



**Second Session — Thirty-Second Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

---

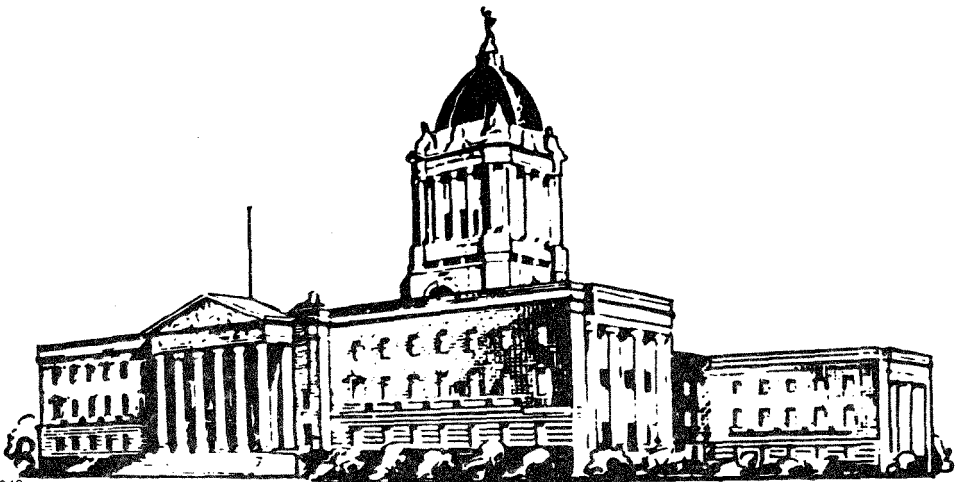
**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**

---

**31-32 Elizabeth II**

---

*Published under the  
authority of  
The Honourable D. James Walding  
Speaker*



MG-8048

**VOL. XXXI No. 73A - 2:00 p.m., TUESDAY, 24 MAY, 1983.**

**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Second Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

Name	Constituency	Party
<b>ADAM, Hon. A.R. (Pete)</b>	Ste. Rose	NDP
<b>ANSTETT, Andy</b>	Springfield	NDP
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BANMAN, Robert (Bob)</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>BLAKE, David R. (Dave)</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>BROWN, Arnold</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>BUCKLASCHUK, Hon. John M.</b>	Gimli	NDP
<b>CARROLL, Q.C., Henry N.</b>	Brandon West	IND
<b>CORRIN, Brian</b>	Ellice	NDP
<b>COWAN, Hon. Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>DESJARDINS, Hon. Laurent</b>	St. Boniface	NDP
<b>DODICK, Doreen</b>	Riel	NDP
<b>DOERN, Russell</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>DOLIN, Hon. Mary Beth</b>	Kildonan	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James E.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>EVANS, Hon. Leonard S.</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>EYLER, Phil</b>	River East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FOX, Peter</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>GOURLAY, D.M. (Doug)</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>GRAHAM, Harry</b>	Virden	PC
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry M.</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HEMPHILL, Hon. Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>HYDE, Lloyd</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>JOHNSTON, J. Frank</b>	Sturgeon Creek	PC
<b>KOSTYRA, Hon. Eugene</b>	Seven Oaks	NDP
<b>KOVNATS, Abe</b>	Niakwa	PC
<b>LECUYER, Gérard</b>	Radisson	NDP
<b>LYON, Q.C., Hon. Sterling</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>MACKLING, Q.C., Hon. Al</b>	St. James	NDP
<b>MALINOWSKI, Donald M.</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>MANNES, Clayton</b>	Morris	PC
<b>McKENZIE, J. Wally</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>MERCIER, Q.C., G.W.J. (Gerry)</b>	St. Norbert	PC
<b>NORDMAN, Rurik (Ric)</b>	Assiniboia	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PAWLEY, Q.C., Hon. Howard R.</b>	Selkirk	NDP
<b>PARASIUK, Hon. Wilson</b>	Transcona	NDP
<b>PENNER, Q.C., Hon. Roland</b>	Fort Rouge	NDP
<b>PHILLIPS, Myrna A.</b>	Wolseley	NDP
<b>PLOHMAN, Hon. John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
<b>RANSOM, A. Brian</b>	Turtle Mountain	PC
<b>SANTOS, Conrad</b>	Burrows	NDP
<b>SCHROEDER, Hon. Vic</b>	Rossmere	NDP
<b>SCOTT, Don</b>	Inkster	NDP
<b>SHERMAN, L.R. (Bud)</b>	Fort Garry	PC
<b>SMITH, Hon. Muriel</b>	Osborne	NDP
<b>STEEN, Warren</b>	River Heights	PC
<b>STORIE, Hon. Jerry T.</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>URUSKI, Hon. Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>USKIW, Hon. Samuel</b>	Lac du Bonnet	NDP
<b>WALDING, Hon. D. James</b>	St. Vital	NDP

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, 24 May, 1983.

Time — 2:00 p.m.

**OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.**

**MR. SPEAKER, Hon. J. Walding:** Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . . Ministerial Statements and Tabling of Reports . . . Notices of Motion . . .

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

**MR. P. FOX,** on behalf of the Member for Elmwood, introduced Bill No. 79, The Engineering Profession Act; Loi sur les ingénieurs.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA,** on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, introduced Bill No. 72, The Wild Rice Act. (Recommended by Her Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.)

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before we reach Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the Gallery where we 25 students of Grades 11 and 12 standing from the River East Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Redekop and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for River East.

There are also 60 students of Grade 11 standing from the West Kildonan Collegiate. These students are under the direction of Mrs. Bailey and the school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

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

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### Bilingual agreement - Union of Manitoba Municipalities

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Yes, I have a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I wonder if the Minister can confirm that he has met with the Union of Manitoba Municipalities with respect to the bilingual agreement.

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

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, when I was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs, I reactivated the Municipal Advisory Committee which had been dormant for about four years, and I felt that in view of the fact that I had an open-door policy, which I had announced . . .

**A MEMBER:** It's a revolving door policy, the applications come in and they get stuck, they only approved one, remember.

**HON. A. ADAM:** . . . Mr. Speaker, this will be the fourth meeting that I have had with them since being appointed to the Ministry. I did meet with them Friday and there were a number of topics on the agenda, and that which he indicates was one of the items on the agenda.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could ask the Minister a further question. Was he able to give any assurances to the Union of Manitoba Municipalities officials that there would be provision for further discussion with respect to this bilingual agreement?

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, what we discussed, in regard to municipal services, was that there was an offer from the Federal Government to provide for some assistance to those municipalities who would want to provide services, or extend services, already provided at two French-speaking communities on a voluntary basis.

### Gambling premises fire - investigation

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister responsible for Lotteries and would ask him, in light of the destruction of a retail gambling operator's premises this weekend, can the Minister inform the House whether or not the Manitoba Lotteries Commission is, or will, become involved in the investigation?

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

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, I've been in touch with the General Manager of the Manitoba Lottery Foundation and have asked him to look at it very closely and, if there is any need he certainly will assist any investigation, those that are conducting any investigation, and I asked him to make sure he should know what is going on and if there is anything at all that I should know to keep me informed. So he's keeping an eye open but, right now, the investigation is done by the police and the fire department.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the same Minister. I wonder if the Minister could inform the House as to what steps are being taken to ensure that no fraudulent use will be made of any gaming tickets or equipment that might not have been destroyed by the blast.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, that is being looked at and if there are any of these tickets they'll

be taken over and I understand that all tickets are numbered so everyone will be informed of that.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A further question to the Attorney-General, and I would ask the Minister if he could assure the House that every possible step is being taken to ensure that a thorough investigation in the matter, to determine the cause and whether there were any outside forces with regard to this blast?

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

**HON. R. PENNER:** I'll take that question as notice and advise the member in due course, either directly by myself or through the Minister in charge of Lotteries as to what steps are being taken. I believe, that would be the best course so that I can be more specific. I know it is being investigated, both by the Fire Commissioner's Office and, I understand, by the police, but whether there's anything further to report this House will be advised, in my absence, by the Minister of Lotteries.

### Casino gambling licences

**MR. R. BANMAN:** A further question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Tourism, and I would ask the Minister to inform the House whether or not the government is giving any consideration to issuing a casino gambling licence for the MS Lord Selkirk?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

**HON. M. SMITH:** Mr. Speaker, that request has been made but it is not within our capacity to make that kind of decision so all those kind of applications and decisions will be referred to the Lotteries Commission.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

**MR. R. BANMAN:** Well, Mr. Speaker, in that case I wonder if the Minister in charge of Lotteries could assure the House that no new casino licences other than the 13 that have been routinely issued for the last number of years, will be issued until Judge Jewers' report is submitted, and until we have completed, as the A/G has indicated, a thorough investigation with regard to the blast that occurred on Sunday.

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

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, the fire that happened over the weekend certainly is not related to policies that we might do on the licence that will be issued or not be issued.

But I could tell my honourable friend that there is no licensing of a casino or any new licence such as the Lord Selkirk will be done until the whole policy paper will be presented to Cabinet, and policy arrived at by the government, and then announced. There is nothing that's going to happen just now.

### West-Man Media Co-op

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Honourable First Minister. I would like to ask the Honourable First Minister if he can give the assurances to this House that there has been no direct intervention by the Minister of Community Services in the internal operations of West-Man Media Co-op.

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

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member has any specific information, he should relate that to me. I do not know the basis of the honourable member's question.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the First Minister if he would be willing then to investigate and make sure that the Minister has not directly been involved in the internal management decisions that have recently taken place in West-Man Media Co-op.

**HON. H. PAWLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not about to apply for a fishing licence.

**A MEMBER:** Who gave you that funny line?

### MHSC - MMA negotiations

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

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Health and I would ask him what situation has developed, if any, as a result of the meeting that was held on May 18th between the Health Services Commission negotiators and the MMA, at which point in time the MHSC offer, as described in the House last week by the Minister, was put to the Medical Association?

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

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, the last information that I received on that is, that it is the intention of the executive of the MMA to discuss that at the annual meeting of the MMA that will take place some time later this week or next week; this month anyway.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, at the time that the Minister made his statement last week, "He was hopeful that there would be a further meeting," as his statement put it, "between the parties next week," which would be this week. Is the Minister suggesting now that that meeting will not take place?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, I will check. This was a request at one time to have another meeting and I haven't heard anymore since, then I'll have to check into that, but I know the Executive talked about

discussing that at their annual meeting later on this month.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, further supplementary to the Minister. Could the Minister advise the House whether, in fact, the MMA rejected that last offer of the MHSC, regardless of whether there's another meeting? Obviously, another meeting will take place at some juncture, hopefully, soon but, precluding that entirely, did the MMA reject that last offer from the MHSC?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Speaker, it's quite clear. The Executive of the MMA is bound that they're going to have compulsory binding arbitration, and they're going to have that on their terms. They were told, fine, if they wanted to reconsider the last offer that we made last year, we could look at it, but we were not ready to reopen the discussions. So that they have refused, I think publicly, and I suppose now it will be discussed by the membership. Our position is quite clear; we're ready to meet their demands, as far as the fees are concerned, but we also made it quite clear that we are not ready to reopen the question of binding arbitration.

#### **Sale of day care building - Swan River**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable Member for Swan River.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** One day last week I asked the Minister of Government Services whether or not it was true that the day care building that had been used in Swan River was being offered for sale, at this time, by the government.

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

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I don't have all the details on it, but I can tell the honourable member that it is an employee housing unit that previously, I believe, was used for employee housing, government housing. We have since made a decision to cut back on the number of employee housing units in the province. There are a number of those, approximately 34 units, that we were hoping to offer for sale because of the fact that they were not being used in the most efficient manner and, in many cases, had outlived their usefulness. In this particular case, I believe, it is used as a day care unit.

Certainly, that one would not be released until other arrangements had been made and discussions took place. I can tell you, at this time, that there have been no overtures made officially from the department level that would indicate that that unit is going to be disposed of. It is one of the units that was listed, but certainly, because of the special circumstances surrounding it, there would be a discussion and we would consider all of the problems involved with having to move a day care unit, and then make a decision as a result of that. So it's far from a decision being made on it.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Well, just if I might give some background, Mr. Speaker, that housing unit came up

for disposal during our term in government, and it was a request that was put forward, by myself and day care people, to the Minister of Health at that time, not to sell that unit because the day care people were interested in using it, and they have been using it ever since.

Now, the Minister indicates that no action has been taken, but I'll table a letter that was sent from Mr. Harder, from his department, sent to the day care centre and it says: "Please accept this as an official notice for the termination of occupancy . . ."

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please, order please. The Honourable Government House Leader on a point of order.

**HON. R. PENNER:** The honourable member started out by saying, "I'd like to provide some information", obviously not a preamble to the question; now he's leading up to tabling a letter. That is an abuse of question period; that's not what question period is all about. He doesn't even pretend that it's a preamble to a question and I think that it's entirely improper.

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

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Speaker, why would the reading of a letter and a reference to a letter be an abuse of the question period? That's part of the preamble to the question. — (Interjection) —

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

**HON. R. PENNER:** Well, apparently the Member for Fort Garry is putting as much vaunted extrasensory perceptions to use; he may know. Certainly nothing emerged from what was said that this is a preamble to a question. The member said, "I want to give some information to the House" and then led to the point of saying, "Now I'm going to table a letter," that's not a preamble to a question; and if it isn't, then it's out of order.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. Perhaps the Honourable Member for Swan River would wish to indicate to whom he wishes to put his question and proceed to the place the question.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I'd like to ask the Minister of Government Services whether he can confirm that a letter was sent out from his department, advising the day care that their occupancy of that house was to be terminated.

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

**HON. J. PLOHMAN:** Mr. Speaker, it is quite possible that a letter was sent out from one part of the department - I'm not denying that that is the case. I have not seen that letter, Mr. Speaker, and I have indicated that I have not communicated any information to that effect. I would certainly want to look at the

special circumstances before I would authorize that to take place, that there would be a closing of that particular unit.

I indicated as well, at the outset of my answer, that I had not received a full report on it, and I believe that will be the information that I will be getting and as soon as it arrives, I will be sure to report on it to the honourable member.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Well, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister rescind the letter that apparently he has not seen, but that has been sent out on his behalf by officials of the Department of Government Services.

### Municipal Advisory Committee

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I would like to direct another question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Earlier I asked him a question dealing with the bilingual agreement, but the Minister volunteered to go on to say that he had revitalized the Municipal Advisory Committee; is the Minister saying that during our term of office we did not meet with the Municipal Advisory Committee?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** No, I didn't say that, Mr. Speaker, but I said I reactivated. My understanding was that it was quite dormant. They may have met, but very seldom.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister should apologize because I distinctly heard him say that he reactivated the committee because they hadn't met for four years. We had met with the committee . . .

**MR. SPEAKER:** Does the Honourable Member have a question?

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** . . . on at least a couple of occasions that I can recall. Would the Minister apologize for making that statement earlier?

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, I did not say that they had not met; I said that it had been dormant for four years, and that doesn't mean completely dormant but they were snoozing.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I wonder, since the Minister is so active in reactivating these various committees, when will he be calling the dormant Municipal Review Committee together, too, so that we can deal with the submissions that were presented.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**HON. A. ADAM:** Mr. Speaker, I will be making an announcement in due course.

**SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS:** Oh, oh!

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**MR. SPEAKER:** If I may interrupt the members for a moment and may I direct the attention of honourable members to the Gallery where we have 31 students of Grades 8 and 9 standing from the Pembina Crest school who are hosts to some visiting students from Quebec. These students are under the direction of Mr. Beaudoin. The school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

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

The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

### Increase in property taxes

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs. Mr. Speaker, in view of the statements by the now Premier in 1981, while he was Leader of the Opposition, that our government, while in power, should have done something more for City of Winnipeg ratepayers; and in view of the fact that, while we were in government for four years, the total increase on an average home in the City of Winnipeg, assessed at \$7,000, was \$78.03; and in view of the fact that the total increase in 1982 and 1983, on that same home, which I point out had the lowest tax increase in 1983 in the city of all school divisions, the total in those two years was \$232.59, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Urban Affairs confirm that in two years under the NDP the total increase on that average home is three times the total tax increase under the Progressive Conservatives over four years?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think the record is clear with respect to the assistance provided to the City of Winnipeg by this government. The first year of this government being in power the grants to the City of Winnipeg increased by in excess of 15 percent, Mr. Speaker; the increase this year to the City of Winnipeg on the direct grants is in excess of 9 percent, and if one looks at the total amount of assistance that is provided to the City of Winnipeg, through the direct grants, through the assistance provided through a number provincial line departments, and through the specific Core Area Initiative Program and the ARC Program, Mr. Speaker, you'll find that the amount of assistance to the City of Winnipeg has risen considerably in the last two years, and I think that's in contrast to what happened in the first year of the previous Conservative Government when there was, I believe, no increase in direct assistance to the City of Winnipeg.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, the figures do not lie. There was a total increase of \$78.03 over four years, and in two years the total increase is \$232.59. Mr.

Speaker, can the Minister confirm that a further grant has been made by the government to the Logan Community Committee in the sum of \$70,000 and, if so, what is the total amount of grants to this Community Committee?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I can confirm that there has been a grant awarded to the Logan Community Committee by the Provincial Government of \$70,000, there is also other assistance pending from the Core Area Initiative office and the Secretary of State of the Federal Government, with respect to the plans of the committee to revitalize the Logan area, in accord with the agreement that was reached under the Core Area Initiative with respect to the redevelopment of the Logan area.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister for the Logan Community Development Corporation advertised on the weekend for a Development Officer to redevelop the North Logan community to residential purposes, and apparently the grant has been made to the Community Committee for the redevelopment of this residential area, how can the Minister justify this grant when Saul Schubert, manager of Planning and Program Development for MHRC, said in December, we have our doubts about whether any houses can be sold in this area.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I'm not quite certain how the various pieces of that preamble fit together, but I can confirm, as I did initially, that there was financial assistance given to the Community Committee to allow them to have the necessary resources to bring about the revitalization of that neighbourhood. It's one that is being worked on by the Community Committee directly and it's resources by the various levels of government to ensure that the maximum use is made of the various housing programs to ensure that there is affordable homes in that neighbourhood.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the Day.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY HANSARD CLARIFICATION

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

**MR. D. MALINOWSKI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a correction in Hansard No. 71A, Thursday, May 19th on Page 2942, in the right column, almost in the middle it says: Mr. Speaker, "Our protests were not any empty American act". It should be instead of "empty", "anti". It should read, Mr. Speaker, "Our protests were not an anti-American act" instead of "empty".

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you for the clarification.  
The Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, would like to make a correction in Hansard of Friday, May 20th, Page 2980. It states that I said in

response to a question that, "I can't confirm", and that should read, "I can confirm" rather than "I can't".

**MR. SPEAKER:** I thank the Honourable Minister.  
The Honourable Government House Leader.

**HON. R. PENNER:** I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance that Mr. Speaker do not leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for River East in the Chair for the Department of Health and the Honourable Member for Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Urban Affairs.

### CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - URBAN AFFAIRS

**MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos:** Committee please come to order. The section of the Committee of Supply is now commencing the consideration of the budgetary Estimates for the Department of Urban Affairs. In accordance with traditional purposes and procedures of this committee, the Minister responsible shall open with the delivery of his opening remarks.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce the 1983-84 Estimates of Expenditure for the Department of Urban Affairs.

With your permission I would like to make a brief general opening statement on the role and responsibility of this department. I'd be pleased to make more detailed comments on specific resolutions as they are considered by the committee.

The Department of Urban Affairs is responsible for administering The City of Winnipeg Act and for co-ordinating development and implementation of provincial-urban policies and programs in the City of Winnipeg. These responsibilities are carried out in close co-operation with the Council of the City of Winnipeg and with the Government of Canada.

Our government is committed to working co-operatively with the City of Winnipeg in addressing the major economic, social and physical development issues affecting this province's largest community.

In defining and implementing its urban objectives in the City of Winnipeg, the province seeks to establish and to maintain a spirit of co-operation and flexibility with City Council recognizing the common interests of elected representatives at the two levels of government in improving the general quality of life enjoyed by the citizens of the City of Winnipeg.

The main responsibility of the Department of Urban Affairs is to ensure the maintenance of a legislative financial and planning framework that will effectively meet the needs of the citizens of Winnipeg. The basic legislative mechanism is The City of Winnipeg Act.

The financial framework has been the subject of a continuing review since this government took office. Several initiatives have been undertaken in the past

year to allocate provincial financial resources towards the maintenance and enhancement of city programs and services in which the province has assumed a joint interest and responsibility. I expect a review of provincial financial support to the City of Winnipeg will continue over the coming year with the co-operation and involvement of the City of Winnipeg.

The legislative framework calls for the provincial approval of the Greater Winnipeg Development Plan that governs long-term urban land use, transportation and development plans for the coming decades. The process of consultation with the City of Winnipeg on the final adoption of the Greater Winnipeg Development Plan has been under way for some time. It is essential that this development plan play a strategic role in addressing the needs and aspirations of the citizens of the City of Winnipeg for a better quality of life. The province is committed to supporting the final plan with financial resources that reinforce its basic direction and with provincial policies and programs that support the efforts of the Council of the City of Winnipeg.

In discharging this mandate, the Department of Urban Affairs is responsible for administering and implementing provincial obligations under the Canada-Manitoba Winnipeg Core Area Agreement and the Canada-Manitoba Agreement for Recreation and Conservation for the Red River Corridor. It also administers the implementation of the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on the Urban Transportation Assistance Program. These responsibilities require a considerable degree of consultation with both the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Canada.

In the past 12 months there have been several meetings between the City of Winnipeg official delegation and the Urban Affairs Committee of Cabinet to discuss common and co-operative action in addressing major urban policy issues. These formal meetings are supplemented with more frequent discussions with the Mayor of Winnipeg and the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration as members of the Core Area Agreement Policy Committee. This increased provincial role in supporting the development of the City of Winnipeg has at times been demanding. The allocation of provincial resources and the investment of time and efforts of myself, my colleagues in Cabinet, and staff, is however worthy of the major pivotal role played by the City of Winnipeg in the affairs of this province.

This general approach in provincial interest in the City of Winnipeg demands a well-informed Provincial Government that is sensitive to the changing needs and priorities of the City of Winnipeg. The creation of the Department of Urban Affairs in December 1981 was essential to carry out these responsibilities in the City of Winnipeg.

I am pleased to report that the department is fully staffed up and provides the essential advice and analysis needed for meaningful provincial contribution towards the resolution of major urban policy issues.

Mr. Chairman, these are my brief introductory remarks on my responsibility as Minister of Urban Affairs. I would be pleased to provide additional information on the Estimates of expenditure for the Department of Urban Affairs now before this committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We shall now hear from the main opposition critic, the Member for St. Norbert, if he so desires.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I note throughout the Minister's opening statement that he refers to close co-operation with the council, working co-operatively, the spirit of co-operation and flexibility, ensuring a financial framework that will effectively meet the needs of the citizens of Winnipeg, co-operation and involvement with the City of Winnipeg, consultation with the City of Winnipeg, supporting the efforts of the council, a considerable degree of consultation, common and co-operative action in addressing major urban policy issues.

Mr. Chairman, in my opening remarks I believe the evidence of the Minister's actions during the past year are quite to the contrary. I want to begin, Mr. Chairman, noting the financial framework this Minister and this government have developed for the City of Winnipeg.

On Friday last we learned, Mr. Chairman, that setting aside the bankruptcy statistics, the unemployment statistics, the social assistance statistics, we now have irrefutable evidence of the effect of the policies this government has on the City of Winnipeg, in that the City of Winnipeg has the highest inflation rate of major cities in the country, Mr. Speaker.

While the consumer prices went down in April across the country from 7.2 to 6.6 percent, this city's went up to 8.2 percent, Mr. Speaker; whereas the consumer price index fell in other major cities, Manitoba's tax increases contributed, as noted in the news articles and in the Statistics Canada report, that the government's tax increases contributed to the higher prices for Winnipeg with the increase in the sales tax, tobacco tax, liquor tax, gasoline tax, etc. So although consumer prices, Mr. Speaker, have slid across the country for the last 11 months, during March and April they have increased above the national average rate in March and now the City of Winnipeg, as a result of this government's policies, has the highest consumer price index in Canada.

Mr. Chairman, referring to a matter I raised in question period with respect to City of Winnipeg taxes. I used, Mr. Chairman, an average home in the City of Winnipeg assessed at \$7,000, and noted that from 1977 to 1981, the total taxes on that home increased by \$78.03. In 1982 the increase in taxes on that home in the Winnipeg school division, which had the lowest tax increase of any of the school divisions, or of the areas of the City of Winnipeg in 1983; 1982 it increased by \$180.14; in 1983 by \$52.45, for a total of \$232.59 in two years. So in two years, Mr. Chairman, under the NDP, the total increase is three times the total increase under the Conservative Government for four years. So the City of Winnipeg residents not only are suffering from the consumer price index, they're suffering from very significant tax increases under the NDP, as compared to the Progressive Conservative Government for four years.

Mr. Chairman, the North of Portage Avenue Development; I suggest that the Minister has not supported the City of Winnipeg despite all of the comments about consultation and co-operation, etc. It is clear from the Core Area Initiative Report that the National Research Council building and the CBC buildings were commitments under that agreement and the Board of Commissioners report on the proposal by the Federal and Provincial Government pointed out the significant and onerous disproportionate financial



commitment of the City of Winnipeg to that development.

They've noted that the federal commitment - taking out the commitments to the NRC and CBC by the Federal Government which were longstanding and the Federal Government was obligated to them under the Core Area Initiative Agreement - the federal financial commitment was \$23.4 million; the provincial commitment was \$35.4 million and the city commitment was \$100.4 million; a disproportionate sharing of the financial burden, Mr. Chairman. The Minister should have supported the City of Winnipeg with respect to that issue, Mr. Chairman.

The irony is, that some two weeks after the Federal Minister unilaterally and arrogantly announced that the city has to make up its mind within a very short period of time, otherwise the City of Winnipeg is going to lose all of this money, two weeks later he announces the NRC building for Winnipeg, which just substantiates the fact that it was a longstanding commitment of the Federal Government, but where was the Minister? He wasn't supporting the City of Winnipeg, Mr. Chairman. If he wouldn't support the City of Winnipeg on that issue which was so clear, it is obvious that the City of Winnipeg lacks support from this Minister.

What it points out, Mr. Chairman, when you go back and look at the Core Area Initiative Agreement on Page 12 with respect to the North of Portage Development, there were supposed to be activities and the preparation of a design plan back then, "identification of private investment opportunities and requirements through consultation with the private sector," etc., and we have seen no action on behalf of this Minister and his department.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister talks about the Greater Winnipeg Development Plan in consultation with the city, and a final adoption of the Greater Winnipeg Development Plan; does he not remember the last minute intervention by the Minister, at the Executive Policy Committee Meeting, October 27th, 1982, where he refers: "On March 22, 1982, the Urban Affairs Committee of Cabinet received a presentation from the City of Winnipeg and, just as the Executive Policy Committee is about to approve the plan to go on to council for second reading, the city gets a detailed 12-page letter setting out, at the last minute, the province's position after public hearings have been held.

Mr. Chairman, that was an insult to the public and the City Council for the Minister to wait until the last possible moment before the Executive Policy Committee was to pass on the plan to Council, an insult to wait until that last minute to have a 12-page detailed letter sent on, at that point in time in the whole process, when the Minister had had a great deal of time to consider its position because the department was working on that for years. It is wrong, Mr. Chairman, although the Minister refers to co-operation etc., for the Minister to propose a veto, as he did, of major transportation projects in the City of Winnipeg. He said in that letter, Mr. Chairman: "The following is a preliminary listing of provincial urban policy objectives." It wasn't even, I take it, a final statement of all of their concerns.

As part of this co-operation, co-operative effort, Mr. Chairman, he said on Page 11: "The province wishes to reserve the right to approve or reject the specific

programs outlined in Plan Winnipeg, to accommodate anticipated growth in the next 20 years." So, Mr. Chairman, that kind of attitude can hardly be called co-operation or co-operative effort with the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister has gone on during the past year to announce, last November, that he was going to embark on a major review of The City of Winnipeg Act within a few months, and he was going to include amendments dealing with electoral boundaries. More than that, Mr. Chairman, he was going to make the City of Winnipeg more accessible and more responsive to the people, and make the councillors more accessible to the public. Mr. Chairman, can anyone reasonably call that a co-operative effort with the City of Winnipeg?

The Minister, I don't believe, has ever been a member of a Municipal Council, certainly not of the City of Winnipeg Council, and I would suggest to him that councillors are much more accessible to the people of this city than any other level of government.

The requirement for public hearings, the telephone calls, the thousands of issues that they deal with in the public, Mr. Chairman, are evidence of their accessibility. There may be a particular problem with one or a few individual councillors - the people will decide those issues at the polls when they have elections - but it's an insult to suggest to the councillors of the city that they must be more accessible, because I think the evidence is clear that they are extremely accessible to the public. They perhaps don't agree with the Minister all the time and perhaps that's his major concern.

Mr. Chairman, we have another issue on which there has been a lack of action by this Minister and the government and that's with respect to assessment. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has been prodded and pushed by members of our side to deal with that particular problem and to date we see little action by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. In view of the fact that the Minister of Urban Affairs is responsible for the City of Winnipeg and assessment under The City of Winnipeg Act, some action should be taken by the Minister to prod the Minister of Municipal Affairs to deal with that outstanding issue.

Mr. Chairman, we see, despite the Minister's statements with respect to the Shoal Lake question, what would appear to be again a lack of support by the Minister for the City of Winnipeg. The City of Winnipeg has been taking a tough position and a right decision, in view of their concern, to protect the City of Winnipeg's water supply, but the Minister would appear to be more concerned with the difficulties the Indian Band is having, rather than helping the City of Winnipeg with their position.

The Provincial Government has met with the Federal Government without City of Winnipeg participation. They have forced the City of Winnipeg to distribute a brochure to residents of the city so that the city can develop support for its position to protect the City of Winnipeg's water supply, which is obviously an essential service for the City of Winnipeg, but the Minister's support on that issue, again, appears to be very much lacking.

Mr. Chairman, we see announced, in spite of this co-operative attitude by the Minister, we see a Mosquito Control Program announced by the Minister of Environment, which will require a provincial permit

system in opposition to the City Council views and people who have the expertise and have developed those programs in consultation with people at the university, but the province is going to decide in the future, what is going to happen in that area.

The province, again, despite the suggestions of the close co-operation with the Council, have an Urban Transit Capital Grant Program, whereby they will approve what will be done with the transit system in the City of Winnipeg, not the managers and the experts in the City of Winnipeg transit system, but the heavy hand of the Provincial Government is going to become involved once again and decide what is going to be approved under the Urban Transit Capital Grant Program.

They're also going to decide what major urban transportation projects will proceed in the City of Winnipeg. They'll have to have the approval of the Provincial Government, not the experts in the City of Winnipeg and their transportation department who have much greater ability and expertise in this area as to what is required in urban transportation.

Mr. Chairman, we have announced - and this will be a subject we're going to have get into with respect to the Core Area - but we have what appears to be a number of what I call very transitory projects undertaken by the Core Area Initiative Program; the Winter Park, En Core '83, \$250,000; a \$65,000 survey, when very little has been happening. We have what would appear to be lavish expenses for the Core Area office and staff and, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister should provide some details as we go along through that area.

Mr. Chairman, we have the ARC program being held up in the East Yards because the government is asking the CNR to donate all of the downtown riverbank property to the city. Perhaps the Minister will supply us with some information with respect to that request as the Estimates are considered. But, Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of programs in existence under the Core Area Initiative which has funds for the East Yards; the ARC Program which has funds for the East Yards, and surely some work could be undertaken on that important project, historical site, for the City of Winnipeg. I'd be interested in knowing what has happened to the Minister's requests on that.

Mr. Chairman, we have the matter referred to in question period today, another grant to the Logan Community Committee of \$70,000.00. I'd like to know the details of what was paid out previously and whether or not there was an accounting for those monies. The monies are apparently, with respect to the redevelopment of that area which involves residential and business purposes, and I would like to get some greater justification from the Minister particularly when we have a statement from Mr. Schubert of MHRC, Manager of Planning and Program Development, who said, in December, "We have our doubts about whether new houses can be sold in that particular area."

Mr. Chairman, the record does not indicate that the Minister has acted in close co-operation and co-operatively with the city and in a spirit of co-operation and flexibility; in fact, quite to the contrary. The conclusion would be that the Minister has acted unilaterally; he has imposed heavy-handed conditions on the city; he has not supported the city; he has not co-operated with the city and, Mr. Chairman, I don't

think this is particularly good for the City of Winnipeg. I agree there should be spirit of co-operation and flexibility with the city. The City of Winnipeg, as you well know, contains well over half the population of Manitoba; there are elected politicians at the city level; the public does have great access to them and the councillors who represent the city, and the Mayor who represents the city, generally, very well represent the wishes and the interests of the citizens of the City of Winnipeg. My suggestion to the Minister is that he's going to have to mend his ways and act more in co-operation and consultation with the city, and he's going to have to, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg, wield some influence on the decisions of this government, so that the citizens of the City of Winnipeg are not subjected to the highest consumer price index increase in all of Canada, of major Canadian cities; and are not subjected to the increases in taxations that they have been, under this government, compared to the previous four years under a Progressive Conservative Government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Before we proceed any farther, the Chair invites the members of the Administrative Staff of the Department of Urban Affairs to kindly take their respective places.

Postponing for a while the consideration of Item No. 1.(a) relating to the Minister's Salary; we shall start with the next Item 1.(b) and 1.(c) which concerns with Executive Function, Salaries and Other Expenditures.

The Member for St. Johns.

**MR. D. MALINOWSKI:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman. I absolutely can't agree with such a heavy accusation which the Honourable Member for St. Norbert is making regarding the activities of the Minister of Urban Affairs.

I attended quite a few meetings with the Minister and I noticed absolutely the opposite what the Member for St. Norbert is saying, that the Minister has a lack of communication or co-operation with the City Council and the City Administration in the Core Area and so forth. So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to put on the record that I can't totally accept this kind of accusation which the Honourable Member for St. Norbert is making against our Minister.

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

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just ask the opposition critic how he may wish to proceed, if he wants to deal with each specific resolution and raise those questions that he may have. I presume, most of them relate to the introductory remarks that he made, and if he wants to deal with them in the specific resolution areas, or if he wants to ask some general questions then we can deal with them.

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that perhaps we just might proceed generally and then at the end we can pass the detailed Estimates. There might be some technical questions at that time, that's all, but the Minister has provided me with some information which may provide most of the technical answers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I don't know what the Member for St. Norbert means. Generally, means number-by-number, in every particular organizational unit, or all of the department all at once?

**MR. G. MERCIER:** What it means, Mr. Chairman, is we don't pass anything further, that we just discuss everything, and at the end we'll just pass everything.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Is this in order? Of course, it is discretion to do it but whatever will facilitate the proceedings of the committee seems to be okay.

The Honourable Minister.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, I would agree that we follow that course. There's only a limited number of resolutions with respect to this department, so I think it would be much easier to deal with all of the issues and questions in that fashion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Since Item 1.(b) is very general it probably will cover most of the areas, we might focus on that when all of the general questions can be asked so we don't lose track of where we are.

The Member for St. Norbert.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister supplied me with an organizational chart in which there appears to be, I think, 26 positions. Is that then an increase of seven over last year?

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

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there is no increase in positions from last year. That listing includes the contract positions in the ARC Authority which are not SYs, as is normally referred to. There is an overall decrease of one position which was in Estimates last year but is not filled, and that is the Senior Urban Economic Analyst which is a reduction of position. However, there are two increased positions for the Department of Urban Affairs; one being Administrative Secretary 2 in my office; and secondly, that position of Executive Assistant. What has occurred, Mr. Chairman, is that, as a result of the last change in responsibilities, with respect to Executive Council, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, which had that staff assigned to work in my office, was transferred to another Minister, hence I was without those two positions, so those two positions were added. When it all balances out there is an increase of one position for the department but, as I indicated, that position, and the other one, related to my office and the fact that Urban Affairs did not provide any direct assistance in my office, that was covered by Consumer and Corporate Affairs; and there is the one reduction in staff in the Administration and Finance Branch.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to deal with the North of Portage Avenue Development. What is the Minister's position - I have a copy of a letter dated May 6, 1983, from the Minister to the Mayor re North of Portage Avenue, which was distributed to all members of Council - does that accurately outline the province's position?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** That outlined the position of the Provincial Government at that time. The recent developments, with respect to North Portage, I think, requires some further clarification. The Member for St. Norbert indicated, in his reponse to my opening remarks, that the position of the province was one that did not support the City of Winnipeg. That, Mr. Chairman, with all respect, is simply not true. The development of the latest series of proposals for the North Portage area commenced actually a number of months ago.

They commenced with a discussion by the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration and the Premier, at which time the Federal Minister indicated his desire to look at the possibility of some further major development in the North Portage downtown area of Winnipeg. That was followed up with a meeting called - I believe it was on March 24th - between the Federal Minister, Mr. Axworthy, the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg, and myself, at which time we reviewed a proposal from the Federal Government for a development North of Portage. That is the proposal that was referred to earlier by the Member for St. Norbert which was commented on by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Winnipeg.

The position of the province at that time was that it was prepared to support such further concentrated development in the North Portage area on the condition that the City of Winnipeg was in favour of the proposal. That was one firm condition that the province attached at that time.

The second condition that the province attached at that time was, that the development would have to cause further activity in the private sector, that is, that the province was not going to support that amount of public sector expenditure unless there were some commitments made with respect to further activity from the private sector. So the position of the province, Mr. Chairman, was quite clear that it supported the position of the City of Winnipeg insofar as it was willing to participate in such a tri-level development in the North of Portage. The specific proposal that was tabled at that time was one that the province was prepared to support if the City of Winnipeg indicated support for it.

Unfortunately what was to transpire was, that the specific proposal that was being discussed was made public prior to a meeting that was already scheduled with members who also sit on the Executive Policy Committee, a meeting that was planned by the city after discussion with the three of us on the policy committee, that that proposal was made public before the members on the Executive Policy Committee had the opportunity of discussing it.

But the discussions, Mr. Chairman, at all times,

(1) included the Mayor of the City of Winnipeg as the representative of the City of Winnipeg on the policy committee,

(2) the position of the province has always been that it was willing to participate in such a development, but was not prepared to force the city into accepting any proposal, nor contrary to what was expressed in the opening remarks was the province putting any deadline on the City of Winnipeg with respect to its involvement.

In fact the position of the province in that regard is clear, we were concerned that there'd be some response

to the proposal so that we could either start working on that proposal, or look at some other proposal, or not proceed any further. However we did not state at any time that there had to be a response within one week or within two weeks as was apparently claimed by the Federal Minister.

The state of the proposal at the present time is that there is a tri-level task force been formed with two representatives from the province, that being the Deputy Minister of Urban Affairs, Mr. David Sanders, and Mr. Michael Decter, the Clerk of the Executive Council; two representatives of the City of Winnipeg, I believe Mr. Dackiw and Mr. Henderson; two representatives of the Federal Government, Mr. Mackie (phonetic) and Mr. Drew Cringham (phonetic) from the Minister's office, the Minister of Employment and Immigration. They have met I believe on three occasions and as late as just moments ago. So that task force is working on looking at specific proposals for the North of Portage area, and I would expect would be responding within the 60-day period.

The committee is just finalizing its terms of reference and its process, but I know from the discussions that I've had with the Mayor and the Federal Minister that the process will involve consultation with private developers; Downtown Business Association; the residents and businesses in the area that have formed a local association, architects and other professional persons in the City of Winnipeg who are interested in seeing the revitalization of that area and the downtown, generally.

So the discussions are continuing with the three levels of government and I'm hopeful that we can reach a stage within the 60 days that specific proposals can be agreed to.

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, has the Minister pointed out to the Federal Minister that the NRC building and the CBC building were commitments under the Core Area Initiative Agreement?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have indicated to the Federal Minister that we would like to see further Federal Government activity in the City of Winnipeg. We did that with respect to the Air Canada building and worked with the Federal Government and the city to ensure that it was located in the Core Area, in particular, North of Portage to help bring about some further development there. We did work, as did the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism, to press the Federal Government into choosing Winnipeg, and particularly the downtown area, for the site of the new NRC building and we are continuing to work with the Federal Ministers on locating the CBC building in the downtown area.

I have met and discussed this with Mr. Axworthy, the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, and just last week with Mr. Francis Fox, the Minister of Communications, to attempt to ensure that decision be made with respect to CBC soon.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, did the Minister not consider that the financial commitment to the proposed

development was excessive and disproportionate to the two others? The financial commitment to the City of Winnipeg of the proposed development, did he not think that was disproportionate or excessive for the city?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we indicated concern. Again I think we should preface it by, that proposal is no longer the one, the specific proposal, that's under discussion. What is under discussion is a commitment from each level of government to at least a \$20 million commitment from each level of government and other possible projects. So the specific project or specific proposal that the member is referring to is no longer the one that's of specific discussion at the present time; that the parties are open to look at a number of projects.

With respect to that proposal, the province was concerned with the fact that, first, the City of Winnipeg did not do any detailed work on that proposal until after it was made public and after the meeting that was called by the city Executive Policy Committee to deal with it, that we were also concerned with the suggestion that was made with respect to the tax deferrals, and that was one area that we had expressed concern with, and had agreed with the Mayor, the question as to the advisability of that proposal.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, just to get it clear, then, is what the Federal-Provincial-City Committee is now discussing is a contribution of \$20 million from each level of government, plus dealing with the location of the NRC building.

I will repeat the question for the Minister, Mr. Chairman. Is what is now being discussed a commitment by each level of government in the sum of \$20 million, plus a commitment by the Federal Government to build the NRC building, and is the committee looking at the allocation of the 60 million, plus the location of the NRC building?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The specific and firm commitments, if you will, at the present time, is the \$20 million from each level of government. The mission of the task force is to look at what possible developments there can be from in the North of Portage area, which include a number of objectives: one is to simulate job creation and increased employment activity in the development area, and looking particularly at projects that can start sooner, rather than later; the second objective is to ensure that there is private sector participation in that project, and the task force has, as I said earlier, been mandated to meet with the private sector on an ongoing basis with respect to the development. The Policy Committee, the mayor, Mr. Axworthy and myself met just last week with a number of developers in the City of Winnipeg to get their input on the possibilities for the North of Portage. The third objective is to maximize the overall investment in that area through a mix of recreation, cultural and other such projects. The fourth objective is to look at activities that would help bring about the greater involvement, to attract more people to the downtown area of the City of Winnipeg.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Keeping those objectives in mind then, Mr. Chairman, I take it then that the committee

will come back and recommend how the total of \$60 million should be spent.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the committee would be coming back with recommendations on the development, utilizing the firm commitments that have been made, exploring other possible commitments from each level of government and, in particular, the possibilities of private sector investment in the area, in a mixed development that would have private and public sector involvement.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Yes, the \$60 million commitment does not include any diversion of the Core Area funding?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, it does not. There are funds, as the member is aware, set aside for the North of Portage Development and the Core Area Initiative. There was also some suggestion of having greater funds available for the North of Portage Development. There is, at present, an additional \$2 million that is unallocated as part of the Core Area Initiative which was freed-up from the change in plans for the Logan Industrial Park, and there is some suggestion that ought to be utilized in the North of Portage area. There is, also, quite frankly, some suggestion by others that there be other funds diverted to the North of Portage Development as part of the initial proposal that was made, but it would be my view, and a view that I think is shared by the Mayor, that there not be any great funds diverted from other Core Area Initiative programs to the North of Portage Development.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Will this committee look at or make a recommendation as to the location of the NRC building?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that issue is being discussed by that task force, and I am informed that there may well be an early decision made on the actual location for the NRC building, but that would be a decision that would have to be made by the Federal Government, but they are discussing it at the task force level.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Does the province have a view, or an opinion, with respect to the location of the NRC building? Do they believe it should be North of Portage Avenue, or do they believe it should be in the East Yards, or some other location?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The position of the province is that we would like to have the facility located in the Province of Manitoba. I think that's the first objective and that is one that has been achieved. The second objective would be to have that facility located in the Core Area of the City of Winnipeg because it is obvious that in the past there have been a number of facilities that have been built by the Federal Government in the suburban areas of Winnipeg that have, in part, caused the problems that we are now experiencing with the downtown area, so we would support its location downtown. As far as a specific site, again, we're willing to discuss that with the government, but it appears

that the East Yard site is not available in the short term, and I know that the member wanted to discuss that issue under the ARC Program, but it is clear that the Federal Government would like to have an early start on the NRC building in the City of Winnipeg. I believe they would like to have construction started before the end of this year, and that at the rate discussions are going with CNR to date, with respect to the C.N. East Yards, it does not appear that that land will be available in the very near future for the Core Area projects.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I agree that there should never be a repeat of the building of major federal facilities, like the Tax Centre in East Kildonan, and the Mint is another one, in outlying suburban areas. Is the Committee looking at an arena in the downtown area as one of the projects, and what is the Minister's opinion on that possibility?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The mandate of the task force is to look at all components that could go into a development North of Portage, in particular, developments that would bring about greater traffic, greater people coming to the Core Area. So the specific proposal for an arena is one that could be discussed if it is proposed in the task force process, but it is not a prerequisite to any development North of Portage.

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

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** Mr. Chairman, we're talking about \$400 million in this development on the north side of Portage. The three levels of government are each committing themselves to \$20 million; that's only \$60 million. Where do you figure that the other \$340 million is coming from?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, we are not talking about a \$400 million proposal. What we are talking about is commitments from each level of government of \$20 million, and looking at what possibilities there are for development using that firm commitment from the three levels of government, other related government activity either at the Federal Government level like the NRC building, other Provincial Government initiatives and other involvement from the city and looking at involvement from the private sector. Unfortunately, the \$400 million figure was one that was used by the media in discussing an earlier idea that was talked about at that time. There is no commitment for a \$400 million Development and I, quite frankly, would be pleased with the development that includes the kind of public-sector commitment we are talking about and, at least, like or better investment from the private sector. I think that would be the kind of development that would be one that would be reasonable and well-received in the City of Winnipeg.

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

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** What response, if any, have we had the opportunity to find out what kind of response we might be getting from the private sector?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The initial discussions that we've held with the private sector are encouraging. As I

indicated a bit earlier, the Mayor, Mr. Axworthy and myself met with six or seven of the major land developers in the City of Winnipeg who are encouraged and interested in projects North of Portage and will be included in the ongoing discussions of the task force. The Downtown Business Association has indicated its support for a major development in the North Portage area so we have indications of support by the business people in the downtown area and by the major developers in the City of Winnipeg. I'm optimistic that on the basis of the work of the task force, the ongoing discussion with the private sector, that there will be, indeed, private-sector investment in the North Portage area part of this proposal. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, the province's position is clear that it will need to have some indication of that kind of investment before it would confirm its involvement in the project.

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** I go to the Core Area, of the \$96 million that was projected for that Core Area development, how much of that has been expended? Are we in a position to know how much of that has been expended?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Is the question one of the total expenditures under the Core Area Initiative or only that related to the North Portage area?

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** Only the North Portage, as far as I'm concerned.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** With respect to the North Portage redevelopment, there was \$13.1 million set aside for the North of Portage redevelopment. To date, there have been expenditures of \$4.9 million which, I believe, are basically the land assembly, land acquisition costs. So the rest of the funds are yet to be spent on that development.

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** Are any of the Core Area monies being redirected into this new plan development, or how much of it? Is that the \$2 million that you were speaking of a few moments ago, or is that about all?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There have been no decisions made with respect to any further funds for the North of Portage Development under the Core Area Initiative. The commitments have been made by each level of government with respect to the \$20 million but it would be our intention that the \$13.1 million or that remaining portion be spent in a manner that would be consistent with the other proposals that we're looking at for the North of Portage Development. There is no other decision made with respect to any transfers funds to the North of Portage Development from within the Core. I indicated there was \$2 million that was unallocated at the present time that was a result of the changes to the Logan Industrial Development Program under the Core which had not been allocated at the present time.

I have made one suggestion with respect to that to my partners suggesting that \$500,000 be transferred to the Historic Winnipeg Area Development but that hasn't been acted on yet.

I'm sorry, I should just clarify a bit further. There was an initial transfer of \$2 million to the North of Portage

from the Logan and \$2 million which was unallocated, so the total for the North of Portage redevelopment is \$15.1 million. An additional \$2 million unallocated within the Core. All the other funds under the Core are allocated to specific projects at the present time.

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** One more question. Are you satisfied with the progress that is being made with the Core Area?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** On balance, Mr. Chairman, I am satisfied. I believe that we certainly could be doing more with respect to the Core Area Initiative, and one always wishes and hopes that programs get off the ground faster than they do. I think that on balance the Core Area Initiative is moving and I would be pleased to get into some detail as far as the specific projects that are under way under each of the programs because, quite frankly, unfortunately a lot of that isn't the kind of information that tends to make it on the front pages of the newspapers or tends to make the lead stories on the other media. There is a lot of progress under the Core Area Initiative.

I think, unfortunately, there have been expectations develop because of the initial discussion, the initial agreement under the Core Area Initiative that suggested that the Core Area Initiative Agreement would be an agreement that would solve all the ills and resolve all the problems that exist in the Inner City in the downtown area. I'm sure the Member for St. Norbert would agree that that certainly wasn't the intention at that time but it was, I think, a healthy development that the three levels of government committed joint resources, joint action to in attempting to turn around the decline that has taken place in our Inner City area.

I think we are making progress. We all, I think, wish or desire that it would be quicker and we'd see the turnaround. I think it's coming.

**MR. R. NORDMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I think probably there's progress being made but it's not too visible at this moment. About all we see is the big hole on Portage Avenue which everyone makes hay with.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. D. MALINOWSKI:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister because it was mentioned that the private sector is participating in this redevelopment North of Portage. I would like to ask the Minister if Chinatown is included also in this participation?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The development North of Portage does not include the Chinatown. That is a separate project that comes under the Main Street Program, a program that is called the Neighbourhood Main Street Development Program under the Core which includes the Chinatown development, the Osborne area, Provencher, Selkirk Avenue and one which we're presently considering with respect to Main Street. The Chinatown development is not part of the North of Portage.

**MR. D. MALINOWSKI:** In this development then further, I would like to ask if the Chinese community, if they

are involved - like the Chinese businessmen - in this redevelopment? Are they involved financially?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** They are not involved specifically in the North of Portage development. But there are business people, be they Chinese or whatever ethnic background, we'd certainly welcome their involvement and investment in the North of Portage. There is involvement from business people from the Chinese community and the Neighbourhood Main Street Project for the Chinatown area. There has been one business as I understand that has opened since that project has started. One additional restaurant has opened up in the Chinatown area. I know that the members of the Chinatown Development Corporation are actively seeking investment in that area by other business people.

**MR. D. MALINOWSKI:** I don't know, it might be a rumour, Mr. Chairman, but I heard that people from Hong Kong, they are interested to invest some money in that development. Is it true, Mr Minister?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I can't confirm whether it's true or not. I know that there has been a trip by the Mayor and representative from the Chinatown Development Corporation to Hong Kong - I believe it was over a year ago - to discuss possibilities of investment by people in that country in the Chinatown area. I also understand that they went to Taiwan to look at possibilities there, but I can't confirm that there has been any specific investment decisions made by people from those countries in the Chinatown area to date.

**MR. D. MALINOWSKI:** Thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Kirkfield Park.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to go back to the arena proposal for downtown. I specifically want to ask the Minister, what kind of a push is the province making for this proposal in the tri-level committee?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The province is looking at and through its membership on the task force at the various options for a development in the North Portage area that would attract people to the area, but with regard to the arena, the province is not making any specific push, as the member refers to it, for an arena.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Then could I ask, if it's not pushing for the arena, what type of development like that then are they looking at?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The door quite frankly is open on any proposal. There has been a number of suggestions made that are going to be discussed and pursued by the task force, looking at options that range from a science and technology centre that was discussed a number of years ago by the Museum of Man and Nature as one example, to such things as a multicultural centre or a farmers-type market that has been suggested by some people in the City of Winnipeg, so the range is wide as far as proposals.

But we are looking and are pursuing through the task force, activities, facilities that would be of the type that would help attract people downtown and would not duplicate existing services or attractions in the City of Winnipeg.

**MRS. G. HAMMOND:** Mr. Chairman, I'm certainly glad to hear the Minister indicate he doesn't want to duplicate services.

What I'm wondering is if in 60 days, can the task force be expected to come up with a proposal of this nature just to build something? In other words, you get the feeling, and I don't think I'm the only one, that we're just throwing money at a problem and whoever comes up with the best idea, well let's put it in if it's acceptable to all three. I wonder if 60 days is long enough to be looking at this type of a program. I know everyone's anxious that the money be spent and everyone's anxious that jobs be created, but we've got a city that's going to last a lot longer than 60 days, and I'm just wondering what kind of long-term proposals we're going to pick up in 60 days that weren't there before.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Well, one can always make the argument that you need more time to fully study these kind of proposals; these kind of developments; but the intention of the task force is to utilize the existing resources of the three levels of government, which I think in total are considerable with respect to the kind of developments that can be considered, the problems that do face that area at the present time and I think that there is need to move as quickly as possible.

So I would simply answer or simply say, I think that with the concern and commitment that has been made by each level of government, the interest that has been indicated from the private sector that we can come up with proposals within the 60 days that are well-thought-out, well-committed proposals that are not simply those that are developed just for the sake of getting something because at the end of it, each level of government still has responsibility for approving the final product or the final proposals. It would be our intention at the Provincial Government level to ensure that whatever proposals are developed, meets the Provincial Government objectives which I indicated earlier.

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether the tri-level committee is looking at the park site on Portage Avenue, and considering alternative uses for that piece of property other than a park.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Yes, the committee will be looking at the North Portage as a total area and we'll be looking at what proposals can be made with respect to the development on the infamous Portage Avenue Park and Central Park extension, to ensure that there be an overall approach to the various precincts within the North Portage, so that would compliment the other.

There has been discussion on alternate ideas for the North Portage Park and Central Park extension that would include developments other than those of a park

nature, strictly looking at the possibility of a development that would include a park but have some form of development over and above the park; to look at the possibility of some housing coming down the strip that has been expropriated from Central Park down to North of Portage. So those questions are still open at the present time.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, on another subject. How does the Minister propose to make councillors more accessible and responsive to the people?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The province is, as indicated, looking at the review of The City of Winnipeg Act and it would be in that context that I would see the review looking at ways to ensure that councillors are responsive to the citizens of Winnipeg. It may be that there has to be some changes in the legislative structure that exists with respect to councillors, to the community committees, to the advisory committees, and that is the kind of issue that I would see discussed in the context of some overall review of The City of Winnipeg Act.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, obviously it is the Minister's opinion that City Councillors are not accessible enough, or responsive enough, is that correct?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I think that there always are areas where we can improve. We could provide better services to the people that we have the honour of serving, whether it be at the civic level, at the provincial level, or at the federal level, and it would be our intention to look at the review of The City of Winnipeg Act in that context.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Could the Minister give some examples as to where he thinks councillors are not accessible enough, or responsive enough?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I don't have any examples to give; as I indicated, I think that we can all look at improving the way that we respond to our constituencies and it's with that view that, I think, we should review The City of Winnipeg Act, to ensure that that is the case. I do not have any specific examples.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is quoted in the Winnipeg Free Press of November 17, 1982, speaking to the Winnipeg Labour Council's Founding Policy Conference, stating: "We hope to make the City of Winnipeg more accessible and more responsive to its people." What is the basis for the Minister to make that statement?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** As I indicated, that's the kind of area that we'd like to review in the review that, hopefully, will be taking place with respect to The City of Winnipeg Act. It's one that we've looked at in the Provincial Government's response to Plan Winnipeg, in particular, with respect to the issue of community planning and action area planning. Those are, I guess, two examples that we can give. There have been other concerns that have been raised to the Provincial Government with

respect to additional zone and other areas that we think ought to be reviewed at an appropriate time, with respect to what does exist or could be changed in The City of Winnipeg Act, as it pertains to those areas.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the Minister said in the Estimates last year that he was going to undertake a review of the Act. He's quoted on November 17, 1982 as saying the province will embark on a major review of The City of Winnipeg Act within a few months. Has that major review been undertaken?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, I don't believe that is what I said at that time. It may have been what was reported by the newspaper, I don't recall that specific article. I also just recalled that earlier the member quoted me as saying that there was going to be a review of the City of Winnipeg Ward Boundaries this year, and that also is not a correct quote. What I did say, that the province was looking at changes to The City of Winnipeg Act that would be tabled in this current Session, and I expect, within the next short while, to bring in a bill covering amendments, basically minor in nature, to The City of Winnipeg Act and, at that time, look at the possibility of a further more comprehensive review of The City of Winnipeg Act.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Will there be any change in Ward boundaries for the fall election?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No, the department did some analysis of the present Ward boundaries and looked at the population changes that have occurred since the last review as is, of course, mandated in The City of Winnipeg Act. On the basis of that analysis there was found to be no need to alter the Ward boundaries that, because of the slower growth of the last number of years, that there hasn't been any major shifts in population between Wards, at least not of the nature that would require changing Ward boundaries for this upcoming Civic Election.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, the article does indicate that the major review expected to begin early next year will include public input through civic meetings. Does the review, whether it's major or minor or medium, that the Minister proposes, will that involve public hearings?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The decision, with respect to the review, has not been made. It would be our intention to look at a review of The City of Winnipeg Act, a major review, and once that decision is made I would expect that it would include public hearing process of some sort, but those decisions haven't been made at the present time.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Does the Minister know who would conduct such a review at this stage?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Does the Minister have any particular concerns with respect to The City of Winnipeg Act?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** There has been a long list, or a long number, of concerns that have been expressed



with respect to The City of Winnipeg Act. They range from concerns expressed to me by land developers in the City of Winnipeg that feel that the procedures that are mandated under The City of Winnipeg Act are such that they inhibit the development of The City of Winnipeg; they also range on, I guess, one could phrase it to the other side wherein the Social Planning Council and other organizations have concerns with respect to issues of planning, particularly, community planning under The City of Winnipeg Act. There has been concerns expressed to me by municipalities that are members of the additional zone of the City of Winnipeg, concern of the legislative control over the additional zone that is in the hands of the City of Winnipeg, and there's been concerns by other groups with respect to The City of Winnipeg Act. It would be our intention to have those concerns raised in an overall review in the near future.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, would the Minister explain why he proposes to have a veto over major transportation projects in the city?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** That proposal was one that was made in the position of the province to the City of Winnipeg on Plan Winnipeg and, I would like, Mr. Chairman, to spend a couple of moments discussing that response because earlier the Member for St. Norbert expressed his concern, as I think he stated, the high-handed attitude of this Minister, with respect to the City of Winnipeg, in a number of areas, one of which included Plan Winnipeg.

I believe, as the Member for St. Norbert is aware, that under the terms of the City of Winnipeg Act, the revision to the Greater Winnipeg Development Plan requires a process that includes the approval of the Minister for Urban Affairs to the plan that is developed by the city. That approval is after the second by-law reading and approval, and is referred to the Minister for approval, or for approval subject to revisions, or for referral to the Municipal Board for public hearings and then ultimate recommendations and decisions, and further recommendations back to City Council for third and final approval. I think, as the member is aware, that legislative process is somewhat unique, with respect to the planning process, throughout Canada because it requires both approval and commitment from the city government and the province with respect to development plan. I think that's one which is a good provision in The City of Winnipeg Act because once that plan is ultimately approved, and hopefully it does meet the objectives, both of the city and the province, it is a plan that has the commitment of the two levels of government.

The process of Plan Winnipeg started, as members are aware, a number of years ago, and was a commitment from the three levels of government, the City, the Federal Government and the Provincial Government, to the revision of the, then, development plan that was developed by the Metro Corporation. Sometime into the process the Federal Government decided that it would merely give funds to the City to continue and complete the plan without their ongoing active involvement. I am informed that a similar decision was made by the, then, Provincial Government around

1979, 1980. This Provincial Government involvement with Plan Winnipeg has been in a very short timeframe. It was on March 22 of 1982 that the City of Winnipeg informed the province of the state of development of Plan Winnipeg. The City at that time requested a response from the province before the Executive Policy Committee meetings that were scheduled, at that time, for April 22nd and 23rd. They asked for at least an initial reaction to Plan Winnipeg. That reaction was given to the official delegation of the City of Winnipeg on April 20th, in letter form, and discussed at a meeting of the official delegation. I can inform members that the concerns that were finally made public in the publicized, referred to, last minute intervention by the Minister, by myself, were ones that were similar to those that were raised at that April 20th meeting and April 20th letter to the City of Winnipeg, so that the issues that were of concern to the province, with respect to Plan Winnipeg, were given to the City at that time. In fact, it was the City that requested that the province not make public the concerns that it had with respect to Plan Winnipeg, and we concurred with that request.

The final response to Plan Winnipeg was prepared by the province during the month of October. We were informed that the Executive Policy Committee was to consider its final changes to Plan Winnipeg By-law on November 4th, 1982. We then prepared for the final decisions to be made by the Executive Council, by Cabinet, just prior to that meeting. Unfortunately, what happened was that Executive Policy Committee changed its meeting date, apparently because of some impending changes that were coming at the Council meeting that was being held in that period, some changes that were pending on the Executive Policy Committee, they moved their meeting up a week earlier, which necessitated the province to respond the morning of that meeting, as we had found out just a day or two prior, that the meeting date had been changed, so that the letter arrived on the morning of that meeting, even though it was intended to be discussed on the Friday subsequent, which was an already scheduled meeting of the official delegation of the City of Winnipeg and the Urban Affairs Committee of Cabinet. So it was out intention to discuss the final position of the province, with respect to Plan Winnipeg, prior to the final meeting of the Executive Policy Committee that was scheduled to deal with changes to Plan Winnipeg. Unfortunately, because of change of plans of the Executive Policy Committee, that response came the morning of the meeting, even though it was scheduled to be given to the official delegation a couple of days subsequent.

The concern that the province expressed with Plan Winnipeg were in a number of areas. The one, in particular, that the Member for St. Norbert referred to, was one dealing with the major transportation plans of the City of Winnipeg, and that it was suggested that there be a joint approval process for any major plans of the city with respect to major transportation quarters because of their obvious impact on both the city and the province.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, that was a long answer to a short question but it didn't really answer the question. Why does the Minister and the government require a veto of major transportation projects in the City?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I think I did answer that, indicating that it's the province's position, because of the impact on those transportation projects on both the city and the province, that there should be a joint approval mechanism, and that is what was suggested with respect to Plan Winnipeg.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, does the Minister not have confidence in the expertise in the City of Winnipeg administrative staff and the elected politicians at City Council to make the correct decision in the interest of the City?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I have all the confidence in the decision-making process of City Council and the expertise that exists at the City level. Obviously they look at the impact directly, of those projects on the City of Winnipeg.

The province does have an interest in how those projects relate to the overall provincial concerns and also look at the sometimes far-reaching impact on urban communities and services that those kind of projects take.

The city is also wanting, from the province, financial assistance on those major projects and it seems to me that if they are asking for cost-sharing on those major projects, that it's not unreasonable for the Provincial Government to have a say and a co-determination on those ultimate, major transportation decisions in the City of Winnipeg.

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

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, what expertise does the Minister have available in his staff with respect to major urban transportation projects that he would rely on to counter the expertise at the City of Winnipeg?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The department does have an Urban Transportation planner who also sits on the Interdepartmental Urban Transportation Committee which includes representation from the Department of Highways and Transportation, the Department of Energy and Mines, the Department of Municipal Affairs and the Department of Urban Affairs.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** What are the qualifications of this Urban Transportation planner that the Minister has on staff?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I can just answer in general terms. If you would like the specific CV of that individual, I could have it for this evening. I'm informed that the individual has a Master's Degree in Urban Planning and has worked previously for the Provincial Department of Urban Affairs, both here in the Province of Manitoba and the Municipal Affairs Department in the Province of British Columbia. But if the member desires, I can have the detailed CV if that's of interest to him.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I would like that because I'm concerned that the Minister and the government have implemented a veto over major transportation projects in the City of Winnipeg, and

the Minister has on staff one person - who, I don't know, may or may not be somewhat qualified and I don't know what experience this person has in transportation matters - but this person, his source of expertise, to counter-balance the combined expertise, experience and staff of the City of Winnipeg's Streets and Transportation Branch, which have been involved with years and years of study and experience in transportation projects in the city and maintain an ongoing relationship, through various associations, with other major cities in Canada and the United States, and are extremely well-qualified on appropriate major urban transportation projects, and the Minister is going to rely on this one person.

I suspect that what may be involved is not particularly any expertise in transportation projects but a great deal of politics on the part of the Minister and the government and that, Mr. Chairman, is the real danger to the City of Winnipeg, from the province adopting such a policy, because the previous NDP Government under Mr. Schreyer did it and politics became very involved at the provincial level as to what was going to be approved and what was not going to be approved.

I suggest to the Minister that the best way to deal with this is to leave this in the hands of the city. They have the expertise; the Minister can't hope to duplicate, in any way, the expertise that exists at the city level in this particular area because this is the business of municipalities and cities and they are well qualified to make these decisions and should be allowed to make these decisions.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I will provide that detailed information for him later today. I also indicated that the intention of the province was not to duplicate the expertise and staff that exists at the city; that there is some availability of that advice that's needed by the province through the limited staff resource in the Department of Urban Affairs. There is an interdepartmental committee on Urban Transportation that includes representatives from other line departments that have expertise in specific areas of transportation. I would indicate that it's not a matter of politics, as suggested by the Member for St. Norbert, rather a concern by the Provincial Government in having ongoing co-ordination and co-operation with the City of Winnipeg.

There's been a number of major decisions with respect to transportation that have been made in the City of Winnipeg that have had a profound impact on what's happened to our city. Now, I'll use a couple of examples because they're ones that I think will illustrate the need for ongoing co-ordination.

On one hand, a number of years ago, we had the City of Winnipeg decide that they were going to change the method of operation for the Transit System, suggesting that there was a need to move away from what was a system at that time that was in part an electrified system using DC power for the use of trolley buses - and prior to that, streetcars - where the city moved away from that to an exclusive, non-renewable energy source for the transportation needs of the City of Winnipeg.

Here we have, I suppose, a decade 15 years later, a request from the City of Winnipeg to the Province

of Manitoba for significant funds to bring about electrification of the Winnipeg Transit System - just over 10 years from the date that the city decided to move away - and I can tell you from my own personal experience because at that time I happened to work for the City of Winnipeg - and I was one, as a tradesperson, that was given the task of dismantling the equipment that, in the main, went for scrap and could have been still servicing our needs today. But now we have a request from the city to the province saying we need major grants in order to bring about the electrification - the re-electrification - of the Winnipeg Transit System.

We have other decisions that have been made with respect to major transportation quarters in the City of Winnipeg like the Bishop Grandin Boulevard that have also brought about development - I use the example of Bishop Grandin - of a major, regional shopping centre that has, in part, been part of the reason that we have a decaying downtown Inner City area. There we have the City of Winnipeg now requesting significant funds and assistance to help bring about a chance in the environment in our downtown area to bring about urban revitalization of our Inner City, bring about greater development of our downtown area so people will come and shop and visit and live in a downtown area, yet decisions were made that in some way caused the problem we're trying to address now with financial resources of the three levels of government including the province. I think that we have to look at the far-reaching consequences of some of those decisions. I think that they have to be done in a co-ordinated, co-operative fashion by the city on those major transportation areas with the Provincial Government.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, hindsight is great, but I don't think if either I or the Minister or really anybody else who was in government at the time - it was Metro made the decision with respect to the trolley buses - that we would have disagreed that we would have been that far-sighted at the time or knowledgeable enough about the future to disagree with that decision.

With respect to Bishop Grandin Boulevard, I point out to the Minister that the former NDP Government approved that particular project even though it was not the No. 1 priority of the city. It was the NDP Government of Mr. Schreyer who decided that that was the project to be approved. I just point that out for the information of the Minister.

Did the Minister approve the reconstruction of the Salter Street bridge?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** The province approved that project to the extent we indicated that we would be prepared to cost-share on the replacement for the Salter Street bridge, and also that we enjoined (sic) the city with an application to the Federal Government with respect to the grade separation.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, in keeping with the government's policy, did they approve the plans and the total Salter Street Reconstruction Project?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I'm not quite certain what the member is asking. If he's asking that question in regard

to the proposed amendment to Plan Winnipeg, I just remind the member that Plan Winnipeg is not in effect, so that process is not in effect for decision. The decision to proceed with the Salter Street bridge replacement doesn't require Provincial Government approval as such. It does require the province enjoining the city on the application to the Federal Government for the grade separation. We did indicate as part of our grants to the City of Winnipeg that we would cost-share in the costs related to that reconstruction.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to be clear. The Minister has approved funding for the project, the Salter Street reconstruction. In doing that did he view the plans, etc., and approve the work that was to be done?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** To the extent that the province approved and enjoined the application to the CTC on that project, we did approve the plans of the city. If he's asking me whether or not I went through all the working drawings and looked at the details as to how many ounces of concrete or whatever goes into that, I did not.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** Let me put the question this way. Is there something that the Minister does not approve with respect to the reconstruction of the Salter Street bridge?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** No.

**MR. G. MERCIER:** How does the Minister justify that action, considering his views with respect to the relocation of the yards and the main line?

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I don't believe there's any contradiction with this government's views of rail relocation or the replacement of the Salter Street bridge. This government has indicated its support of the city's intention to look at the possible relocation of the CPR main marshalling yards and the possibility of the main line, but we also recognize that isn't a project that is going to be done in the near future. It's one that is a more long-term objective that we are prepared to work with the City of Winnipeg on, and that in the short term, there is a need to replace the Salter Street bridge which the reports are that it is in a state of disrepair. That means that it has to be reconstructed within the next few years or it could be deemed unsafe or unworthy for use. In fact, its use has been limited in some respects at the present time. I believe it's monitored on a fairly regular basis by the City of Winnipeg.

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

**MR. G. FILMON:** Mr. Chairman, I was interested to hear the Minister indicate that he did not believe that the province was going to be duplicating the efforts of the city with respect to urban transportation planning, or would be superimposing its expertise in urban transportation planning or development on that of the city. I agree with that wholeheartedly because I don't believe there's any way that the province with one or two or a handful of people would ever be in a position

to second-guess or even for that matter, fully appreciate the kind of background that goes into the city's urban transportation plans with the considerable number of professional engineers that they have on staff, people with expertise and many degrees in transportation engineering, transportation economics, countless urban planners and so on, and one or two administrative staff from the Minister's department with some background in urban planning are never going to be able to allow him to adequately second-guess those plans of the city.

So what he is telling us then is that what he is superimposing on the city is political judgment on the decisions that they make with respect to urban transportation decisions. That's an interesting concept, because if he's going to superimpose his government's political judgement on those urban transportation plans, then he may as well take under consideration whether or not he's going to superimpose his government's political decision-making on all of the functions that the city does; urban planning, land use, social services, recreation services, all those things. He may as well superimpose their political judgement on them all because they all have serious long-term ramifications. They all have very large price tags and they all involve the future development and quality of life for the City of Winnipeg. If that's the case then the Minister might as well own up and take responsibility for all of those things and to get rid of City Council, because that's the next step. I don't advocate it, but that's what the Minister is heading for. If he's going to choose one area and say now that I choose a veto on that area, he may as well go the whole route because that's where it's at.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** Well, Mr. Chairman, with all respect, those comments are nonsense.

**MR. G. FILMON:** So is your position.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister has the floor.

**HON. E. KOSTYRA:** I didn't believe I interrupted the Member for Tuxedo in his comments but, with all respect, those comments are nonsense. To suggest that the province is taking that approach is not one that bears up against the facts. The province's position is that it is willing and wants to work co-operatively with the City of Winnipeg with respect to the major issues that face the City of Winnipeg. How, on one hand, you can argue that the province should ignore what happens in the City of Winnipeg, we have a situation where half the population of the Province of Manitoba resides in one municipality, one city in the Province of Manitoba. If one would take the argument of the member to its extremes then the province should not care what happens in the City of Winnipeg, that it should not work with the City of Winnipeg on the major problems facing the City and, in taking that approach, then we would just leave the City on its own to cope as best it can. No government, be it at the municipal, as against provincial level; or provincial, as against federal level, can work in isolation, there has to be ongoing co-operation between the various levels of government. There has to be common ground found on major issues

that affect the various levels of government if we are to operate in an efficient manner and one that addresses the issues that have to be faced.

The City of Winnipeg looks to the province for significant financial assistance, significant assistance in regard to major issues that are of concern to the City of Winnipeg. So it flows, Mr. Chairman, that there ought to be ongoing communication dialogue between the two levels of government, and not that one government can work in the abstract way, not involving the other level of government, and that is the approach that is the policy of this government. It's not, as suggested by the member, one that has the Provincial Government imposing itself on the City; that simply is not true and the suggestion that was made that this Provincial Government was attempting to do away with City Council is nonsense.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The hour being 4:30 the Chair is interrupting the proceedings of this Committee for Private Members' Hour and, hopefully, the Committee shall continue its proceedings at 8:00 p.m.

## SUPPLY - HEALTH

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** Committee, come to order. We are considering the Estimates of the Department of Health, Item 7.(2) Hospital Program - the Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, when we concluded the evening's work last Thursday, we had just finished a discussion of the various capabilities, in cardiology, of the two major teaching hospitals in Winnipeg and the possible dangers of duplication of services there; and the next item I wanted to discuss with the Minister had to do with the overall budgetary condition of hospitals in the province.

I know that when we first resumed consideration of the Estimates of this department last week my colleague, the Member for Pembina, raised some questions about hospital budget increases in general, while pursuing some questions and concerns he had relative to facilities in the constituency of Pembina particularly in the Carman and Morden areas, and I wondered at the time whether we were getting ourselves in a position, in terms of discussing overall hospital budgetary increases, in a way that would preclude the further examination later in the Estimates process.

I don't believe we went that far - I hope we didn't - because my colleague was concerned primarily with the situation respecting the health facilities, the hospitals in his own constituency and I want to take a look at the overall hospital budget situation in the province and ask the Minister for some information in that subject area, Sir.

The Minister did give my colleague some answers apropos hospitals in the Pembina constituency which may apply more broadly to hospital budgets in other parts of the province, indeed across the province, and I don't mean to be repetitive if I'm asking him questions on ground now that borders on that ground. But I do want to satisfy myself that the committee has knowledge of and is aware of the overall budgetary approach in hospital funding and financing this year, so I want to

put that type of question to him at the moment, relative to the province overall and not to one particular region or one particular constituency.

Can the Minister confirm that the overall budgetary increase given to the hospitals in Manitoba this year, '83-84, was 7.2 percent or something in that range? If that's not accurate, could he provide the committee with the exact figures? My understanding is that that was sort of the median or average budgetary increase that was awarded, 7.2 percent. Is that correct, Mr. Chairman?

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

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** No, Mr. Chairman, that was the initial that was placed on the table, and like all negotiating when the negotiating starts by the Commission, what I'm requesting here from this committee is 9.75. Of course that is for the actual increase to run the program that they had last year and there's additional to that. I think on Thursday, I gave all that information of all the details, broken down.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** So 9.4 is the average increase across the board in this year's budget over last year's, but there would be of course some situations where the increase was greater than that and some where it's less than that. Is that correct?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** That's correct. One correction though, it's not 9.4, it's 3/4 or 9.7 something.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Oh, it's 9.75, I see. Now, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Pembina discussed with the Minister and at the time of the exchange referred to earlier, the question of deficits and how deficits would be handled if deficits were anticipated in the facilities with which he was concerned, in his constituency. I don't have a precise record of the Minister's answers to those questions in front of me, although I know that his answers are certainly contained in Hansard, but I would like to ask the question again of the Minister anyway, because once again I emphasize that I'm talking about the hospital spectrum in the province, in general here, and not a specific region.

Could the Minister pick that discussion up at that point, Mr. Chairman, and advise me and the committee of the approach that his office and the Commission will be taking in '83-84 with respect to hospital deficits? What is going to happen if hospitals anywhere in the province, including in the City of Winnipeg, come in with deficits on their '83-84 operations? I know that, with respect to some specific operations, the Minister has said, "Well, we're not going to pick up that deficit if there is one. The hospital is going to be responsible for that," that of course is easier said than done where urban hospitals are concerned. So I'd like to know what the approach of the Minister's office, the Commission and the government, in general, is going to be in '83-84 when, as is almost certain to be the case, a hospital comes in with a deficit on its operations, rural or urban hospitals.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe I gave the information re the rural and I think I gave

documents also that the Member for Fort Garry was to deliver to the Member for Pembina. But in the city, I can say that in '82-83, the urban - I'm just talking about the urban hospital now - that there were \$8.5 million of deficit and there was a commitment made for \$6.5 million of that and the other two are still open for future consideration. It's being looked at.

Now the situation hasn't changed, it is what it was when my honourable friend was the Minister of Health; neither did it change from the time that I was the Minister of Health prior to 1977. The only thing that we did say to the hospital, and warned them by letter, which I had done on other occasions also, that they were not to take it upon themselves to decide that they're going to have a deficit and then thinking that we're going to pick it up automatically. There are certain things they were told, that the deficit will not be picked up. Well that, of course, goes without saying, that if there is anything that cannot be controlled by the hospital, such as, a wage agreement, a wage contract or something that was agreed by the Commission, of course, that will be picked up. The best example, I guess, was when you set up a level of hiring a staff, such as, the argument that we had going around in circles last Thursday, the hospital decides to go ahead on their own, anyway; of course, we're not going to pick that up.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, how will urban hospital deficits be handled in the current fiscal year? Does the Minister have a format for meeting urban hospital deficits that is different in anyway from that practice of passed years? For example, rural hospitals, I suppose, theoretically, technically can be told to go to their local ratepayers; not that that is always possible, but they can, at least for the sake of argument, they can be told that if they insist on exceeding their budget that their local ratepayers are going to have to pick it up. But how can you say that to a hospital in a major urban community where you cannot identify the specific ratepayers? How is the government going to handle potential deficits in the coming fiscal year at major urban hospitals?

Now the Minister can say that's a hypothetical question, but it isn't really a hypothetical question because it's happened every year for the past two years that the major urban hospitals have had deficits. In that past, in the end, those deficits have been met by the Commission and by the taxpayer. The Minister appears to have given a signal and a message earlier this year that's going to end. From now on people are going to have to live within their budgets and those deficits are not going to be met in the manner they've been met in the past. What I would like to know, is how does he intend to meet them?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I just finished explaining that there is very little change. If anything, and if it is something that there is no control, well then it will be met, but if there is control, and I think we should be careful here, this kind of discussion could be just an invitation to go ahead and decide that sobeit, they have a deficit and we'll pick it up. We hope that the hospitals will take us seriously; they better because it won't be picked up. If it's clear that they know that

they are going to have a deficit. They know that this is not, for instance, a level of staffing approved by the Commission and, if they insist on doing it anyway, well, of course, they're going to have to pay for it. If not, there is not much point going through all this exercise and deciding on telling them what their budget will be, what increase we'll allow, what we'll agree, what new programs we'll allow if we automatically pick up the deficit. That is the only thing that I am saying, they'll have to be careful. They'll have to take it seriously and maybe that's the trouble, maybe it was picked up too much in an automatic way in the past, I don't know, but we are trying to give the message. As I said, I met with the Minister of Finance, we met with the chairmen of boards and administrators of hospitals, personal care homes, clinics and so on at two meetings - one in Brandon and one in Winnipeg. We think we spelled it out at the time; we tried to get them to realize the situation and the difficult economic situation. They agreed and they were most co-operative.

The majority of them, as I stated, if my friend still has that information that I gave him, in the rural area, for instance, to see how well that they're doing. Some of them have a small surplus. Well there is not that many that have a deficit, especially a deficit that it would be felt is something that they could control.

It will be the same in the city. If there is something that they can't control, if there's a emergency, there won't be any change at all. We're just saying to them that we will not automatically accept the deficit. For instance, if they're going against the directive of the commission, if they insist on doing things on their own to create a deficit, they do so willingly, well then they'll have to find a way to pick it up themselves.

For instance, on the cardiac unit that we talked about on Thursday, we were assured by the Health Science Centre that they have the funds for that to finish the year - that was last year finishing, not March 1983, March 1982. We insisted on that; there was an exchange of letters and that will not be considered in the deficit at all.

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

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions and maybe some clarifications that I would like to get from the Minister of Health regarding the Vita Hospital District. I wonder, in the program that was sent out by the Minister on April 15th, the Capital program; the Minister on Page 4 has indicated Vita facility expansion and replacement under the Function of Program that was supposed to be worked out; I wonder if the Minister could maybe give me an update exactly what he has in mind to some degree and then I have a few further questions on that.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I think we had that discussion last year and, if I remember right, I don't think that Vita was included in the five-year program at all. This year, because, in part by some of the representations that was made last year, we've agreed to start them at the bottom of the ladder like everybody else to start, that is to look at the needs and to work on a functional program that they will discuss with the Commission. That is where it's at; there is no construction approved;

there is no architectural drawings approved; this time you have to start with the functional program, we would not consider anything without functional program. I think that if the member remembers last year I did say that there was some concern and this year we put it in the functional program and requested the board to discuss it with the Commission and to develop a functional program. Then, we'll go from there.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister. I appreciate the fact that it is, and I understand the thing that it has to start off with a functional program and then gradually develop up. What is the normal timeframe, from the time that a functional program is worked out until finally you can look at a construction date, or at least further work? What is the steps that it goes through. I understand, for example, in Highways they have Planning and Design, and Acquisition of Right-of-Way, then the grade and then ultimately the final job. What would the steps be that we go through here.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I don't want to mislead any members of this committee. I should say that, first of all, and I think they understand that, but just to make sure that it is not an automatic, it's not steps automatically, because it could stop at any level until you've asked for tender and start building it. It could be stopped because the approval received from Cabinet and that we request in the House for the funds is just at each level. I would say that if it's important enough and if we feel that it should be in our program even starting at the bottom, there is a good chance that it will proceed to eventually being built. Then a lot depends on the situation of how fast this will be built, a lot depends on the economic situation to see how much construction is going ahead in the private sector and the public sector and, of course, of the needs, what we're going to find out with this functional program. If the functional program is satisfactory that shouldn't take more than a year, normally. There would be a recommendation from the Commission. We would review also to see where the need is compared to other areas. Then the next request, it could be next year, that it's still be in the functional program or there's a good chance that it would be approved by Cabinet for architectural drawings, so that would take another year. If everything functions well on this, the next approval would for the actual construction. It could be two years from the time we approve that. That would be the earliest, as I say, a depending on many conditions. It could be as soon as two years.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** Thank you. Why I raise the question is because I have a letter here in my hand dated March 28th, sent by the office of the Fire Commissioner. That letter and the one that was sent by the Executive Director, Mr. Edwards, I think, the group there fully understand the letter that was sent by Manitoba Health Services Commission but they have a little problem with the one that they received from the office of the Fire Commissioner where it indicates, "It is the opinion of this office that the level of life safety at the Vita District Hospital is far below the acceptable standards," and goes on to say, "Manitoba Health Services

Commission has proposed in the above-noted memo that upgrading of this facility be limited as the building is scheduled to be replaced by 1986." And this is where there is some confusion in their minds. They fully realize that certain things have to go through and have to be prioritized, but the fact that the Fire Commissioner has indicated there are major problems and concerns and then has indicated in his letter that it is scheduled to be replaced by 1986 is where the confusion or problem comes in, to some degree.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I don't think there's any need for confusion. I think that actually the Commission was a little less generous than I in that letter, I can see, but they said it could start in '86 and I think I said there was a possibility that it could start in '85, that's the earliest, but then it could be longer.

Now, independently the Fire Commissioner must look at the buildings, inspect the buildings and there is a report that goes to the hospital board and to the Commission. Now, the Commission is just pointing out that there is no point in doing too much extensive work and then having to knock it down or something or replace it in two years, that's a possibility. I must say that we must look at the safety of the patients, and the fire upgrading is going to proceed immediately, at least whatever minimum that is required.

**MR. A. DRIEDGER:** To the Minister then, as I indicated before, I think the people in the southeast and Vita Hospital District appreciate the fact that they will be working on a functional program at this stage of the game and, hopefully, will continue through the stages because I just want to, once again, endorse the need that we have for the southeast area there. As the Minister is well aware, many of the services are being provided by our American neighbours to the south and are doing a good job and it's working well. One of the concerns we sometimes have is when all of a sudden the relationship with our American neighbours should get a little bit more tense than they are at times, we could have some of these services possibly not provided there and, at that stage of the game, many of the people in the southeast would, I think, find a vacuum somewhere along the line.

I realize full well that we have the facilities in Steinbach and St. Pierre which are very adequate facilities, but when you consider the distance aspect involved and the population in the southeast - and I'm repeating last year's statements to some degree that I feel that I would like to see the functional program take place and the continuation of this all the way through to the point where we have a proper facility that would serve the health needs of the people in the southeast.

I notice in some of the other projects that are slated for approval that 20-bed hospitals are being built in certain areas where the need has been established. I think this Minister as well as the Minister previous to that realized that the facilities at the present time are not what we would like to see them. I think sometimes the people feel they're almost second-rate citizens out there with the kind of services that they are receiving, and I just want to impress on the Minister again the fact that the need, in our opinion, of the people in the southeast, is definitely there.

I think we have a very objective hospital board. I want to pay special compliment to the Chairman, Mr. Tkachuk who, I think, has good vision, good understanding in working with the hospital people in terms of the concerns that were apparent within the area for awhile with the various groups. I think it's pretty well resolved to some degree and that we can, hopefully, continue with this program to the point where we finally end up having a proper facility there that will serve the needs.

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

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, a number of problems and anxieties in the hospital system have developed in the past few months and I'd like to deal with some of them with the Minister at the present time and ask him for some information and some reassurances. First, has been the situation at Brandon General Hospital where various reports, media and other, over the past little while have indicated a buildup of a tremendous backlog of patients waiting in particular for admission for elective surgery. I am not aware that any emergency cases got into any trouble as a result of the overloading and overcrowding at Brandon General, but certainly there has been considerable attention focused from a public point of view, on those persons who were waiting for admission to Brandon General, waiting for elective surgery, waiting for treatment for which they have been recommended and the figures on the waiting list have reached pretty worrisome proportions.

News reports late last month indicated that the build up on the waiting list had reached a figure, I think it was in excess of 1,000 in comparison to what had been something in the low hundreds just a few years previously. What is the current situation at Brandon General and in West-Man insofar as the services of Brandon General for that region are concerned? To what does the Minister attribute the backlog and the difficulty of recent months?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that the problem we see is something that we recognize. We've talked about making sure that we recognize regional hospitals and that's exactly what's taking place in Brandon with or without our help and that is the question that we have to address.

Now certainly after this appeared in the newspaper - I wasn't in the House then but I certainly saw it - somebody from the Commission who went to Brandon to discuss the situation with the administrator, the staff and members of the Board, and the situation was pretty well as was spelled out, but it was agreed by everyone that the problem was not one of funding, it was one where the existing staff had to be a little more productive and that is what's being done now. We're looking at the regional hospital concept.

I might say that the waiting list is still quite high, but it's going down. It's been down about 50, to 1028 from 1071 at the end of March so it's going down somewhat - and I'm talking about elective surgery, I'm not talking about emergency - but there's more and more people that are referred to Brandon. There's probably less in some of these hospitals that we're talking about and

that is one of the things we have to look at and it is a reorganization of staff also. The hospitals have been successful in getting a little more productive and they claim that they could do more of that. They assured us also that definitely it wasn't a case of funding.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Has the Minister had a full departmental or Commission report, an investigation made into this situation in a report, made available to him yet? I believe he asked for a thorough investigation by the Commission. Has that been completed as yet?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I have asked the staff to make a report. They've had a visit. They're investigating it. I have received some information, but the final report is still to come.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Is there any indication of situations similar to that in other major regional hospitals or medical centres in the province? What about the major regional hospitals in the North, in the northwest, and in the central and southern parts of the province? Is there anything akin to the Brandon situation which his officials have detected, or are they monitoring the situation in an ongoing basis with respect to those other regional hospitals?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, the problem area is Brandon more than anything else. One thing I should mention because it's all right to receive the criticism - and I'm not talking about the criticism in this committee, that's constructive criticism, but at times we receive a lot of criticism - the waiting list was increased by at least 200 by the job action of the MMA in that area and I think that they should take the responsibility. It's all right to criticize but they should take some of the responsibility.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Another matter of concern of course, Mr. Chairman, and one which has already received considerable attention was the situation at Flin Flon General earlier in the year where the Intensive Care Unit, or the Critical Care Unit was closed due to a lack of available staffing on the basis of the staffing schedules that were being applied and practised by the hospital itself. I think we're still awaiting a definitive report on the Flin Flon situation, and the Minister's and the government's response to it, and what kind of a watch-dog process can be put in effect to safeguard us reasonably against repeat occurrences of that kind, either in Flin Flon or in any other regional hospital, particularly in Northern hospitals.

Could the Minister advise the committee as to the status of his investigation into that difficulty at Flin Flon General and the problem that resulted there in the Critical Care Unit and the death that resulted? I understand that there are a number of factors that come into play when one examines the death that occurred and that it might not be attributed by any means, in whole or even in major part, to the temporary closure of that Critical Care Unit.

The condition of the patient was such that the situation was very serious regardless of whether the Flin Flon Critical Care Unit was open, but the fact remains that the community and the people in a

community like that need to know, need to have the reassurance and the sense of security that their hospital facility is staffed to the point of which they believe it is staffed; staffed to the point of which it is said to be staffed, and that they have emergency and critical care facilities open and available to them when their hospital is accredited to such a capability.

So the situation that occurred at Flin Flon was not only tragic from the point of view of the death of that particular patient, but it was very worrisome to Manitobans generally and certainly Manitobans in Northern, rural and remote areas who are dependent upon the sense of security that comes from knowing that their facilities are there, that they're up to scratch, that they're up to capability and there aren't some unknown shortages, difficulties and emergencies that are suddenly going to confront them. Can the Minister report to the committee as to what his findings have been and what the conclusions are with respect to that Flin Flon situation? Is the Critical Care Unit at Flin Flon General open again? Is it properly staffed? Are we supplying enough Intensive Care nurses to maintain hospitals like Flin Flon General and other Northern and major regional hospitals with the kind of expert staff that we need?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I do recognize that the concerns expressed by the honourable member are valid but it's also a very touchy situation. I think he will recognize also that because something comes out in a printed form in the newspaper and is reported the way some of the events have been - and we've talked about three or four of them, those that are reported - that sometimes it fans the worry and concern that people in an area might have because it is somewhat exaggerated at some time or other.

I think this is one of the situations in Flin Flon. There was a death so everybody related to that. It's a bit like the flag-burning episode. It's no longer that we're looking at people that went and made a protest on something, but it was the burning of the flag that they had nothing to do with and that, in a way, could be construed as the same thing, where that person could still be living, that nobody can say for sure, but the indication, the information that we've been given that it is very, very doubtful. Now I think it would be premature to start trying to answer this. I think when it came out, it made the nurses look bad for one thing and I think that with the little investigation, the report that I've been receiving so far, they came out with flying colours and that's more than anybody else. At times it might be that there's too much blame placed on the administration.

I want to be very careful and fair also, but this is an area at times that you have members of the medical profession who are not working together as well as they should, and the first chance people are referred to down in the city here and that could be wrong also. I don't think I can answer too much more than that because there's an investigation going on by the College of Physicians, as I announced on Thursday, as I mentioned on Thursday, and also by the Medical Examiner, and we're continuing our investigation also; but some of the information that we have, as the people know, when we're talking about the standard, discipline



and investigation with the medical profession, that's the role of the College and we must await for that information, so I don't think there's too much. I'm not trying to evade the question; I think it has been exaggerated. I think that the nurses came out, as I say, vindicated on that, in that issue, and we're awaiting for more information.

But I might say that it goes without saying, of course, that we're not going to have the same kind of training, and the people train the way they are in intensive care in acute-care hospitals here, in the teaching hospitals in the city, where they can't manage. The people are in the hall, all over the place, whereas they might not use the facility, a place like Flin Flon, for maybe a month or two months and then they'll have a week or so. I'm not saying they shouldn't be trained. They should be trained but we're not going to keep people in a place, staffed like this, just in case they have calls. These people, these nurses would have to be properly trained; that's the thing, and then they would have to have certain responsibilities in the hospital and in an emergency they would be called.

Now I know that there were some facilities for an emergency case. There were rooms that the patient could have been kept there and nurses could have been in attendance, but anyway, this will be investigated. But I might say, because of that, I guess you can always improve a situation. There has been more of an investigation re the kind of training, and it's quite obvious that the programs that we've had in the past were not too successful because they do not want to come here. Many of the nurses that we have in these areas are married women with a family and they don't want to take a week or two weeks away to come for training.

Another thing, if the training is in the city, oftentimes these people then are attracted and stay in the city, so we have pretty well accepted that it's been a recommendation of MONA also. We met with them on Friday; we reiterated that recommendation and the Commission is looking very seriously. I think we've approved, in principle, in starting the kind of instruction and courses that are needed, that certainly are required to get the proper training. That should be done right in the area, in the North, for instance, in the area, and I think that probably would have to go to all these larger would-be regional hospitals like Flin Flon, Thompson and all those areas. So that has been approved in principle and this is something we're looking at, but for the rest of the details, to find out exactly what went wrong, we'll have to await the final report of the College and the Medical Examiner.

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

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could provide an update with respect to the hospital facility at Benito. I know there's been some discussion with the hospital board and the health officials during recent years with respect to that structure. It was built quite a few years ago and I understand it's very expensive to maintain. I also note that the department has indicated that they are looking at the possibility of putting in some personal care home beds in the Benito area, and I know there's been

discussion tying in a new hospital facility with some personal care home units. I wonder if the Minister could just bring us up-to-date at this time with respect to the Benito Hospital.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** The only thing that we have where we've approved the architectural drawings, and you will see - I think that's why the member can't find it - under Swan River. We have converted the existing 53-bed hostel to a 60-bed personal care home and build 20 personal care home beds in the district and possibly at Benito; so that would be a personal care home and the architectural drawings are approved for that. In other words, they can start drawing plans from that. There's nothing final. In other words, we're working with people in the area and we've agreed to have an architectural drawing started which would be to convert the existing 53-bed hostel to a 60-bed personal care home; that's in Swan River, and build other free-standing personal care home beds possibly in the District of Benito.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** I thank the Minister for that answer. As I understand it, there has been ongoing discussion with the Swan Valley Hospital Board that takes in the Benito area, looking at a new hospital facility to tie in with, say, the 20 personal care home beds, and I don't see any mention of that in the construction program, as such. It makes reference to the 20 personal care home beds possibly at Benito, but there's no mention of the hospital upgrading. I'm wondering if this is going to be tied in with the PCH's there.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I guess the key word in there is "possibly." When it's determined where it goes, and it probably will be at Benito, then the final discussion will take place; and the 10-bed hospital, I think, that they have in Benito presently would probably be changed into about a four or five or six-bed holding unit with doctor's office; more of a clinic type, and that would be in conjunction with the personal care home.

**MR. D. GOURLAY:** Well, that's very good. That's the kind of answer I was looking for. I know that this discussion has been going on for a long time and, as I understand it, the present hospital facility is more or less an obsolete type of structure; it's very costly to keep up and, for sure, they don't need the 10-bed acute facility but something less, the new structure tied into a personal care home facility is what would be wanted. I know there's been a lot of work done by the community in doing a fairly accurate survey in the number of senior citizens resident in Benito area. It's probably one of the most concentrated areas in the province with a high percentage of senior citizens and certainly providing a new hospital structure with six or eight beds, and twenty personal care home beds would be desirable, as I see it.

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

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister about another aspect of the hospital field having to do with the makeup and constitution of boards. This would apply to health facilities, in general,

not just hospitals. It could be dealt with equally under personal care homes or hospitals and I'll choose to deal with under this item.

The Minister has incurred some brickbats and criticism and wrath for himself from various sectors of the hospital support community as a result of statements that he made some time ago about hospital boards and the kinds of things that he hoped to do with respect to boards. I believe that I am not quoting or referring to the Minister's statements inaccurately, when I say that he indicated in a public statement that local boards are not representative of the communities that they serve, and that perhaps, in his view, board members were not as concerned about costs as they should be and did not act in the best interests of their communities. There were some other criticisms, actual or implicit, of hospital boards and board members in the Minister's remarks, or at least in the way that they were reported and interpreted. I know that the Minister's come in for some rebuttal and for some criticism as a consequence of that.

My records indicate that the Minister had made his remarks to the Annual Meeting of Canadian Union of Public Employees Health Care Workers, and he indicated at the time - and this is a direct quote from a media report, perhaps the Minister can correct our records on this, but a direct quote from a media report - says that the Minister at that time said that in his view, "in the past a most successful board member was often the one who was most skillful at raising money. He saw himself as only responsible to his hospital; this is not so today." That remark apparently was recorded from the Minister's comments at a meeting that was held in Brandon.

The Minister went on from there to suggest that he was contemplating some reforms in the institution of hospital boards. I don't need to remind him that a number of community members who worked in the hospital and personal care field at the level of a volunteer, at the level of a board member, at the level of the trustee, for many years and in many parts of the province, reacted very uncomfortably and very unhappily. Some of them wrote to the media; some of them wrote to the Winnipeg Free Press and other media outlets; some of them wrote to me; I am sure a lot of them wrote to the Minister to take exception to his remarks and to emphasize that, in their view, volunteers were the best kinds of people to work in this field. Their track record was excellent and should not be unfairly criticized and they felt that the persons who served on hospital boards in Manitoba, still today, did so from the perspective of a keen interest in their community and a very strong commitment to public service. They wonder where the Minister hopes to be able to improve on those kinds of ingredients and they challenge any suggestion that a bureaucratic approach could do a better job.

At this point, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister if he can explain to the committee where he is headed with respect to the "hospital trustee and hospital volunteer." Whether, indeed, he feels that person's days are numbered, that their value is no longer what it was and that if he is intending to bureaucratize the system in some way that would find it politicized for one thing; politicized and find it much more expensive to the taxpayer for a second thing. I don't know how he could

develop a system that was run more objectively and more interestedly through government itself, or through the bureaucracy, certainly I don't think anybody could do it in a way that didn't cost a great deal more money to the taxpayer and that didn't bring unnecessary and unwanted politics into the system. So the community, I am sure, would like to hear the Minister's explanation of his position on that.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to bring some of the explanations to the concerns that I've had. There is no doubt I did make certain statements and I did it with exactly that in mind, to get the people to sit up and look and study the situation, and this is happening all across Manitoba now; but I certainly refute categorically some of the statement and accusations that were printed in the press or sent by other people and repeated in the House by the Member for Fort Garry. At no time did I make any accusation of people being not interested, or any accusation at all. All I said is that we should look at the situation because things have changed. That is one of the concerns that I have, is the one that was spelled out by the honourable friend, exactly that, because of the partisan politics. Part of it, for one thing, was depending on, not only the government in power, the party in power, you know who the members of the board will be, in many instances, where the Minister names them.

In other areas, the battle might be even within the same party in different areas, what should I say, leanings of different people. For instance, there are some issues that are left to the hospitals, such as, abortion, therapeutic abortion, for instance. Who will decide; is there going to be a fight to see if there will be more pro people, pro choice or pro life; that is one of the things that concerns me. I know that all of the hospitals are not the same, but I've had complaints about hospitals that have self-perpetuating boards. I am not going to name anyone here, but I know that there are some, for a fact, that have had self-perpetuating boards. We are looking at the whole thing. The commission was instructed, the Manitoba Health Services Commission was instructed to looking at that, at the situation to bring recommendation. There is no doubt that things have changed. There's no doubt that before the advent of hospitalization, it wasn't the same concern. The responsibility was more to the hospitals with more independence, but now every single cent of financing comes from the government and the taxpayers. Are they representative enough? That is an area. Are there enough women on the board? I understand that on some boards that there's a lot of improvement on that.

Are there any people from the community, or is it just a certain level in certain areas - and a self-perpetuating group at that? Is there a situation where you have nobody representing the workers and the people that are delivering the service other than the professionals? These are some of the questions we want answered. I did not give the solution; I just talked about the concern that we have. I could say that I was a member of a board and I've had to resign just lately - I'm not talking about 50 years ago - I've just had to resign when I assumed the responsibility of the Minister of Health. I was on the Board of St. Boniface Hospital.

I've been on the board for the last, maybe 30 years or so, or more, since 1950 or so when I became an alderman in the City of St. Boniface. First of all it was an advisory board and then became the administration board. I might say that it had the effect that I wanted. It made the people sit up and look at the concern. The concerns were recognized by many of them.

I might say that I accepted to go and speak as one of the guest speakers to the MHO at their meeting. That was about a month ago, or a little over a month ago, and I talked directly about the concern. I repeated some of the things, exactly the text of my remarks in Brandon. They were misunderstood there. I was misquoted in certain areas, things that I hadn't said at all. I might say that there was some doubt that that was a wise thing to do but nevertheless, I invited all the members there - and there must have been about 300 people for lunch that Friday afternoon - the executive of the MHO and the administrators and chairman of boards, members of different boards to see if they had any questions. There was not a single question asked of me. They were satisfied that they understood the situation. Everything was cleared up and they told me that they were concerned because they had spent the previous day and that morning exactly in small committees looking at the board, looking to see if there should be some improvement. They also were very forceful in saying that they were not adverse to change if changes were needed. They were looking at the whole situation. That's we're doing. So there was no accusation. I recognized the value of the people. I know the good work they've been doing, but I think that we should look at a situation.

For instance, there have been some changes also right here in the city. There has been some political infighting and trying to embarrass the government in certain hospitals right here in the city because there are some councillors that are on there, although the municipal level of government is not involved at all, especially in the city. They're not involved at all. Like the member said himself when we were talking about the deficit, they are on the boards. I'm not saying that these people should not be on boards, but not automatically as members of the council. That was all right when they were paying the 20 percent for construction in paying other costs.

These are all things that we want to look at. We are not committed in advance to changing anything at all, but we'll certainly look at everything and if there's some changes, if legislation is needed, legislation should be ready for next Session.

As far as the accusation, there were no accusations. I, only too well recognize the good work of most of the people and the time that they spend, as I say, having spent about 30 years or so on a board myself.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise the committee whether he does believe though, continue to hold to the view, that the present system of volunteer boards in the hospital spectrum is outdated and needs to be replaced by something such as elected board members, union officials and a more bureaucratic, politically-organized structure of that kind. Does he believe that the current system really is outdated and needs to be replaced?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Glad that the member asked this second question, because I'd forgotten. I think that a very important point, it was suggested that I was recommended we should do away from volunteers and go to the elected members and that statement was never made. What I said was, the possibility of having some elected representatives, especially if that's the only way in certain areas that we could have people representing the district. In effect, we have elected members now, because in rural hospitals we have many people, practically half of them, from councillors from the different areas; councillors that have been elected, so I did say that one of the things we should look at is some elected members. I don't think I ever mentioned the word "pay." There was another report that I would suggest it'll be very costly because we were going to start paying the people. At no time did I even think of that. I don't want to prejudge the survey. There are enough people that are applying themselves to bring in some recommendation; I'm talking about the MHO and also the different boards themselves because it got them thinking. I did receive some letters from the different groups and so on.

It depends on the type of hospitals also. You have hospitals that are owned by religious institutions, for instance. They still own the hospital. That will have to be taken into consideration. My main concern, to be honest with you, is the lack of a certain type of representation in some areas especially. In fact, I'd gladly say that some of them are moving in that direction now; they're not waiting for the recommendation. I've learned that a hospital is moving in that direction now, one of the largest hospitals that we have in the city.

The other area, as I said, one thing I didn't like is this self-perpetuating group, that you buy a membership and so on and there's only a small group that could be a member. We want to look at that. So it could be a combination of everything, but I can assure and I think that's the assurance that the member is looking for, that it will not change the system, it will not be changed. There might be some detail, not the system. I certainly will want to go on the volunteer element because I think they're too important, and it's got to be somebody that's dedicated and that wants the work. We're certainly not thinking of replacing the volunteers.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, G. Lecuyer:** The Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Well, I'm glad to have that reassurance, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate the Minister's providing it to me and to the committee. I would suggest at the same time that it's probably the board members, trustees, administrators and executives of health facilities throughout the province and, in particular, our hospitals, who are just as anxious as I am, or more anxious than I am, for that kind of reassurance.

What is the time frame that the Minister is looking at in terms of developing a new concept of the constitution, the makeup, the terms of reference of a hospital board? There's a letter to the chief executive officers, the member health facilities of MHO, which went forward to those officers on the 28th of March

of this year - that's just two months ago - from the Chairman of the MHO Board of Directors, Mr. Ray Beaque, and in that letter, which deals with this whole subject of composition of boards, the MHO Chairman says that it is apparent, in his view, that the Minister may be moving quickly toward changes that could have a significant impact upon hospitals and health care institutions in our province. I'm quoting from the MHO letter here, and I know the Minister has a copy of the same letter in his files.

"In the light of this possible immediate action, the Board of MHO has suggested that all health facilities, boards and individual board members take the opportunity of responding directly to the Minister, outlining their concerns." It would seem, Mr. Chairman, or one would infer from that comment, that the Minister has given the impression to the health facilities that he intends to move pretty quickly; if not extensively, at least quickly.

A few moments ago, in initially addressing the subject in response to my original questions, the Minister did refer to possible legislation. I'm not sure that he was referring to legislation for this Session, probably for the next Session, but even that is not very far away; so I guess the question that occurs to me, as it does to the Manitoba Health Organizations now, is this: Has the Minister made up his mind that some action is needed in terms of redesigning and the concept of hospital boards in this province, and is the Minister contemplating action within the next year on that subject? Does he intend to listen to hospital trustees and hospital boards from across the province and through the MHO to acquaint himself with their position on this subject, or has he made his mind up that some changes are needed and, therefore, that there will be some legislation introduced within the next year?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that letter is somewhat passe. This is what I was referring to, that there was a quick reply, of course; there was a concern by the MHO, and that letter went out. As I have stated, I accepted their offer and was one of their speakers at their annual convention on the day before I went in the hospital - whatever it was - it was pretty well the end of last month or so, the middle of last month; a little over a month ago anyway. There, as I say, I invited them to ask questions and there wasn't a single question.

There was a wise en point from the present chairman now who explained the situation, who told me of the concern that they've had. It was made quite clear that we would discuss this with them, that we would accept any presentation from them. I am told that just a day or so ago they did send some kind of a report. I don't know what is in it; I have no idea yet. We will discuss it with them. Now, as I've stated, it certainly will not be done in a hurry without discussing it with them because there's a lot of concern, there's a lot of problems that we have to face; but that doesn't mean we shouldn't look at it and try to improve the system if we can and correct it where it's wrong.

The situation is, I did mention, if there is need for any change, any bill to be brought in, change in the legislation, it will not be done this year; it will be done next year, and there's no way we'll be ready for that.

So we expect that late summer or early spring we should have a report from the Commission and then we'll go from there and discuss it with different people and see what the needs are. This thing came in out of the clear blue sky.

I have quite a few concerns and I expressed some of these concerns, and one of them is the proper representation also, and it's not in every single hospital and every area. It might be in certain areas, and some of them are also self-perpetuating, so I have some of these concerns and we want to look at the whole situation but we have not pre-determined what we want, or if we want anything. We felt there were enough question marks that we had that we should look at it. It might just improve it. I don't see a complete different change, a different direction that we're going to elect everybody and pay everybody and change everybody by becoming political hacks or something; this is not what I want at all. So there'll be ample time for the MHO and the different boards to look at it and also to make their views known on that.

As I said, we asked if there were any questions, and that was summed up by the chairman who said that they certainly were not adverse to looking at anything; they wanted to see if they can improve things. I think that if there was a misunderstanding, and I don't know why because actually it was something which was quoted that I didn't say at all, but I don't go back on the words that I said. I said that for a purpose, to make the people sit down and take notice, and that's exactly what happened. This is what the chairman told me, "If that's what you wanted, you were very successful," because that's practically all we talked about in the first day of our meetings. We were all in little committees and discussing it.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Is the Minister receiving suggestions, comments and reactions from individual executive officers, board chairmen and trustees throughout the province, or are those all being funnelled through MHO and incorporated into an official, formalized MHO response?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** There's no doubt that we did receive some individual letters, and I think my honourable friend read the invitation by the board, of this kind of organization inviting people to write letters or phone the Minister like we always do, but since that meeting, probably since then and the discussion they had and the understanding that we had, most of the recommendations are being funnelled through the MHO and that we will deal with them mostly, but if there's any individual, we will look at everything. It could be nurses; it could be doctors; it could be anybody. We will look at any information, any suggestion that we get.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Apart from the initial comments that the Minister made in his widely reported remarks to the CUPE meeting in Brandon, from which the reaction originally arose and emanated, does the Minister have any ideas, thoughts, views, suggestions himself that he can make to this committee as to how, in a day and age of universal hospitalization where the bills are picked up by the taxpayer, hospital trustees

and boards can be made more "accountable" in his view? I ask this as a very serious question, Mr. Chairman. There is no question in my mind that hospital trustees and boards are as accountable and as responsible as they can possibly be, but the fact still remains that under a universal hospitalization system, you have a problem with pinning down some of the more urgent requirements of financial commitment and responsibility then is the case when you're operating under a market system.

I suppose one of the great challenges facing all governments, all provincial jurisdictions across the country today, is to provide the hospital trustee himself or herself with a feeling of being meaningful. I would like to know if the Minister has any ideas as to how, in his views, he can make them more accountable, but I go beyond that to say that after he has satisfied his problem of accountability, is he doing anything about the trustee's problem? I know of individual men and women who have been named to hospital boards, and I am sure he does, who have undertaken the challenge and the invitation with a sense of excitement and enthusiasm and within a matter of a very few years, if not months, Mr. Chairman, they have become disillusioned by the fact that in effect they turn out to be rubber stamps and ciphers for a governmental, politicized, bureaucratic process over which they have no control; that in the end the Manitoba Health Services Commission - therefore the Government of the Day - makes the decisions as to how that hospital is going to be funded and those decisions necessarily make a definitive determination as to how that hospital is going to be run. The board member winds up feeling himself or herself as something of a third glove or something of a rubber stamp, and they become disillusioned where they had come into the job feeling they could really do something and make a contribution.

I think that is the big challenge facing Ministers of Health and health critics in every province across this country today, to make the board member, the trustee, feel that he or she really counts and is really meaningful and can really affect the functional program of his or her facility because he can really affect the budgetary process under a totally state-funded system such as we have, or almost totally state funded. It's hard to provide the trustee with that sense of meaning, and rather than perhaps concern ourselves so much with whether trustees are interested in their communities or not, because I believe they are, I think we probably should be looking or could well be spending some of our time looking for ways in which we can make the trustee really meaningful. That means making him or her more accountable in fact than he is at the present time; not in mind, because I think in mind they are all highly accountable. They are accountable to themselves if nothing else. They want to do a good job and I think that they attempt to do a good job and I think that they universally do a good job. But in the end, what does the good job count for? That's what bothers me about the system. Is the Minister looking at that aspect at all? Has he got any ideas on that?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, I think it's obvious that it would be wrong for me to start prejudging the report and tell you in discussion what

I want to see. I have some concerns; I haven't got all the answers. In the discussion, my concerns were passed on to the members of the Commission and if there are any changes, I'll be able to stand up in my place here next year and discuss any changes; or when the legislation comes in, I'll have to discuss it. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a partnership. A hospital should be a partnership of government, of the community, of the people that are delivering the services - well, the patients themselves residing in the community. That's what I want to see; more of a partnership if at all possible where it could be improved, where we don't only recognize one area.

Now, I would welcome any suggestion from my honourable friend, or as a party, if they have some information on that. The wish or the statement that was made by my honourable friend is a good one, but it's not an easy one. When the public, through the government, is funding 100 percent of the cost, it is quite difficult to say to a board or something, if we talk about accountability, and still if the government has the responsibility and I see nobody else having the responsibility, and say, okay, this is the increase that we're going to have and this is what we're going to go this year, then we have to make tough decisions; but with the global funding, and I believe that most of them have a global funding, well, then they have a recommendation. They have a responsibility, but they have different people. There are some areas that maybe they might feel the government is running everything; in other areas, it might be the administrator, and the boards become a rubber stamp for an administrator also. That depends on the kind of people that you have also. If they want to work with an administrator, if they want to work with the government, it depends on the type of people they want. That's exactly what I think we should do. We want the people to be more involved in the community. My honourable friend talked about the possibility of changing the concept of hospital beds and just an institution to incorporate the community and some of the services outside the community as we're trying to do. That's one of the things we want to look at to see how we can strengthen that, how we can make that possible.

As I say, whatever the changes are, if there are any changes, I don't want to exaggerate anything. I am not saying that I am not satisfied with the boards at all. I think there could be some improvement, and that's what we're trying to do. Of course, you want the type of people that are interested and there is no doubt, I've seen some devoted people, and I have seen some that have gone way over and above the call of duty of any volunteer. I don't think it would be fair to name any because I am sure that every single board has some. I could name very many. What we're looking at, so far anyway, the way I look at it, is more of an improvement than just a radical change, that we're going to change everything. It's just an improvement to the system, keep the good parts that are working well, and if we have to change certain things to have better representation, for instance; to have less of this self-perpetuating group, to have maybe some stronger group, more accountability from the administrator and from the hospital.

My honourable friend heard me enough times to say that I would not take the responsibility of every little

detail in a hospital because I wanted to leave the board. You would think my honourable friend heard me say that, that I will not be - I think the terms that I used at the time weren't too parliamentary - but I felt that I would not be, whatever the term was, because I felt that they had their budget, and it was up to them; if they felt that they had to cut a strip of bacon or whatever, that would be their decision that I would not make the decision for them. And I still think the same.

If we make every single decision then we won't have the kind of Board, and we won't have the kind of assurance that my friend wished that we would have and I do too with the members of the board. We give our direction. That's our responsibility; like we do with municipalities; like we do for anything. If we say this is the money that we spend in hospitals, this is the increase you will have and so on, and then they administer it. That's their responsibility. I'm trying to get away from this step of trying to have that responsibility for every single hospital.

I had a couple of calls over the weekend also that somebody couldn't get in and it was my responsibility. Well how do I know? There's nothing that I could. I couldn't even get in touch with the administrator, I guess he was away for the weekend.

I would agree, I don't think that there's that much difference if there is any difference. I think it is more of understanding. I'm convinced that the MHO now understands what we want, what we were trying to do.

**MR. CHAIRMAN, P. EYLER:** The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Well I think that's a useful exchange, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister's comments. I'm sure he expected me to raise questions about his comments with respect to hospital boards and trustees and their current role because he himself, through his initial comments, or least the way they were interpreted and reported had invited considerable controversy. It concerned a great many people including myself.

I think that we can agree that certainly under the kind of universal taxpayer-funded system that we have, it is necessary to search at all times for improvements and refinements to the system that keep it efficient. I think one of the truly big challenges facing the health care system in Canada today is that last point that I raised and suggested to the Minister that we look for ways to make the trustee's job satisfying, gratifying and meaningful.

I really believe that the happiness and satisfaction of the trustee will produce a cost-efficient, high quality health care and hospital care system for ourselves. We start with him or her and that's one of the ingredients of the system that has been subordinated to a lot of other considerations under the universal taxpayer-supported funding concept that is so central to Canadian hospitalization. I think that one of the really big challenges in the system lies there. We have to find a way to make it fun, exciting, worthwhile and meaningful for that trustee to go down and serve at a board meeting and go at it hammer and tong and hammer it out in terms of how much money there is available and what is necessary and what isn't necessary and how it should be spent. If all those decisions are

taken away from him or her, then we lose a very important component and safety valve in the system.

I had an experience just a few months ago where a person, not in this community, but in a neighbouring community; prominent, successful person who had been named to an important position on a hospital board and was delighted with that appointment, was really thrilled with it and thought that he could really make a community contribution. He'd spent most of his time up to this point in his life working in business and hadn't had the opportunity to do some community things that he now wanted to do. Here was a real opportunity for him. He found after about six months that it was, at least in his view, substantially pretty much a waste of time because all the decisions were made for him. He didn't get a chance to say, this is not an efficient way to run this hospital; this is not an efficient way to run this business; this is not a fair way to go to government. It's not reasonable and fair that we just turn it all over to government and the commission and say okay pick up the deficit and we walk away and our hands are clean. He was very disturbed by that. He felt that he didn't have any chance as a trustee to do anything about that because all those decisions were predetermined.

That's the point at the centre of my remarks on this subject. I think if we can find a way to make that man and woman feel again that they are central to the way the system is being run, both in terms of its quality and its efficiency and certainly its level of expenditure, then we will perhaps have the answers to the challenges that face our Canadian health care system in the next few decades immediately ahead. I think a lot of other answers would flow from that conclusion, if we can find a solution to that challenge.

I appreciate the Minister's comment on that subject and the opportunity to exchange some views on it, Mr. Chairman.

That, I think concludes my observations on that particular aspect of the hospital system and the hospital line in these appropriations. I think my colleague from Roblin-Russell wants to participate in the debate at this point, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'd like ask a couple of questions of the Honourable Minister. This deals with the Roblin Hospital and some of the problems that they're having there at the present time because of the doctor shortage. They only have one doctor at the present time. It's been a long-standing problem in Roblin. The chairman of the board has been in touch with me. They find it's extremely difficult to, in fact I guess almost impossible to operate with one doctor. I don't know. I believe they have given up trying to recruit a second doctor from Canada or this province. As I understand it, they're presently recruiting overseas. I just wonder if the Minister maybe has some answers for the problem.

The board seems to think that possibly one of the reasons why they can't keep the two doctors in place is their clinic. It's situated in an isolated place away from the hospital. Maybe that would be the answer, although I don't know how they would proceed, if the

hospital board could proceed to construct a suitable clinic in the area. The one that they have, I believe they're renting the building from a private entrepreneur. Is there any grant money for the establishment of a suitable clinic or how would they proceed? Those are a couple of the questions that the chairman of the board asked me to raise today, Mr. Chairman.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I want to go back to the board a bit because of some of the statements made from the Member for Fort Garry and also the latest statement that I've heard.

I understand the concern of the Member for Fort Garry. I can say to him, though, in the board that I've been a member of, there has never been that concern. I don't say that we're always happy with every decision of the Commission. They've had meetings at night usually, the annual meeting with the board, and then there were a lot of people involved who were not members of the board but subcommittees, and I can assure you that they made decisions - and I'm talking about St. Boniface Hospital - and I could name Cam MacLean and any of these people who were so devoted in the work they've done. They still feel the same enthusiasm.

There's enough to do, especially with this block funding, I can't see that concern. I would want to look very carefully to see if that is the concern where they feel that they're rubber stamps. I think you might see that they might feel that they're rubber stamped more for the administration or a smaller group. I don't know - that's not an accusation - but less for the government because they still have an awful lot of decisions. I can't see it any other way.

Now, when the Member for Fort Garry sits down, we have another member who gets up and now he's telling us that we've got to do more of the thinking for a board of a certain hospital. That is a responsibility of the community to attract doctors. We are willing to help and we are doing that. Dr. Johnson, who is the Chairman of our Medical Manpower Committee, is working with that group but there is no guarantee. The people that need doctors are the community; the community must recruit.

Now, we've got to try to help, there is no doubt that is a problem they have in every province and probably every country that we have too many of these doctors - certain doctors, I'm not talking about all specialties - in the city, in Winnipeg, for instance. It is more difficult to get staff and to get doctors to go in there and some of the reasons are very valid.

So what we are doing - the contribution we're making to that - is we have this committee that was there in the previous government also; and Dr. Johnson, a former Minister of Health and a former Acting Deputy Minister, that's his main responsibility. We will work with him and we'll do everything we can for them, but that is not something that people must feel it's up to the government. The Conservative Party is the last party that would say they want this regimentation; you're going to send doctors all over the place and you're going to decide where they go.

I think this is something you've got to convince the doctor that the community is a good place to live, a good place to establish a clientele and that he will be

happy there. This is one of the situations. Of course, the facilities are important also.

Then we can say the same thing, that the facilities are useless. The best facilities are the doctors that work together, one of the facilities that we've talked about where they've had quite a bit of trouble to get a doctor and so on. Then as I say, we have a committee that is working. This program also is working, such as the recommendation - I haven't got all the details here - but in preparing some programs that will entice, that will form some incentives for the doctors to come in. But the incentive, I think the main thing is the facilities, no doubt, they won't come without the proper facilities.

But a private clinic is something else. In many of the clinics, when there are some changes - we're talking about doctors' offices, you've heard me say that to the Member for Swan River - we were talking about, I think it was around Benito that we would have doctors' offices and holding some beds there and then personal care homes. So I'm sure the doctors are aware of that and they're working directly with Dr. Johnson on that. So I'll make sure that Dr. Johnson is looking at the situation.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** I thank the Honourable Minister. Mr. Chairman, it's a problem and it continues and seems to plague that committee. You certainly can't blame it on the hospital any more because the hospital facilities are second to none. As the Minister said, I guess it's a problem. The local people are going to have to grapple with themselves. Those that live there seem to think that Roblin is a nice place to live - it's close to the parks and things like that - but there's some dimension there that seems to plague that area especially, because of the perennial problem that they face from time to time, is trying to keep the doctors there.

The clinic then that I referred to, then it would be up to the local board to go ahead and take the initiative and raise the capital to provide adequate office space, or whatever, the examination space for the doctors, that's as I understand the Minister's comments.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Item 7.(2) - the Member for Fort Garry.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I'd like to turn now to the situation at Deer Lodge Hospital and ask the Minister how many beds at Deer Lodge are being reserved for veterans?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** The agreement that we've had with the Federal Government, there will be 155 personal care beds or extended care beds reserved for veterans.

Now the acute beds, there is a commitment of so many beds for veterans but that would be in acute hospitals across the province. There will not be any acute beds in the facilities out there.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** So there will be 150-155 personal care beds at Deer Lodge for veterans. Will there be any personal care beds held or extended care beds held in other facilities throughout the province for veterans? I know the Minister has referred to after-treatment beds, but will there be any personal care or extended care beds held for veterans in hospitals other than Deer Lodge?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** No, there's a commitment in another hospital. There's a commitment for 50 acute care, but there is no other beds reserved for veterans apart from these 155.

But let me say also that they are Manitobans and they will not be discriminated against either. When we talked about the 155, that is reserved for veterans only and for the first 15 years the operating costs will be paid by the Federal Government. Now we are paid, there's no cost from the Federal Government for these acute beds. This is just a guarantee that everything else being equal that the first 50 beds would go to veterans.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, how are those 50 acute care beds being held for veterans, are they just sitting idle in hospitals around the province?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** For sure, there are no beds that'll be sitting idle, but they would have the first priority. Let's say that there's a request, the first one to go in would be the veteran, for at least 50 beds, anyway. — (Interjection) — Yes, with the comparable conditions. In other words, if you have somebody just wants to spend a weekend in the hospital and you've got an urgent matter that's not a veteran, that's not what I'm talking about, but that is somebody that is in need. The preference would be given for the first 50 veterans, apart from these personal care beds.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Insofar as the veterans' beds at Deer Lodge are concerned, Mr. Chairman, is that 150 or 155 a fixed final number; has the Legion said that that's all they are going to need over the next 10 or 15 years?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** That's the maximum that we agreed to, the agreement that's been approved by the Legion and the veteran groups. Now we feel that that will be plenty but, as I say, the veterans are not all in that area, there's many people that are veterans that are in other personal care homes and that will continue. But, apart from that, an extra guarantee that they will have is up to a maximum of 155 beds in Deer Lodge.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** And there is renovation under way at Deer Lodge right now to convert it into an extended care, chronic care hospital for the community, as well as its service and function as a veterans' hospital; is that correct?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Not quite. We have to follow - although it is government involved - we have to follow exactly the same steps as anybody else. Right now the functional program is being developed and also there is a bed study report that should be on my desk in a couple of months or so that we're waiting for.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** So there is a maximum of 155 beds being held for veterans. What is the total bed objective, the total bed complement, at Deer Lodge intended to be when the studies are completed and renovations are entered into?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** There should be approximately 200 personal care beds and 233 extended treatment

beds in the new facility, so another 433; 433 plus 155 for the record. Oh, excuse me, the 155 are included in there, it is a total of 433 beds.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Total of 433 would include the 155 veterans' beds and the veterans' beds would be personal care or extended care, or do you differentiate.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Extended and personal.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Extended and personal, and then there would be approximately an additional 280 above that for the community. Is that correct?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Well, let's say, a maximum of 155, we have 200, so that leaves 45 plus 233, so 278.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** And those will be open to the general community for extended care, personal care, Level 2, 3, 4; or all three levels, 2, 3 and 4; or just one of those levels; or what?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Yes, the extended treatment, 2, 3, 4, but not hostel, of course.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Will that be female, as well as male?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Right.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Are there any female veterans in Deer Lodge right now as patients?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** I'm told that there is at least one that we know of, but I don't know how many. There's not going to be any discrimination because of sex, it's veterans, period.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** When does the government anticipate that those 280, approximately 280, personal care and extended care beds will be available for the community at the Deer Lodge site?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Safely I would say in the next 5 years, because if it's not in the next 5 years we're going to pay the price. We have the arrangements that they will pay up to \$30 million, I think, the Federal Government, if it's spent 5 years from the day of takeover, so we're looking at the beds, the functional program now and we'll have to decide whatever we want and if we go that direction it should be finished by 5 years, or we're going to lose part of the cost.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Mr. Chairman, what happens to veterans now, today, who used to go to Deer Lodge for out-patient treatment or temporary in-patient treatment; veterans who weren't confined, who weren't full-time residents of Deer Lodge as patients, but who were there for various forms of out-patient treatment and sometimes were in for two or three days, or even a week at a time; what happens to those veterans now that the hospital has been taken over by the province and is going through this conversion process?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** For the time being, anyway, I don't think there is much change because of the bed



facility, all through that period of change and construction there'll be at least 250 beds that could be in operation, including right away this 155 bed guarantee, so that could be used for veterans if they want; they are responsible for the administration. I don't think my honourable friend is talking about respite care, I think, he's talking about not a long stay, but maybe for a month or so.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Yes.

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** And, of course, then they have the same access to every hospital that anybody else, through their doctors, and so on. We were not getting that many people in acute beds at the end. There were very very few and that is why it was so costly for the facilities and staff and equipment and so on, so they are encouraged to go to the acute hospital as much as possible.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** But there were some veterans, Mr. Chairman, suffering from lengthy ongoing chronic disabilities, war injuries and wounds that didn't keep them confined to hospital, but didn't prevent them from living in their own homes, but nonetheless required chronic recurring attention, and they would go to Deer Lodge and get that attention for five, or six, or seven days.

I am aware of one case, at least, today, where I think that veteran has been sent to the Manitoba Rehab Hospital - not that there is anything wrong with the Manitoba Rehab Hospital, it is a wonderful facility - but for this particular person it's quite a traumatic experience. He has been going to Deer Lodge for years; he knows the doctors and nurses at Deer Lodge, they know him; he doesn't really have a family doctor. His family doctor is a doctor at Deer Lodge, who has looked after him all these years. Suddenly, he finds himself apparently unable, if I have the story straight, to receive that kind of attention at Deer Lodge and he's now down in the Rehab Hospital. Is that a standard practice now and a standard method of dealing with veterans who come into the hospital for that kind of out-patient or short-term in-patient treatment?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** My information is that's the main reason for the request for this 155 beds. When we're talking about veterans, it's not something that we're saying, people over 65. There are so many veterans and so on and that was why the protection was there. Mind you, some of them might be referred. I think Dr. MacDonald is referring some of them, but the doctors are still going there, the same doctors and so on. Eventually there might be a different system, I guess, but for these people, I think the intention is not to disrupt these people too much. You say these people are used to the system and they're satisfied. It's not really respite care. It's somebody that may have something that reoccurred and they'll be sick and then after maybe a couple of weeks they're okay, they can go back in their home and that's where this extended care will take care of them in most instances.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** But as far as the Minister knows, there is no change in the practice for that type of

veteran. That type of veteran should still be able to get his or her required attention at Deer Lodge. Is that correct?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** If he needs to be hospitalized it might be that he might go to his own doctor somewhere else if something can be done as an out-patient, but if he needs to be hospitalized, I'm sure they have enough beds to take care of these people in those 155 beds.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** What would the occupancy rate be on those 155 beds right now? Are they anywhere near full?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Yes I'm told - you know the old saying, a bed's a bed and you're going to fill it no matter what. So it is a bit over now, but that will be reduced only by attrition when people are leaving for good.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** What is the situation with respect to the staffing change-over at Deer Lodge, Mr. Chairman? I know that this area actually probably spills over into the area of the Department of Labour and the Minister of Labour is in the House, in the committee at the present time and I have asked her some questions on this subject earlier. Can the Minister of Health or the Minister of Labour advise as to what the situation is with respect to the staffing change-over there?

As I've pointed out in the House in questions that I've raised, asked of the First Minister and the Minister of Labour in the past, I've had considerable representation made to me from nurses and other members of the staff at Deer Lodge who are concerned with the manner in which the change-over is taking place. Whether or not it is being fearfully worked out according to arrangements made with the relevant unions earlier is really an academic point to these people who are finding themselves phased out of their jobs, many of them with 12, 14 and 15 and more years experience.

Are there a great many persons at Deer Lodge in nursing and other capacities who are going to be phased out and lose their jobs as of September because of the change-over, and are other jobs being found or sought for them? If this is the situation, were they made aware of it, forewarned about it? Did they understand that this was going to happen to them, because my understanding of the situation is that there is a staffing morale problem there that is considerable and that is unfortunate?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Mr. Chairman, it doesn't take too many, one or two, who start any rumours and then you have a possibility of a morale problem. I might say this, that they're certainly not any worse now than they were before because of the agreement. It would have been easy to say, well okay, you fire the people before we take over. That might have been a lot easier politically for us, but what would that have done for those people? That was the way it was done, exactly the situation the way they had it with the Federal Government, either an agreement that they had with certain unions or according to their manual what was accepted the way it was done, exactly the same. We didn't change anything.

Now we give them at least six months before we review everything. That will be reviewed, the Department of Health and the Department of Labour staff together who work to facilitate all these transition periods. It was a very dedicated staff that was there before. We have had some concern. We're looking at it. The unions are satisfied. The former union have also applied for certification and there is a period now of not knowing exactly what union will be chosen.

In the meantime, we are dealing with the members of the union to facilitate that, and there's an appeal mechanism. We are going to do as much as we can through attrition. We will try to find - there are other people that might need it as we open other beds, for instance, maybe at Seven Oaks, in areas like that.

Then when the construction comes back - I mean, there will be a certain period there - we will need more staff, because we will have those beds. There is no shortcut. What can we do? We can't guarantee everybody. We're doing it for six months. We're working together. We are working with the unions. They're satisfied. I think that there is a tendency - I think that those things are somewhat exaggerated. There are always one or two that are concerned. Maybe they do not understand the situation. Maybe they have a beef.

We will look at that or, as I say, there is an appeal mechanism and we will look at it, but they're certainly not any worse than they were going, because things couldn't have gone the way they were going at Deer Lodge with the cost and they didn't have that many people, a lot of empty beds in certain areas, not the personal care beds. That will have to be looked at, and we didn't change anything, except we're trying to do as much as possible to keep as many people and there are not going to be that many that will lose their jobs. There are some that will have to change a bit and eventually you'll probably have more people there than you have now when everything is open.

So there is going to be a difficult situation, but the main thing is deliver the service as Minister of Health and I think, as Minister of Labour, then there's another responsibility to make sure that these people are treated fairly and are given every not courtesy, but every help they can. The two departments are working very, very closely together, but as far as the staff, that is more of a responsibility of the Department of Labour. But I can assure you that the two departments are working very closely together, and we will do everything we can to just have by attrition. We will review the situation in September also to see what it will be.

**MR. L. SHERMAN:** Does the Minister have a figure in terms of staff reductions, particularly nursing staff, that he can offer the committee that is attached to this change-over moving as we are into a concept of a facility that will have 155 veterans' beds and approximately five years down the road, hopefully, some 280 personal care and extended care beds for the community? What nursing staff and health occupation staff generally, such as therapists, occupational and physiotherapists, is there a sharp reduction in nursing staff that will be necessary now over these next few months and what will it amount to 50, 60, 70 nurses and then will there be a sharp increase needed 3 or 4 or 5 years down the road?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** It is a difficult business to discuss publicly also because there is no doubt it is going to ease the situation if people are trying to find a position. Now, if they think that the government can guarantee everything, it's going to be a little more difficult. But during that period, in other words starting this September they're guaranteed to stay there until September. There might be some that'll quit. Anyway the nurses would be at the maximum approximately 50.

Now they're not going to wait forever. They should get other positions but the actual total position when we start building there will be more than that. But it's not going to help, basically, well I don't imagine that they'll want to stay one year, or two years, or three years without work. So we will try everything to try to help them find some work but they must, they've got to help themselves also that's why the concern because people say, that's why it's difficult to discuss these things because then they say oh, well the government will take care of us. But I'm told that there'd be about 100 in all and that's the whole staff. The nurses, there'll be about 50 or so.

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

**MR. L. HYDE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Minister has partially given the answers to some of my questions.

But, Mr. Minister what I'm being asked by the veterans is where do they report to now that there has been that changeover at the Deer Lodge Hospital?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** Where they report? If they want any information I'm sure that they will be able to get that at the hospital, for any information and direction.

I should say here that we've worked very, very closely and the former government during their time in negotiation did the same. There was a continuing discussion with the different groups representing the, I think there were four different groups, not only the Legion. The Legion is one of them. There's four different groups representing the veterans.

In fact we've had members, the names that they give us that we put on the board. We have a kind of a temporary board but eventually it'll be a permanent board and there's a commitment to have their representation. So there'd be a lot of co-operation. They can ask information from the hospital and they'll get it.

Now if they want to go and see the doctor. They might be directed to go and see a doctor like any other citizens of Manitoba like you do and I do. And I'm a veteran by the way.

**MR. L. HYDE:** From what you're telling me I suppose that it would be proper then for a veteran to make contact with his family doctor at home and then be admitted. Can he be admitted through the doctor, his family doctor at home, can he be admitted to Deer Lodge hospital?

**HON. L. DESJARDINS:** It's impossible for me to give a guarantee. I'm sure that if they've had services at the Deer Lodge before and if they have an emergency

they go and see the doctor and he recommends them to Deer Lodge they certainly will look at it. It's some of the same administration, Dr. McDonald is there, and I'm sure that they will be well taken care of.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. The hour is 4:30, time for Private Members' Hour. The committee will reconvene at 8:00 p.m.

**IN SESSION  
PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please. The time being 4:30 and Private Members' Hour, the first item on the agenda for Tuesday afternoon are Adjourned Debates on Second Readings of Private Bills.

**ADJOURNED DEBATES  
ON SECOND READING - PRIVATE BILLS  
BILL NO. 38 - THE SOCIETY OF  
MANAGEMENT  
ACCOUNTANTS OF MANITOBA ACT**

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Inkster, Bill No. 38 standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Roblin-Russeil.

**MR. W. MCKENZIE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In addressing this Bill No. 38, several municipal secretaries have been in contact with me and expressed certain concerns and reservations regarding this bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for many years the Secretary-Treasurers of municipalities in the province have been encouraged by the Department of Municipal Affairs to take an extension course at the University of Manitoba to upgrade their qualifications. Not only, Mr. Speaker, were the secretaries encouraged to take the course, after they completed the course, they were designated and had the authority of the designation of certified municipal administrators and used the letters CMA after their names as I understand.

The Act creating the Manitoba Secretary-Treasurers Association in 1955, as I review it, was amended and was changed to the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association Act I believe, or Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association Incorporated.

The Secretary-Treasurers, Mr. Speaker, object to the portion of the bill which would prevent any other party or association from using the designation CMA, and which would give the right to The Society of Management Accountants of Manitoba to have the sole use of those initials. In the bill, Mr. Speaker, it gives them the authority to bring a court action with fines from \$25 to \$500.00.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would think that we better take a close look at this bill and on behalf of the Municipal Secretary-Treasurers of the province and see if we can avoid, in committee, some of the problems that have been drawn to my attention.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**SECOND READING - PRIVATE BILLS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 59, the Honourable Member for Inkster is not present.

The Honourable Member for Riel. (Stands)

**ADJOURNED DEBATE  
ON SECOND READING - PUBLIC BILLS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed Motion of the Honourable Member for St. Norbert, Bill No. 41, standing in the name for the Honourable Member for Concordia.

**MR. P. FOX:** Stand, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** On the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for Brandon West, Bill No. 56, standing in the name for the Honourable Member for Springfield.

**MR. A. ANSTETT:** Stand please, Mr. Speaker.

**RES. NO. 13 - YOUTH PARLIAMENT  
OF MANITOBA**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Resolution No. 13.  
The Honourable Member for Virden.

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.  
I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Concordia:

WHEREAS Youth Parliament of Manitoba desires to incorporate under The Corporations Act of the Province of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS the Director of Corporations of Manitoba will not allow the name Youth Parliament of Manitoba to be used unless a consent is obtained from the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba consents to the Youth Parliament of Manitoba incorporating under the name Youth Parliament of Manitoba.

**MOTION presented.**

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

**MR. H. GRAHAM:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the pleasure of sitting in this Assembly with members who have in the past taken an active part in the Youth Parliament movement. I believe this started under the name the Tuxis Boys' Parliament some 60 odd years ago, but it has carried on for many years under various names. Last year on November 3rd a group under the name Youth Parliament of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario applied to the Director of Corporations in Manitoba for incorporation as a non-profit organization.

At that time the Director of the Corporations Branch rejected the application; didn't reject it in total, in his remarks he said, "Subject to appropriate consents from the offices of the Legislative Assemblies of Manitoba and Ontario." That reply was dated on the 5th of

November last year. I will table this. That's a copy of the reply from Mr. Conn.

Subsequent to that there was an application by the council for the Youth Parliament group, Mr. Harold Clubine, and I believe that application probably went through your office, Sir. A recommendation went to the Rules Committee of this Assembly for an application for their consent and this appeared before the Rules Committee which met on February 7th of this year, and I won't bother members with reading of the various debate that went on at that time, but if anybody is interested in reading it, they can look at Pages 78 and 79 of the Hansard of the Standing Committee on Rules of the House on February 7th of this year.

At that time, as a member of that committee, I raised an objection to the Rules Committee giving that consent based on the fact that I felt that it was only proper that the entire House should make the decision on such matters. So, as a result, somebody at that committee meeting said, well, who's going to look after it in the House, so I agreed to sponsor the resolution, and the Member for Concordia — (Interjection) — in his remarks sort of agreed with me, so that was why I had asked him to - he can speak later - why I got him to second the motion.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I subsequently received a letter from Mr. Clubine addressed to me on the 20th of April, in which he said, "I act for the Youth Parliament in Manitoba who wish to incorporate under The Manitoba Corporations Act. The Director of Corporations of Manitoba will not allow the incorporation under the above name unless the Legislative Assembly consents to the use of the name. I enclose a copy of a resolution in duplicate covering the consent by the Legislative Assembly, and I request that you present same to the Assembly."

Well, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, when the Director of Corporations suggested that they required the consent of both Legislative Assemblies and seeing as how the Youth Parliament is predominantly Manitoban, they have decided to apply for registration under the name Youth Parliament of Manitoba and that doesn't mean that the people that have been attending from northwestern Ontario will not continue to attend. They will still be invited and still take part as before.

One of the reasons that I asked of the people from the Youth Parliament, and I should mention their names: Mr. Bruce Johannson, who will be the incoming Premier of the next Youth Parliament, and Mr. Jim Bell, who will be the incoming Speaker.

One of the questions I asked them was, why would they want to incorporate? Because for many years, they have operated without incorporating, but the financial times have changed, Mr. Speaker, and this group have traditionally relied on corporate and private donations to help them in covering the cost of their operations. They provided me with a financial report for 1982-83 - a copy of which I will also table - which indicates that in excess of 20 percent of their income they received from donations, so one-fifth of the money they require to carry out their operations, they received from donations of some kind or another. Now, if they were incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization and had a tax number that they could use for charitable donations, it would assist them significantly in receiving donations. That, I think, is the

main reason why they have applied for incorporation. So, I will table this financial statement for any member that wishes to peruse it.

As a consequence, I was convinced that it was a worthwhile cause, and I believe most members of this Assembly are convinced that it's a worthwhile cause. You realize in today's society where the unemployment in the young people is almost three times as high as the average in the province. You realize then why it's somewhat difficult for them to cover the entire costs of the operation of their Youth Parliament, which goes on for three or four days here during the Christmas break. When you have young people as dedicated as they are to the political spectrum, and interest in current affairs, I think they should be encouraged in their activities. This Legislature has always seen fit to encourage them by granting them the use of this Assembly for their deliberations and I hope that practice continues for many years to come.

If you take all these reasons together, Mr. Speaker, I think that it's a very worthwhile resolution that's before us. I would hope that it gets speedy passage in this House, so the young people can carry on with their wishes to incorporate under the name, Youth Parliament of Manitoba. Thank you very much.

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

**MR. P. FOX:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the members should hold their applause until I'm finished, they may not like what I have to say.

I want to indicate that I want to support this resolution. Having perused it and, of course, done a bit of research on it have come to the conclusion that it is desirable and it is necessary. I have in the past supported Youth Parliament, especially when I was the Presiding Officer of this Legislative Assembly, and I know that it is a worthwhile effort. As I indicated at the beginning, I have no intention of making a speech. My colleague, the Member for Thompson, is anxious to give his participation and he also has a commitment, which he's in a hurry to make, so I'll turn it over to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. S. ASHTON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After an introduction like that I feel almost speechless - not quite though. — (Interjection) — They never called me "Silent Steve" yet.

I, too, support this motion, Mr. Speaker, and I congratulate the members who've moved and seconded this motion, for bringing it in. I think it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the importance that institutions, such as the Youth Parliament play, in terms of educating our youth about our parliamentary system. I feel this is an important aspect that's often overlooked, even within the schools themselves. We do have a fair amount of education about our system, but I find often that some of the intricacies of the system, some of the unique features of our system, are overlooked in many of our school texts. The advantage of the Youth Parliaments is they give our young people a chance to see directly

how the system works and how it does differ from other systems, as practised in other democratic countries.

I personally never had the fortune to attend a sitting of the Youth Parliament. The Parliament at that time was pretty well restricted to Winnipeg and it traditionally, of course, has taken place over the Christmas Holidays. That was a time when I was going to university, I went home for the holidays and I never did have the opportunity to attend the sitting. I did attend a number of sittings of the model U.N., which was held in another time of year, and I found that had much the same sort of impact that the Youth Parliament did, only in regard to the United Nations.

Since then though I've had the opportunity to attend a couple of sittings of the Youth Parliament in Thompson, a new aspect of the Youth Parliaments, which I think is excellent for people in areas like Thompson, isolated areas, to participate directly in this kind of function.

It's unfortunate that in the days I was going to school it wasn't offered, but since then there's been a very aggressive well-organized group of people in Thompson who have put this together. These sittings have included not only people from Thompson but from throughout the North and also a number of people from Winnipeg as well. I attended the banquet for the most recent Youth Parliament only a few weeks ago and they had a very good turnout from Winnipeg, which indicates I think the amount of interest there is in holding Youth Parliaments throughout the province.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, I feel that Youth Parliaments are an important aspect of education in regard to our parliamentary system. I think it indicates, certainly to me, the fact that it's an organic system. It's not strictly a legalistic system; it's not set out in any particular legal document, any constitution. It's a system that's developed over many hundreds of years, and I think that's something that comes through, and some of the particular features of the parliamentary system that we, in this Legislature, know only too well. I think that's an important aspect in terms of the learning process, because I think it gives people an idea of just how much history is behind the parliamentary system that we have here in Canada and throughout the British Commonwealth.

I think beyond that it also give the participants in the Youth Parliament another important skill, and that's a skill in terms of their own personal situation, Mr. Speaker. It gives them confidence in themselves beyond their normal every day existence. I've sat through the Sessions and I've heard the members, you know, for the mythical constituencies, speak at quite great length about issues of importance.

I noted the agenda of the recent Youth Parliament in Thompson and some of the issues they were looking at then. They included some issues that we are discussing even today in the Legislature, and some perhaps that are even too contentious for this particular body. Those participants got quite actively involved in it; they expressed their views and they tried to take a broader position, Mr. Speaker. They tried to put themselves in the position of a politician representing a constituency and I think that was important because it gave them a sense of themselves not just as individuals, but as public citizens and that's one aspect I think that we do need to encourage greatly, Mr.

Speaker. Because regardless of how our system works, in terms of its ends or particular means to get to that system, as far as I'm concerned it can only be healthy if all the people in society have a sense that they too are public citizens. It shouldn't be just up to us, as elected representatives, to debate and discuss matters of public importance, it should be a matter for all citizens. You can see that through the Youth Parliament, Mr. Speaker.

Some past participants in the Youth Parliament have gone on to political careers. I know of a number who have served in this House, who were former participants in the Youth Parliament, but many have not. They've gone to be private citizens, in one sense, Mr. Speaker, but also I think public citizens in another in that through the skills they've developed through the Youth Parliament they haven't hesitated to get involved in the public process, get involved in the political process at various levels. And as I said, Mr. Speaker, I think that's very important.

So I would like to give my wholehearted support for this particular motion and indicate that perhaps we should reflect on this kind of thing somewhat more often in this House, Mr. Speaker. I think that the more we reflect on exactly what the parliamentary system means the more that we can participate in that system and give it proper credit here in Manitoba in the 1980s. As I said, it's a system that has hundreds of years of tradition, a system that I respect greatly and through institutions, such as the Youth Parliament, I believe we could foster that respect throughout the province at a very important stage and development of the province, Mr. Speaker, and through the development of its young people. So, as I said, I support this motion wholeheartedly.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

## **RES. NO. 6 - HYDROGEN RESEARCH IN MANITOBA**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The next resolution is Resolution No. 6, the proposed motion of the Honourable Member for River East, and it is standing in the name of the Honourable Member for The Pas, who has 17 minutes remaining.

**MR. H. HARAPIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased once again to get up and say a few words on the resolution put forward by the Member for River East, the resolution on hydrogen development.

In his resolution, Mr. Speaker, he states that Canada has a unique opportunity to become the world leader in hydrogen if we take an ambitious route to establish an early leadership in the area of hydrogen development. I feel that Canada is in that position, because of all the excess Hydro we have at this time, that we are in a position to become involved in hydrogen research. The Federal Government itself seems to believe in the research, because of the funds that they have put forward to research in this area.

He also states that Manitoba has both the cheapest electricity in Canada and the largest undeveloped potential. At this point, we have a surplus of hydro-electric development in Northern Manitoba, and we

could bring more development onstream in a very short order if there was a greater need for it. So I believe that we are not using all the potential that exists for Hydro at this time.

It appears that the Federal Government is funding hydrogen research in both the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. They are not involved - there seems to be a conflict of who should be getting some of the research dollars that are available. I feel that Manitoba, as the Member for River East has mentioned in his resolution, is probably in a better position to take advantage of this than the other provinces are, so we should pass this resolution.

The Federal Government has demonstrated their belief in hydrogen. They have allocated in the past while \$1 billion, which was to go towards hydrogen research. Ontario Hydro, after conducting years of research, has indicated that hydrogen nuclear generating stations would be cost-competitive by the early 1990's.

Mr. Speaker, when I last spoke on this subject, I spoke about the urgency for us as a province to also become involved in research. I believe that Northern Manitoba would especially benefit from this field of hydrogen development, because we do not have the benefit of a natural gas pipeline. So in many cases, the people of the North are forced to use propane gas which is much more expensive than natural gas. Even though natural gas has increased tenfold in cost in the last eight to 10 years, we in the North are faced even with a greater cost than the people who have natural gas pipelines.

I again refer to a report issued by the Alberta Energy Resource Conservation Board which, by their estimates, shows that the Alberta reserves would not be able to meet the energy needs that are required of the provinces that are lying east of the Alberta border beyond the year 1986, although we may receive a saving grace in that area because of the recession that we are presently experiencing. So we may go beyond the year 1986, but we know that there is a shrinking supply of that form of energy.

We have a unique opportunity to become suppliers of this fuel of the future. David Scott, a professor at the University of Manitoba, has been very active in the field of hydrogen research. He looks at hydrogen as just not another energy source, but as an energy source which will end all energy sources. It's the ultimate in the field of energy as far as he's concerned. He claims that throughout history through each industrial change that has come out through our society, each new field of energy has become lighter in weight and lower in carbon content and richer in hydrogen than the fuels it has replaced. Coal gave way to oil, and oil is gradually giving way to natural gas. If you follow that line of progress, natural gas will soon be replaced by hydrogen.

Ontario's Urban Transportation Development Corporation is investing over \$6 million on a research program which would convert buses to run on hydrogen. They hope to have the first buses running on hydrogen on a trial basis by 1984. West Germany is also converting more than 100 vehicles of all different types to run on hydrogen.

Professor Scott who is a leading researcher in the hydrogen field believes that research should not be aimed at converting the present type of internal combustion engine, which are the diesel and gas

engines, but this research should be aimed at developing a new type of engine which would use the battery cells as a form of energy. The battery cells, which have been used on the spaceships, would convert that chemical energy of hydrogen and oxygen directly into electricity. The electricity would then run an electric engine which would power the vehicle that was being used.

Professor Scott claims that the fuel cells are three times as efficient as the internal combustion engines. Of course, these internal combustion engines were not designed to run on hydrogen. They were converted to run on hydrogen. That research was developed over 50 years ago and he claims that we are wasting research dollars by converting an internal combustion engine to run on a method that they were not designed for. They were designed to run as an internal combustion engine and not for hydrogen.

There are other countries that are also involved in research in the area of fuel cells. The countries, which include West Germany, which seems to be taking the lead in hydrogen research, and other countries which are also involved with research in hydrogen include the United States, which have done a lot of research in space crafts, and France, Japan and the tiny country of Iceland, which also has become very aggressive in the field of hydrogen research.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, the hydrogen fuel cells are presently being used in U.S. space vehicles. The major technological barrier is the fact that hydrogen can penetrate the substance of many metals. So it's very difficult to have a chamber to store the hydrogen in. It creeps through the smallest of cracks of any metal cracks that are in a storage container, and it makes the metal very brittle and then the container eventually breaks down. So storage is one of the biggest problems with hydrogen.

The storage of hydrogen is one of the areas that requires researched dollars at this time. Mr. Speaker, the use of liquid hydrogen as a long-time replacement for hydrocarbon fuels for the land and air transportation seems to be technically feasible. It is an ideal fuel if you measure energy per unit weight advantage over gasoline or any other hydrocarbon fuels.

Mr. Speaker, as mentioned earlier, there are discussions taking place between the Federal Government and the Government of Ontario and Quebec, and we, as a province, have a surplus of energy available at this time. We should pass this resolution which is put forward by the Member for River East and begin our talks with the Federal Government, so that we can also receive some of these federal research grants that are available and get on with the research that is required for this very important fuel of the future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question?

The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

**HON. W. PARASIUK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to rise in support of this resolution that my colleague, the Member for River East, has put forward. I think it's a very timely resolution. I think it's one that both sides of the House should support. It's something that, I think, is in the best long-term interest of the Province of Manitoba.

There has been a Federal House of Commons Special Committee on Alternative Energy and Oil Substitution, and they've looked at a whole set of energy alternatives and that parliamentary committee really has come down very strongly in favour of hydrogen development. It indicates that hydrogen really is the fuel of the future. In a sense, it's the perfect fuel; it does not pollute, and it's something that a number of governments have become interested in. It relates to Manitoba, in particular, because of the fact that of the two major methods of hydrogen production, first being the cracking of natural gas, and secondly, the electrolysis of water to produce hydrogen; the latter one, obviously, although not quite as economic as the cracking of natural gas right now, really is where, I think, Manitoba does have a very important role to play.

As the resolution indicates, we do have Hydro capacity right now. We have tremendous potential. We are located, really, in a position where we can relate to other jurisdictions to the east of us, to the west of us and to the south of us in a way that I think will be of benefit to them and of benefit to ourselves. We obviously are strong proponents of the technique of producing hydrogen by the electrolysis of water.

We have had discussions at the staff level with the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. We think this is a very important area. That's why soon after I became Minister we commenced discussions with the Federal Government in this respect.

I've raised this matter personally with both Marc Lalonde, when he was Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and then later with Jean Chretien, since he's been appointed as Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for the Federal Government. I've been pursuing this in a very dogged manner, actually, because I believe that this is where a lot of the future developments of Manitoba Hydro and our Hydro potential will relate to.

Unfortunately, as the resolution indicates, we have slipped a bit behind other provinces that have, as well, a great deal of electrical capacity right now and Hydro or other electrical type of potential. Quebec and Ontario are ahead of us now with respect to research and development of hydrogen.

We, in fact, in the period of the mid '70s were the leaders in Canada in this respect. The Schreyer administration had commenced studies looking into the possibility of producing hydrogen through the electrolysis of water and tapping into the Trans-Canada Pipeline, and there were studies under way that were cost shared with the Atomic Energy Commission and the Trans-Canada Pipeline. This was the type of futuristic far-sighted work that I think is important in all areas of energy development, especially if one seriously wants to look at the alternatives.

Unfortunately, this joint effort - and it was really a joint, public, private effort - was shelved by the Conservative Government when they were in power between 1977 and 1981, and in the interim Quebec and Ontario have moved ahead of us. They have received federal assistance. They have programs under way right now. We certainly want to catch up with what they are doing; and secondly, we want to get our fair share of federal involvement in this type of development. It is long-term R&D. It's the type of thing that the Federal Government should be involved in looking at with the Provincial Governments.

If Quebec and Ontario can get federal funds in this respect, we certainly believe that we should be getting funds in Manitoba as well, especially, since we are in the middle of the continent. We are in a position to distribute to the south, to distribute hydrogen to the east and to the west. We are really in a focal position within the entire continent, and we are talking about using a renewable form of energy; namely, hydro-electric power to produce another form of energy which in a sense can be produced on an ongoing basis forever.

So, in that sense from an environmental, ecological perspective, it really is a superb way of trying to meet the energy and feed stock needs of society well into the next few centuries, indeed.

So, we are talking long term, but whenever one starts talking about anything of this magnitude, it's important to start yesterday, rather than leaving five or seven or ten years off into the future, because most people agree that the technological developments and the technological breakthroughs that would make the production of hydrogen competitive with other forms of energy are a few years off. People indicate to me that it'll probably take 20 to 25 years before we get the breakthroughs whereby the production of hydrogen through the electrolysis of water will in fact be a competitive way of producing this very important form of energy.

At the same time, we should be involved in whatever R&D is being undertaken so we can gage our developments, which require in themselves a lot of lead time to coincide with these breakthroughs that we feel will take place. It's a matter of time. It's not a matter of "if"; it's a matter of "when" with respect to the development of hydrogen. It's important when one talks about, oh, negotiating longer-term contracts for sales - can we arrange this so that we can have a partly paid down source of power available to Manitoba 25 years from now, 30 years from now, 35 years from now, which can, in fact, be used for the production of hydrogen - I think people have probably raised this before - the electrical energy, hydro energy, although we're blessed with it, it cannot be stored; we can only store the water. It is possible to judiciously store the water in the future, run it at good times, produce hydrogen which can be stored; produce hydrogen that can, in fact, be transported by mixing it with natural gas in the pipelines. We can use hydrogen as a feed stock for chemical, petro chemical development. So it's something that is very important to our long-term future.

I know that members on the opposition have expressed interest. I'm pleased that I have the type of interest being indicated and shown by my colleague, the Member for River East, and by other people who have spoken on this resolution. It is important when we deal with the Federal Government and when we deal with other parties that people realize that Manitoba has a long-term commitment to the development of hydrogen and hydrogen usage; that we, in fact, have the support of all people, because when one embarks on a 20 or 25 or 30-year development like this, which really will take place after most of us are gone, although the Pawley administration will still probably be in office at that time but many of us may have, in fact, left the Legislature by that time, we will know that we, in fact, were part of a process - an important part of a process

- that began in 1983 to lay the groundwork for developments that will really, when they come to pass - and I say it's "when," not "if" - will lay the seeds for a very strong economic milieu within this province for the entire 21st Century.

In fact, it was Wilfred Laurier who said that the 20th Century belonged to Canada. When one talks about the hydro potential of Manitoba and the possibilities emanating from it, provided that they are husbanded properly and not frittered away, that in fact — (Interjection) — Well, it depends on who would do the blowing. It depends on who would do the blowing. I can sense that if, in fact, one had tied up all of our resources well into the future for 50 or 60 years, Mr. Speaker, we really couldn't talk about a resolution. We'd have to go to other parties that owned our hydro resources and ask them if they would get involved in hydrogen development, because the Conservatives would have given everything away, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I wouldn't want to raise those particular points, Mr. Speaker, but it shows the interesting perspective of the Conservatives. They are true regressive Conservatives. Here we are trying to talk about something that may, in fact, relate to developments 20 or 25 years from now, and we have some small minds on the other side, Mr. Speaker, who want to dwell in the past. I welcome that, Mr. Speaker, because if that's all they can offer to the people of Manitoba, I know where they're going to end up in the next election - the same place they ended up last election - and I want to see how many of the people on that side wish to keep on that particular point; because if they wish to keep on that point, I welcome it.

I welcome spending time with the Member for Pembina talking about how he would like to tie up our resources and the ownership of our resources. Tie up our resources for the future so that we cannot look at these alternatives in a realistic way because, Mr. Speaker, in the Conservative desperation - and I'm glad they never had the opportunity to fritter away our future - but I know there are people on the other side of the House who are interested in the future; who aren't complete regressive Conservatives; who like to see themselves as Progressive Conservatives; who want to talk about the future. Now, there are a couple on the other side. They're being muzzled by the Leader of the Opposition. They're being muzzled by people who desperately, Mr. Speaker, want to be like the Leader of the Opposition when and if they grow up as my colleague, the Member for Elmwood, so well and so aptly pointed out today. It was a superb point, Mr. Speaker, saying that there are people on the other side who only had one role model, and that may have, in fact, warped them.

I must say that there are a few people on the other side of the House who want to join with the New Democratic Party in looking at the future; who want to look at the future both a year from now, 5 years from now, 20 years from now, 25 years from now. We believe that is a responsible approach that politicians and public servants should take; so I know that the New Democratic Party caucus, the New Democratic Party members in the Legislature will support this resolution 100 percent. I look with interest to see whether in fact the rest of the Conservative caucus opposite will join with the few far-sighted people on

the other side, who I respect for having that far-sightedness, and support this resolution 100 percent with the New Democrats so that we can have a unanimous resolution, Mr. Speaker, so that we can present a united front in dealing with the Federal Government in negotiations and discussion with respect to hydrogen research and development; that we may, in fact, have a united front when we deal with other groups who, I think, want to know that there is a common approach with respect to hydrogen research and development.

So, Mr. Speaker, with those few words, I believe that we can get a unanimous consent from the members of the opposition. Of course, that's to be seen. I think the test is for them to meet; it's for them to, in a sense, throw off their regressive mantle, open their eyes, look at the future, Mr. Speaker. It won't hurt them. I don't know if they'll go blind if they do that - I don't think so. This is an opportunity for all of us to join hands, to not carp about the past, but to look at the future, Mr. Speaker. That's why I believe that all of us should support this resolution.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are you ready for the question? The Honourable Member for River East will be closing debate.

**MR. P. EYLER:** Yes, if no one else wants to speak, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a few remarks in closing.

I put forward this resolution in a spirit of non-partisan hope that . . .

**MR. C. MANNES:** Didn't you hear Willy's speech?

**MR. P. EYLER:** Yes, I heard his speech and there was a lot of food for thought in it regarding what this government is doing, what the last government did, and what the government before that was doing; but you will notice that in my resolution, I don't refer to any real previous errors or sins of omission or commission. I simply put forward a resolution which I hope will help the Minister of Energy in negotiating with the Federal Government. One of the comments made by the opposition on this resolution was, why don't I say that the province should consider spending money in this area. I think it's obvious that the province already is considering that sort of action, that we'd like to go into partnership with the Feds to get federal money as much as possible, or private investment if that's possible.

Basically, this is a non-partisan resolution and I think that the opposition has supported it with a certain amount of enthusiasm, if I read the response of the Member for Niakwa correctly; perhaps a bit of ambivalence by some of the other people who didn't bother to respond, or perhaps a bit of silliness on the part of the Member for Tuxedo who offered a rather frivolous amendment but, on the whole, I don't think we need to concern ourselves with what we think. It seems to me that basically everyone here is more or less behind more federal investment money and hydrogen research in Manitoba. So I think that what we really have to do is concentrate not so much on convincing ourselves, but on convincing the doubters outside of this House.



I suppose, in particular, one of the greatest doubters is the Winnipeg Free Press which has the official opinion, as stated on May 19, 1981, under the headlines, "Limited use for hydrogen." That's the official editorial lead. The paper proceeds to say that hydrogen "appears designed to serve the needs of Ontario more than the hydro-rich provinces of Quebec and Manitoba." It goes on to say further, "It is a change that would be more suitable to the surplus energy that can be produced by Ontario's nuclear power plants than it is to the energy produced by hydro plants in Manitoba and Quebec." A little bit further, the Free Press editorial continues, "Ontario is experiencing an industrial slowdown that is likely to leave that province with a surplus electrical generating capacity. It would make excellent sense to use this capacity, which has a significant nuclear base, to produce hydrogen, but simply because the idea is good for Ontario does not mean that it is necessarily the direction that Canada as a whole should take."

Well, I think it's clear from what we have heard in this House that hydrogen produced by hydro electricity, not nuclear electricity, is a much more viable alternative because we aren't that certain about the environmental safety of nuclear generations; and I think the Free Press misses the whole point when they pin the hopes of hydrogen production on nuclear electricity, that it's the

environment that is one of the major concerns we have to worry about these days, not simply economics or technology or any kind of games that power politicians in Ontario may be playing with the Federal Government.

So I would hope that this resolution, once passed, and I would hope unanimously by the House, could be used by the Minister of Energy in pursuing more fruitful negotiations with his federal counterparts than has been happening in the past. So I would therefore hope and commend this resolution to all members of this House and hope that it has a speedy passage today.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Chair will accept a motion to adjourn.

The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

**HON. W. PARASIUK:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Minister of Finance, that the House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow. (Wednesday)