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition of that — I'm certain he knows that name but I'm prepared to share that name with him and provide him with the information which he requests when we get to that particular section of the Estimates under which she is listed.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, now will do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe the Minister has indicated his willingness to share this information and in the interests of proceeding in an orderly fashion, I would hope that we could continue and the information will be given in due course.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, we're not interested in the Committee of Supply and the Honourable Minister's willingness, we're interested in information. The Honourable Minister will have to familiarize himself a bit more with the parliamentary system. When he is asked questions, he answers them or he can retire.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring a degree of co-operativeness to the deliberations at this time the kind, Mr. Chairman, by the way, exists in Room 253. It is by the way a very traditional practice, particularly with new staff involved, that the Minister has the courtesy at the very outset of the consideration of his department to introduce us to the new major people within his department; to allow Committee members to become acquainted with people with whom they will be dealing with in their responsibilities as they look after their constituents needs.

Mr. Chairman, I can assure you that I find it like day and night coming into this Committee Room from the Committee Room that I just left, where the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, with whom I have a good understanding and a great deal of co-operation, and who didn't have this difficulty in introducing the members of his staff and indicating to them their positions, their appointments, their responsibilities. Perhaps it was the Chairmanship of the Honourable

Member for The Pas that helped us arrive at that more co-operative attitude in that Committee. I can only commensurate with you, Mr. Chairman of this Committee, that doesn't seem to be the case here. But, Sir, I think it's incumbent on the Minister. I can't really understand what particular game he's playing — why he would not want to introduce us to the Deputy Minister, the newly hired Deputy Minister at this particular time — and accede to the very legitimate requests of the questioner, in this case the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Well, I thank the honourable member for that advice and I can only assure him that what I would like to be able to do when discussing this individual, is have this individual down here. She will be here in the Chamber, it's part of the process. Not only can you put a name to the position, but you'll be able to put a face to the name, and I think that would enable the discussion and the debate to proceed much smoother, and I have indicated in every instance that once we get to that particular section I'm prepared to discuss and answer those questions which are being put forward, or have been put forward previously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, has the Minister named to his department a new Assistant Deputy Minister and, if so, what is his or her name?

MR. COWAN: I believe that section of the Estimates is Section 19.(4) and I am prepared to discuss it under 19.(4). If the Leader of the Opposition is so keen on reaching that particular Section, then we can pass the Sections that are here and go directly to 19.(4) and have that discussion with the individual here. I believe it's only fair to that individual to allow her the opportunity to be in the Chamber when we're having that discussion.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, realizing the honourable member's unfamiliarity with our proceedings here, can he not tell us if he has added an Assistant Deputy Minister to his department, give us the name of that individual, whatever his or name may be, and the salary that is being paid now by the taxpayers of Manitoba to that person? Now, he may object because we're not asking for that under No. 1.(a), (b), or (c), under No. 2.(a), (b), or (c), but I suggest that the taxpayers of Manitoba don't particularly give a damn. Can he not give us the information in this open government that he is apparently a part of?

MR. COWAN: Well, Mr. Chairperson, the Leader of the Opposition has convinced me that he very dearly wishes to discuss this matter at this time. I have tried to convince him that I'm prepared to discuss it under the appropriate Section of the Estimates, but rather than take up the time of this Legislature for which the taxpayers are paying, in this sort of rancour and debate, I am prepared to discuss that item at this time

if the Leader of the Opposition is prepared to not use that as a precedent for bouncing all throughout these Estimates at any given time, if I can have that assurance from him.

MR. LYON: No precedent at all. We're merely seeking fundamental information which an ordinary Minister of the government should be prepared to give.

MR. COWAN: Well, having already been somewhat chastised for not wanting to adhere strictly to the rules I'm somewhat hesitant to create the type of precedent which I believe would be created if I were not to do so in this instance. I am prepared now to indicate, and I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, that I will discuss that if I can be given the assurance that we're not going to be bouncing from item to item over the course of the discussion of the Estimates of the Department of Northern Affairs, as a result of my wishing to accommodate him as much as possible.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to give the honourable member the assurance that we will not resort, on this side of the House, to the nefarious practises that he engaged in when he was on this side of the House.

MR. COWAN: Can he give me the assurance then, Mr. Chairman, that we are not setting the precedent in respect to bouncing our way throughout these Estimates by my wishing to accommodate his urgent need for this information?

MR. LYON: I asked a question and I expect to get it, and there is no precedent created. My honourable friend, the Minister, in his position on this side of the House, destroyed more precedents in this parliamentary Legislature than any other member that I have known in my time here. He is totally unfamiliar with our practises. I'm merely trying to suggest to him that he be more open in response to legitimate questions that are being asked on behalf of the taxpayers of Manitoba.

MR. COWAN: I am attempting to be open, Mr. Chairperson, and by doing so I can only seek your advice and your ruling in respect as to whether it would be appropriate to discuss that particular individual under this particular item, and if you suggest to me that would be so, I am perfectly prepared to do so, and I believe that is a proper to address this issue.

MR. LYON: He agrees and I agree, that's all that's needed, eh? Let's get on with it. Why are you withholding?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have indicated that it is my understanding the way this proceeds is that the Minister has indicated clearly the item under which he is prepared to discuss this issue, he has not indicated he is withholding the information, he's prepared to discuss it. I suggest that we move on and proceed to that item when it will be discussed openly.

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. LYON: The Minister could spend 30 seconds on his feet and answer the legitimate questions on this side of the House. Has he a new Assistant Deputy Minister? If so, what is the name of that person and what is the salary that is attached to that person, and was the appointment of that person responsible for the firing of the Director, Dave Tomasson, who was formerly in the department? A very simple question.

MR. PENNER: On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. LYON: There's no point of order at all.

HON. ROLAND PENNER (Fort Rouge): Yes, there is a point of order. First of all the Leader of the Opposition asked not one question but three questions and says it's a simple question. It is not a simple question; it's a three-part question and maybe we ought to follow the example of his friends in Ottawa and ask that it be split; that's number one.

Number two, it is my understanding, and if I'm wrong I'm here to be instructed by the great teachers opposite, namely that there's an element of relevance that must be adhered to. There's a line in the Estimates that is being discussed. If the issue, and your ruling as I understand it, the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition is not relevant to the line and you have so ruled, and you have ruled. I think that this Committee ought to respect your rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): On the point of order. For the last four years when this side of the House was in government, the word Administration and Support Services was pointed out to us by the government, when they were in Opposition, that the word "administration" is the administration of the department. Anybody with a senior position such as Assistant Deputy Minister comes under the administration of the department, and the word "administration" was used by the honourable members in previous years and the Minister especially, that was the place you could talk about the administration of the department and the personnel that administered the department.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to unduly drag out this debate. I try to do it by the manner in which you had indicated to me was the proper manner. However, if the members opposite will not accept that inclination on my part to follow your suggestions and recommendations, I will provide the Honourable Leader of the Opposition with that information which he has requested under this particular section. I do not wish it to be suggested that this is creating a precedent, although I realize I run that risk by doing so. I'm prepared to run that risk in order to accommodate what appears to be a very urgent request on the part of the Minister to have more information on my Assistant Deputy Minister.

I can see, Mr. Chairman, that by providing that information perhaps we can get on to the discussion

of that individual or the discussion of the Estimates in general. That's what I want to do; I want to be able to provide this information to the public.

So, for the Minister's members, for the Honourable Leader of the Opposition's information, the individual is one Ms. Linda Jolson. He asked for her background, I believe. In the early '70s — (Interjection) — I just had to check whether she was a member or staff in this regard. She was staff for the Human Rights Commission. In the years, 1973-78, she was the Director of New Careers, a program by the way which his government has commended often and a program which was expanded and increased under his stewardship. I think in recognition of the fact that it was an extremely good program and one which provided many benefits to the participants in that program. She happened to be director of that program. She happened to be responsible for the development of that program in many ways, although I don't want to take away in any respect the activities and the hard efforts of other members of that particular section of the department. They all worked extremely hard to make a very good program and I believe that the finest compliment that can be paid that program is the fact that his government considered it important enough to continue and to expand at a time when many other programs were being disbanded and totally withdrawn. — (Interjection) —

I'm sorry if it's too long I can stop here, but I think there are some other things which the Leader of the Opposition asked and I would like to provide him with that information. From 1979 to 1980 she was Director of the Women's Division of the Department of Labour of the Province of Saskatchewan. In 1980-81 she was manager of Affirmative Action for the Crown Investment Corporation of Saskatchewan and from 1981-82 she was a corporate officer for the Department of Regional Economic Expansion with the Federal Government.

I would ask the Leader of the Opposition if he requires further information in that regard?

MR. LYON: The present salary of the new Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Chairman?

MR. COWAN: The present salary I believe is \$45,000 per annum.

MR. LYON: A tied-in question, of course, Mr. Chairman, the reason for the firing of Mr. Dave Tomasson because of the engagement of this Assistant Deputy Minister, what was it?

MR. COWAN: That position which was a director's position was declared to be redundant when in fact we put in place an Assistant Deputy Minister. We chose to put in place an Assistant Deputy Minister because we want to highlight this particular area and we believed that it was a priority area. We wanted to give it that sort of profile by providing it with that status within the system.

MR. LYON: Could the Honourable Minister give us an unbiased opinion as to which of the incumbents had more experience working with Native people — the new Assistant Deputy Minister or the former fired

Director, Mr. Dave Tomasson?

MR. COWAN: I would not want to reflect badly on either individual by engaging in that sort of discussion of personality or whether one was more conversant with the details of one particular group of people over another particular group of people. It was quite frankly, Mr. Chairperson, a value judgment on the part of the government, one which I take full responsibility for; one which I supported and initiated; and one for which I think we have provided the type of emphasis which we wanted to provide by that particular action.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, contrary to the on-bank position of the Attorney-General which was erroneously expressed to the Minister, namely, that the Minister need not express an opinion, I remind the Minister — I need not remind him because he is more experienced — that the Attorney-General was completely in error. This is the time when we do find the Minister's opinion. The Minister can keep his advice to himself, the Attorney-General, on question period and we may perhaps listen to him on those occasions. I still want to know . . .

MR. PENNER: . . . don't be nasty.

MR. LYON: . . . I'm not nasty at all. Mr. Chairman, if my honourable friend wants to see me get nasty, he's got a lot more to see. I merely want to ask the Minister, as I said before, what are those qualities of the new Assistant Deputy Minister that caused the former Director, who was a career civil servant of this province for 12 years to be fired in place of somebody who had been a civil servant in the Province of Saskatchewan and in the Federal Government before being appointed here?

MR. COWAN: I think the record should be clear, Mr. Chairperson, that I did give my opinion and I indicated very well that it was a value judgment on my part as to why we had proceeded in this manner. The Leader of the Opposition asked me what the values were for that individual and what the qualifications were for that individual, and I can only assure him that after having given him those, we will probably still be at a difference of opinion, but I'm prepared to share those with him. I think it's probably the same sort of difference of opinion, Mr. Chairperson, that took place when his government fired this same individual who at that time was a career civil servant in the Province of Manitoba. I believe, Mr. Chairperson, that it would be that exact same type of difference in approach and difference in opinion that would come out one more time and perhaps, it's important that it does.

I believe that the individual that we hired in this position came forward with very qualified experience in respect to being able to negotiate agreements with the Federal Government having worked for the Federal Government, having been a part of that system and knowing it firsthand in that respect; also having been responsible for negotiating a series of agreements in our sister province, Saskatchewan, in respect to affirmative action programs; in respect to activities of the Women's Division there in the Department of

Labour and also regarding her activities as a corporate officer. I believe that she brought with her some very significant qualifications as a result of her activity as Director of New Careers in this province. She had contact with the individuals which she is serving now and with whom she is working now. They respected her as far as I'm concerned, as far as I know they respected her. They respected her talents and I believe that I made the right decision in this regard to have her brought in as the Assistant Deputy Minister. I regret that by doing that there was a position that was declared redundant, but certainly the Honourable Leader would not suggest that we should have that sort of top heavy hierarchy in our department by allowing an individual — not an individual, because I don't want the fact that a position was to be declared redundant to be any reflection on the individual who occupied that position. The position was declared redundant. Unfortunately, that individual left the government service. That is, in fact, a standard procedure and process. His government declared many such positions redundant. They did so, because they came forward with a particular way in which they thought a department should be run and operated, and we are doing much the same thing. We are on opposite sides of how we think that department should run and operated, but I think we were both sincere and honestly motivated in our actions.

MR. LYON: Well, Mr. Chairman, now that we've had a semblance of an answer from the Minister, can he get down to the nub of the question which was: What are those qualities of the new Assistant Deputy Minister that are so superior to those qualities of the Director, who was fired, that would cause that change to have been made, having regard for the fact that the former Director was well known to all of the Native bands in Manitoba, had worked with them consistently over a period of twelve years throughout the Roblin Government, the Schreyer Government, under which he'd been promoted, and then under the government which I had the privilege to head? What all of a sudden was found to be a deficiency in this civil servant's character, and did he in fact consult with the different Indian bands in Manitoba with whom this Director had worked successfully over a number of years before he compulsorily fired him?

MR. COWAN: I'm certain that the person who occupied the position of the Director did in fact work with Indian bands and other groups throughout the Province, and I want to make it very clear that the position was declared redundant, that the individual occupying the position for that reason left the Civil Service. The fact that the position was declared redundant should not be inferred that that person had any deficiency. I don't want the inference left by the Leader of the Opposition that that was the case. It was a fact that we decided to highlight this particular section of the department because of our approach and because of the way in which we perceive this department to operate, and by doing so we've put in place an Assistant Deputy Minister, one who I believe has qualifications which stand her in good stead in this regard, and as a result of that, there was a position of a Director which was declared redundant.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise us as to whether or not he consulted the different Indian bands in Manitoba before firing Dave Tomasson?

MR. COWAN: The position was declared redundant, Mr. Chairperson. I think that's important for the record.

I have talked to Indian bands, Indian-Metis individuals, other individuals, throughout the past number of months in respect to the staffing of the department, in respect to the way in which they would like to see the department respond to their particular needs, and from time to time they have given me advice, and from time to time that advice has been conflicting. In many instances, there was support of a particular process person or way in which things were done and at the same time there was severe criticism of that, and I would suggest that this was no different a situation than was in fact in place generally, and that was there was criticism and there was support and it came down to a decision on my part, a value judgment, as to whether or not I wanted to have in place an Assistant Deputy Minister. I chose to do so and that is why we have the situation which we have today.

MR. LYON: The Minister is saying, Mr. Chairman, that the people of Manitoba and the public interest of Manitoba are better served today by an Assistant Deputy Minister, who was brought in from Saskatchewan or Ottawa or God knows where, brought in from some other part of Canada to administer highly delicate negotiations with respect to the Northern Agreement that the Minister has under negotiation with the Federal Government and so on. Is he suggesting seriously to the people of Manitoba that the new Assistant Deputy Minister, about whom we have no particular opinion at all, is better equipped to do that than was the Director, who he dismissed, who was a long-term senior and career civil servant of the Province of Manitoba?

MR. COWAN: I would not want to make that suggestion other than to say that I was faced with a choice as to how I wanted to structure that particular section; that is the Minister's prerogative, as a matter of fact, that is the responsibility of the Minister. I made that choice. I made the choice to staff it with an Assistant Deputy Minister rather than a Director and time may prove me to have made an incorrect choice, a wrong choice. However, it was a choice that I made, a choice that I stand by, a choice that I support and a choice that I dearly hope works out in the way in which it was intended to work out.

MR. LYON: Mr. Chairman, was any other position of comparable importance offered to the Director who was fired by the Minister?

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, I understand that exactly the same process was followed in respect to this redundancy as was followed when hundreds of people were let go by the previous administration. They were put on a redeployment list and in the event appropriate employment opportunities open up for them, they make application, they are dealt with in

normal course.

MR. LYON: Mr. Speaker, because we are not engaged in a socialist revisionist history, I may correct the honourable member by telling him that the positions that were declared redundant in 1977 were unneeded positions in management and in planning and priorities committee and a good number of those people were reemployed in other or useful departmental functions.

What I'm saying to my honourable friend, the Minister, is this, could he not within his department find a useful senior position for the former Director, who is well known to all of the Native bands of Manitoba and had been through two or three governments, for his talents to be used on behalf of the people of Manitoba, or was it necessary, as he apparently implies, that somebody from Saskatchewan had to be brought in to fill this important position?

MR. COWAN: Well, I must indicate to the Leader of the Opposition that the individual about which we are speaking has resigned, that there was a severance settlement, and that if he sought to reapply for work within the department or any other government department, he would be given the same consideration as our other individuals who seek work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass; 2(b) Other Expenditures.

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. GOURLAY: Were we dealing with a motion for committee to rise?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are No. 2.(b).

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Springfield on a point of order.

MR. ANSTETT: If I understand what we just passed, we passed 2.(a) and (b), there is nothing to be voted in (c). Can't we put the question on the resolution?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I did not hear "pass" from (b). I did not hear "pass" over here, so I am assuming we are still on 2.(b).

The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Chairperson, if I can . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COWAN: When I sat on the opposite side of the Chamber in the Estimates, I always regretted the fact that we spoke late into the evening and always thought that it would be appropriate if we could adjourn around 10 o'clock which allowed us time to do those other activities which we have to do.

I, in fact, wanted to answer the Leader of the Opposition's questions once it was determined that was the way in which the evening was going to go, so I did not suggest that we have the Committee rise at 10 o'clock because it would have then appeared as if I had not

wanted to answer those questions.

But, I think now that we have, in fact, gone through that particular exercise that it would be appropriate for the Committee to rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.