

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, 21 May, 1987.

Time — 1:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER, Hon. M. Phillips: Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees . . .

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I wish to invite members of the Legislature to join me at a breakfast conference at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 1987, at the Holiday Inn downtown to hear a message of importance to all of us.

Our hosts will be Transplant International (Canada), a lay organization formed two years ago to promote public awareness of the increasing need for organ donations.

Vital organ transplants are now accepted therapy for certain types of organ failure. The federal-provincial working group on organ transplant centres, which has been meeting for the past three years, has suggested that Winnipeg become a transplant centre to serve Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The group reports that Canada already spends \$8 million annually on transplants for Canadians in other countries, principally in the United States.

We are at present studying the working group's report through a committee composed of representatives of the teaching hospitals, the university, the Manitoba Health Services Commission, and Dr. J. Barwinsky, Director of Manitoba's Cardiac Program, is chairman of the committee.

Next week, we will be bringing First Reading of The Human Tissue Act. I am confident that all members will be supportive of this timely and progressive piece of legislation.

But, before we can consider expanding our role and becoming a vital organ transplant centre, we must cooperate with other provinces in the development of a successful organ procurement program. Although the number of Canadians donating organs increased by 13 percent in 1985, in Manitoba the increase was 54 percent. There are still 2,500 Canadians waiting for kidneys. If only 50 percent of potential donors gave their organs, there would be enough to go around.

Madam Speaker, I am urging members of this Legislature to attend this breakfast meeting to hear reports from physicians, from vital organ recipients, and from the families of donors and, having heard, to become role models by signing organ donor cards, and by using their influence to urge others to do so.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'd like to thank the Minister of Health for this statement and urge all members of the Legislature to attend this conference next Tuesday.

I want to say that I'm very aware of how important an organ transplant program is, and I'd like to indicate to the House that I was fortunate to be, in my capacity as a registered nurse working at the Health Sciences Centre, a part of the kidney transplant team when the first kidney transplant was done, and looked after that first recipient here in Manitoba. It was a very rewarding experience, and we look forward to participating next week in the conference.

Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

HON. J. BUCKLASCHUK: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I beg leave to table the Annual Report for 1985-86 for the Department of Municipal Affairs.

MADAM SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . .

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

HON. R. PENNER introduced, by leave, Bill No. 38, An Act to amend The Law Society Act; Loi modifiant la Loi sur la Société du Barreau.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: Before moving to Oral Questions, may I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have 14 students from Grade 8 from the Laporte School under the direction of Mr. Bob Evenmo and Miss Kathy Sparre. The school is located in Laporte, Minnesota, in the United States of America.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MTX - \$20 million loss

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System.

In view of the fact that at committee this morning we were told that the reason that MTX could not collect on the \$12 million of receivables that SADL, Saudi Arabia Datacom Ltd., had from Sheik Al Bassam's company, Datacom, was because MTX personnel had been totally involved in the operation and in fact were responsible for the operation of Datacom, the sheik's company, sales, business transactions and so on; and in view of the fact that Mr. Curtis, the acting CEO of

MTX, said that he didn't believe and there was no evidence to indicate that Sheik Al Bassam had himself benefited from any of the operations of SADL or Datacom, hadn't benefited financially, hadn't in fact made money; and in view of the fact that we have written off some \$20 million of losses in this scandalous Saudi Arabian misadventure, where did the money go?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for MTS.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, I would hope that the Member for Tuxedo, the Leader of the Opposition, would read the Coopers and Lybrand Report, which was produced to the committee this morning. Coopers and Lybrand, on November 21, when the first report was made public, indicated major losses in three of the projects, or two of the Saudi Arabian projects, major losses of money, and the Cezar Industry projects. I'm pleased we have a negotiated settlement out of those two bad deals; we have said that they are bad deals.

We are pleased that Mr. Curtis, with the assistance of Coopers and Lybrand, have assessed the situation, have assessed the assets, have assessed the legal situation, and have come to an agreement that they have recommended to us and that we have supported in terms of getting out of those bad deals for the Telephone System of Manitoba.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, I regret that the Minister hasn't answered my question. What I'm saying to him is that we have lost \$20 million. At committee today, we were told that this did not benefit the sheik in any way and, in fact, that we couldn't collect on receivables from the sheik's company because it was our personnel at MTX who had totally run those operations overseas, including his company, Datacom Division of Al Bassam International. Madam Speaker, my question is that there was indeed \$20 million lost in that whole operation. How did the losses occur, and who was responsible for those losses?

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, today in committee, the critic for the Telephone System asked the same question of Mr. Curtis, and he gave an answer to the committee that he had assessed the situation and he had identified what assets were left in Saudi Arabia. He had access to the books that the members opposite said that he wouldn't have. He had assessed the situation with the books, with the assets, with the MTX situation and there were, in fact, losses in Saudi Arabia.

Madam Speaker, we have said publicly, in February, that we will potentially lose \$27.4 million; in fact, the Member for Pembina has stated it's going to be \$30 million or \$32 million. The settlements achieved are within the amount of money that we have publicly said will be lost in MTX, as identified by Coopers and Lybrand, and identified by Arthur Andersen.

Madam Speaker, we have said publicly that the Saudi Arabian situation was a bad deal and the Coopers and Lybrand, assessing the bad deal and assessing the situation with Mr. Curtis, have recommended the settlement that was provided to the House and to the committee of the Legislature this morning.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, Mr. Curtis did indeed indicate that he assessed the assets and he valued the

assets as of the current time, as of last fall. He did indeed indicate that there was no money available, Madam Speaker, but he did not indicate where did this \$20 million end up. Whose pockets were lined? Who benefited? How did the \$20 million happen to be lost? What happened to it?

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, the issue of potential criminal wrongdoing is being investigated by the RCMP. We said this morning that we would prefer that the RCMP move quicker. We would prefer that the issue of the potential criminal wrongdoing be concluded, to address the potential criminal wrongdoing.

Madam Speaker, we would have liked the RCMP to have completed an investigation, just like I'm sure, Mr. Mulroney would prefer that Andre Bissonnette's investigation would be completed by now, in terms of lining his pockets.

We would like to know but, Madam Speaker, we do not control the speed and the time of the RCMP investigation and we are awaiting their report.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, Mr. Curtis indicated that he is satisfied that the sheik did not benefit. He is satisfied that all of the responsibility centered on the MTX personnel, and the MTX operation over there.

My question is, those are people under the jurisdiction of this Minister - can he not tell us where that money ended up being squandered, and who might have benefited, and what happened to the \$20 million?

MADAM SPEAKER: That question is repetitious.

I T and T - change of thrust to overcome foreign deficit

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. E. CONNERY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Madam Speaker, on Tuesday in Estimates, I was appalled to view a Minister in total disarray and out of touch with his department. Madam Speaker, we are one of only three provinces that has a foreign trade deficit, a deficit in excess of \$1 billion and, if we leave out grain sales, that is our debt. Is the Minister . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. E. CONNERY: Yes, I've got to let him know what's coming up. Would the Acting Minister suggest to the Minister changing the strategic thrust of his department to overcome those unacceptable and devastating deficits? And I might add, Madam Speaker, that this sector deficit has doubled since 1983.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASJUK: Madam Speaker, in answer to that speech, I would indicate, although I was not at the

Estimates review, I can be assured however on the basis of past performance, that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology was not in disarray. He probably handled the Member for Portage excellently, which is why he's asking the question today, rather than asking it in Estimates when he could have asked it, or asking it when the Minister is actually here.

I will certainly take the question as notice but, Madam Speaker, let the record show that all the economic indicators for Manitoba indicate that our performance is excellent versus Conservative provinces like Saskatchewan.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please, order please.

May I remind all honourable members that question period is not a time for debate.

Manufacturing sector - restoration of lost jobs

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie with a supplementary.

MR. E. CONNERY: I have a new question, Madam Speaker, to the same Acting Minister.

Madam Speaker, we have lost 13,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector since 1981. In 1985, we had a trade deficit in end products (inedible) of over \$1.6 billion . . .

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

Does the honourable member have a question? May I remind the honourable member that questions are not to be speeches, however brief, and question period is a time for obtaining information, not giving it?

The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie, with a question!

MR. E. CONNERY: Madam Speaker, my question to the Acting Minister is: Would he suggest some changes to the Minister, so that we can restore these jobs in Manitoba, so that when Limestone, North Portage Development and the Core area have all run out, we won't be in a wilderness out looking for jobs, 13,000 jobs that we've lost in manufacturing?

HON. W. PARASIUK: Madam Speaker, I'll certainly refer the Minister of Industry Trade and Technology to the comments of the Member for Portage, but he should remember back to the period 1977-1981 when this province was in disarray under Conservative leadership, when we went from a position of being one of the leading economies in the country in 1975-76-77 and, when that motley crew took over, we went to the last position in the country. We would not want to go back the Conservative ways and be No. 10; we want to follow New Democratic Party Government ways and be No. 1, Madam Speaker.

Inter-City Gas - purchase from Alberta for large customers

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. M. DOLIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Energy and Mines.

A recent report has it that Inter-City Gas has told its large customers and suggested to them that they can purchase their gas directly from Alberta or suppliers in Alberta. I'm wondering, is there a position on the part of the ministry on this. What effect will this have on rates?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Energy and Mines.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Madam Speaker, we have indicated that we want all people to have the opportunity of getting fairer and lower gas prices, and large users of natural gas have indeed the opportunity of going out and directly purchasing natural gas in Alberta or other provinces, and getting that natural gas at rates that are significantly lower than the rates that are presently being offered. They would be in the order probably of \$1.75 or \$1.80; these are significantly lower rates. We believe that is good for Manitoba if those people do have an opportunity of getting lower rates, Madam Speaker, and we want to ensure that the system operates in such a way that those people have the opportunity of getting fairer and lower gas prices.

Inter-City Gas - opportunity for small users

MR. M. DOLIN: Madam Speaker, as a residential homeowner, I am paying considerably more than that. I'm wondering will I have the same opportunity as the large suppliers to go and get my gas at a reasonable rate from Alberta directly.

HON. W. PARASIUK: Madam Speaker, that's an excellent question because that is the heart of the problem facing the whole natural gas system in this country. Large users may have the opportunity of getting cheaper gas. The way this system is structured right now, small residential users don't. There are some 200,000 consumers of natural gas in Manitoba; 199,900-plus aren't the large users. They're residential families, families and households, small businessmen, commercial operators, Madam Speaker, and those people should have the same opportunity of getting fair and cheap natural gas as any large user. It is the position of this government that we will reform the system to ensure that that takes place.

Esprit Vacations Limited - local complaints

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Riel.

MR. G. DUCHARME: Thank you, Madam Speaker, to the Minister responsible for Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In consideration of the collapse of the Toronto-based Esprit Vacations Limited, filed bankruptcy last week, doing travel business to the tune of approximately \$25 million, specializing in European coach and ski holidays, as well as the exclusive Canadian sales agents for

Carnival Cruise Lines of Miami, Florida, available to consumers in Manitoba, has the Minister's department had any complaints locally, or will he not be aware of these complaints until after the creditors' meeting of June 2?

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

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. This morning I met with the Association of Travel Agents and we had a lengthy discussion in respect to the recent demise of the agency the honourable member refers to. We are very concerned about the extent to which travel agencies in Manitoba have brought to the attention of customers the availability of cancellation or default insurance in respect to travel plans. There is an existing insurance available and we're not satisfied there has been enough initiative on the part of the agencies to make that information available to all of the customers and ensure that people can protect themselves against the defaults that have occurred and the most recent one that did occur. I believe there have been one or more complaints brought to the attention of the Consumers Bureau, and we have been addressing those problems.

Legislation re default insurance

MR. G. DUCHARME: My question, to the same Minister.

Considering that Ontario's 1,562 consumers are affected by this particular collapse, and considering that Quebec, British Columbia legislation will also protect their consumers through legislation, will this Minister now bring in such a legislation to protect the consumers from this type of insecurity?

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

HON. A. MACKLING: Madam Speaker, the honourable member and members generally will recall the discussion in this House about the concerns to protect consumers of travel plans. While there are some people who are urging less regulation in society - and generally they're from the Conservative element in society - nevertheless, from time to time, they urge greater regulation.

We have indicated a concern in respect to the size of the industry in Manitoba. They're relatively small enterprises, small businesses, and to invoke a very rigorous insurance scheme on those agencies could well mean the demise of that kind of agency in Manitoba.

I met with the association, indicated the concerns of legislators generally to ensure that consumers are better protected. They have taken up the concern; they have initiated the basis for an insurance program. Now it's a question of making sure that individual consumers are aware of the insurance protection, and utilizing it.

Farm School Tax Assistance Program - rebate to match Ontario

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Agriculture.

The recent Farm School Tax Assistance Program announced in the Manitoba budget amounts to a saving of about 1/8 of what the farmers are now paying in property taxes, Madam Speaker.

Ontario in its recent budget this week announced 100 percent rebate on property taxes that farmers pay in that province in 1988, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture if he's considering a similar program for Manitoba farmers in 1988, to put them on a level playing field with farmers in Ontario?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, one should also compare the size of agriculture in Ontario to the rest of the economy, and in terms of the significance of agriculture to that province. Nevertheless, Madam Speaker, I'm wondering on which farms the honourable member is comparing in his analysis that 1/8 of the taxes are, in fact, being covered by this program. Madam Speaker, we have made, as we have said, a major step in the area of education tax reform. There is additional work going on between the Minister of Education, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Departments of Agriculture involved in those reviews, and the entire system is being reformed.

But, Madam Speaker, a \$12 million contribution to the farm economy, in terms of our share of our Budget, when our budgets have been increasing by 10 percent and 20 percent per year, other provinces have been cutting agricultural budgets. We have not - we have been consistent in our spending. We recognize that, short of having several billions of dollars put into the agricultural economy in this province everything else will be a difference.

MADAM SPEAKER: Order, order please.

Interest Rate Reduction Program - total amount of fee MACC is assessing

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Virden.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A new question to the same Minister.

Madam Speaker, about the Interest Rate Reduction Program that the Minister has introduced also in the Budget. In order for farmers to achieve the 8 percent interest rebate in the future, all MACC clients have to pay an administration fee upfront plus an interest rate reduction fee, Madam Speaker. This has meant that all MACC clients are faced with substantially higher payments in 1987 than what they paid in 1986.

I'd like to ask the Minister, when all the interest rate reduction fees are added up for all farmers, what is the total amount of additional interest rate grab the MACC is putting on the backs of farmers in Manitoba this summer?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, I wish the honourable member would check his facts and do his analysis properly.

Madam Speaker, there are five options presented to farmers in which to achieve the interest rate reduction. There are a number of choices that are presented in the letters there. As I said during the Estimates, Madam Speaker, depending on the length of the loan, length of repayment time that is still remaining on the mortgage, will determine the amount of benefit or no benefit to farmers, depending which of those options they choose.

Madam Speaker, a reduction from 13 percent to 8 percent, in terms of that total amount, is a 5 percent interest rate reduction. In fact, one of the press people yesterday asked me about some of the samples. I provided examples - in fact, I can provide it for my honourable friends - examples of - and I'm going from memory - an \$88,000 loan, a reduction of some, between \$60,000 and \$70,000 of reduction in interest payments over the life of that loan.

But, as I said in Estimates, it depends on the interest rate paid, the length of mortgage left to be repaid, will be the amount of benefit that a farmer will gain, and not as the honourable member tries to portray.

MR. G. FINDLAY: Madam Speaker, given that for all five options the producer is paying more in 1987 than 1986; given that, Madam Speaker, there is a 21 percent reduction in net realized income for farmers of Manitoba, how does the Minister expect farmers to come up with this additional money in these hard times, in order to achieve this 8 percent interest which the government is contributing absolutely nothing to in terms of dollars.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, that assertion is inaccurate. If a farmer wishes to put all the cash and to achieve the entire savings then that would be a cash outlay. Madam Speaker, we have not asked any farmer that they put up all the cash. If a farmer is in that great financial shape that he can put up the cash, all the greater benefit to him. But we have also recognized in the program, Madam Speaker, that all farmers do not have the cash.

There are four other options in which farmers can choose, Madam Speaker, and the reduction in payments from Year One, if they do not pay cash, is an absolute reduction in payments other than the cash payment.

Meech Lake accord - effect of agreement on principles of Native self-government

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question, Madam Speaker, is to the Minister responsible . . .

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

The Honourable Member for River Heights has the floor.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

My question is to the Minister responsible for Native Affairs. Since the Meech Lake accord the nation has been deliberating the meaning and the implications of this agreement, and I would like to ask the Minister, since it will be of such grave concern on such constitutional matters as those of Native self-government, if the Minister of Northern Affairs has been in touch with leaders of the Native communities of this province regarding the accord and its potential effect on the principle of self-government?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. E. HARPER: Well, I thank that member for that question.

I have discussed this with my staff, the senior Native advisor, the director of Native secretariat, to discuss the issue on the matter of self-government and the Meech Lake accord, and also possibly this being a discussion with the First Ministers at a future meeting, and also this was brought up with the Premier, and also the Attorney-General.

Native self-government - will not get approval of all 10 provinces

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: A supplementary question to the same Minister, in his discussions with the various groups, such as his own staff and the Native Secretariat, and I would hope with the communities that will be affected, is it their opinion that Native self-government, as a principle, will in fact not get the approval of all 10 provinces and that he could not get the approval of seven?

MADAM SPEAKER: Could the honourable member please rephrase her question so it doesn't seek an opinion?

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Did the communities affected give advice to the Minister that this would in fact be the case, that it would not result in the ever attainment of self-government in that we couldn't get the agreement of seven?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. R. PENNER: The Member for River Heights is labouring under a misapprehension - not the first, and I suspect not the last. And that is, that the draft proposed change to the amending formula in any way requires that the constitutionalization, or the amendment to Section 35, is affected by the change in the amending formula, or the proposed change in the amending formula; it is not.

Meech Lake accord - no abrogation of the problems with respect to self-government

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Madam Speaker, to the Attorney-General, since he seems to want to answer questions on Native Affairs, can the Attorney-General assure this House that there will be no abrogation of

the problems affecting self-government as a result of the Meech Lake accord?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. E. HARPER: I can assure the member that our position will be not to abrogate our position in respect to self-government. I might add that because of the lack of a commitment at the Constitutional Conference, doesn't indicate that it wouldn't be recognized that there is aboriginal self-government. As a matter of fact, many of the provinces do support aboriginal self-government, even B.C. who was against the proposal, had a suggestion to support self-government. So, I believe in due time we would have a recognition by all governments that there will be self-government in all aboriginal communities.

MACC - buy out of face value of principal and receive prorated refund

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture, the question dealing with the Interest Rate Reduction Program.

Madam Speaker, in reading the material that has been sent to the clients of MACC that can qualify for this program, I notice that there is a line saying: "For your information, the interest rate reduction fee will not be refundable in whole or in part."

My question to the Minister of Agriculture: Can people who have taken benefit of this program, can they buy out the face value, or the principal of the loan, during the course of how many years are left on the loan, can they buy out the principal amount and still receive some of a prorated refund of some of the interest they put up front?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, in that letter, as well, there are a number of suggestions made to clients. Madam Speaker, the honourable member puts the question in a way that in fact forces one to only deal with their purposes, but does not cover the entire situation. Some of the information, Madam Speaker, that is suggested to farmers, should they need assistance, they are to contact their MACC field representative. We also recommend that you seek the advice of your accountant or financial adviser in determining the benefits of the program to you.

Along with the five options that are presented to farmers under that program, there is an actual schedule of payments and benefits, or no benefits depending on the loan, as I've said, and the length of time of the mortgage remaining, length of payment to the mortgage remaining, that is there.

Madam Speaker, in terms of the benefits that are there, in terms of the loan of the benefits -(Interjection)- Madam Speaker, the honourable member is asking a question whether a portion of the benefits can be bought

out. Madam Speaker, the option is to buy down to a percent. If the honourable member is saying we want to now buy to 10 percent or some other level, we would have to take that under advisement and look at that question. We felt, and if he's suggesting that now people want to buy down to 10 percent or a portion of their buy down, the buy-down portion, the loan that they take to make their buy down, or their cash payment, is in fact charged back at the current borrowing rate of MACC.

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, this is the Minister's program and he's just given us clear evidence that he doesn't have an understanding of what it is that he's put before the people of Manitoba.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, the question was very specific. Some of these loans are out for 25 years and, hopefully, good times will return to agriculture and, maybe in the space of four or five years, some of these clients will want to buy the face value of the loan, they'll want to return all of the payment.

Will they, indeed, be allowed a refund on some of this major interest that they may put forward now, the Interest Rate Reduction Program, because indeed, they're buying back interest today and paying it in advance so to speak.

Will they be allowed a refund on that, in spite of the fact that the letter says: For your information, the interest rate reduction fee will not be refundable in whole or in part?

HON. B. URUSKI: Madam Speaker, at any time that there will be a refund, there would have to be a new program announced whether there would be a new program. But, Madam Speaker, the member alleges that there are no benefits, there are major payments. One of the options, Madam Speaker, provides benefits from Day One. It was alleged by his colleague, the Honourable Member for Virden.

Madam Speaker, I will provide one example, a loan of \$94,000 with a remaining term on that loan of 19 years to be paid, the existing payments are \$14,034.51. Madam Speaker, members opposite said that initial payments from Year One are, in fact, higher. Many people have to pay more. One option that is in the program allows the \$14,000 payments to be reduced to \$12,906 a year, for a net benefit over the life of that loan of almost \$34,000 a year. Madam Speaker, how can they say there are no benefits under that program?

Highway 75 - twinning of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. C. MANNES: Madam Speaker, I have a new question. I direct it to the Minister of Highways.

Given that yesterday the Member for Lakeside requested that the government not allocate \$700,000 to the construction of Highway 67, I request of the Minister of Transportation, whether or not he would

Thursday, 21 May, 1987

consider allocating that \$700,000 to the twinning of Highway 75, Madam Speaker, and support Mr. Michael Resch in his endeavours to convince this government to give the twinning of that highway a higher priority.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Highways and Transportation.

HON. J. PLOHMAN: Madam Speaker, we cannot treat highway upgrading on such a frivolous basis, as to when an MLA decides that he doesn't want the money, that that isn't going to be spent there. It is based on the fact that for 10 years that particular road has been identified as being in a condition that was unsafe and that needs to be improved.

Over that time, the situation has deteriorated, and of course it's to the stage now where urgent action has to be taken.

I should mention to the Member for Morris that, if he had done some background on this, he would know that we cannot allocate another \$700,000 to Highway 75 at this particular time, even though that's the incorrect amount that's needed for Highway 67. The reason we can't do it is because we have to acquire the land for the next section, and there is money in the budget for that at this time. So we can't just go ahead and just start grading before we have the land, Madam Speaker.

Multicultural Task Force - purpose of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. C. SANTOS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to direct some questions to the Minister responsible for Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

Can the Minister inform this House and the people of Manitoba about the purpose of this Multicultural Task Force in Manitoba?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm pleased to be able to elaborate on the announcement made today for the establishment of an eight-member task force to develop a comprehensive policy on multiculturalism.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Madam Speaker, it's clear that this is another difficult issue for members opposite.

Madam Speaker, we on this side of the House have a very strong commitment to the development of multiculturalism. I think it's an appropriate question to be addressed in this Chamber and I'd like to inform members opposite - since they may have something to learn from this - about our efforts in this area.

Madam Speaker, this task force has been set up under the able and expert leadership of Dr. Neil McDonald and Dr. Claudia Wright. This committee will review existing policies; it will consult with the broader

community and it will make recommendations back to this government.

This province has a strong record on ethnocultural matters and a leadership position across this country, and through this announcement and the establishment of this task force, we are committed to the enhancement of cultural diversity in our society, to the eradication of racism and discrimination, and to the creation of greater opportunities and fairness for all of our diverse member groups.

AIDS - Dr. Fast prevented from participating in public debate

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for River East.

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Given that the key to preventing the spread of AIDS is education and public information, can the Minister inform the House whether Dr. Fast, the most informed person in the Department of Health, was prevented from participating in a public debate to present full and factual information on AIDS to concerned Manitobans?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, the honourable member is absolutely right. It was suggested to Dr. Fast that, because a statement will be made early next week and also that we're organizing a seminar for all the members, that it would be better, before the discussions, to wait as to the official policy, at the request of this member and other members that there will be a statement made presenting the government's position on that.

I want to emphasize again that if we are serious about this, I think we've got as much as possible to take this out of the realm of partisan politics. I think that it is education, and it's not going to serve any purpose in arguing and debating and also in doing anything that might panic the people of this province and Canada.

I also asked my Deputy Minister, with some of the concerns that I had after listening to the news yesterday, to get in touch with the Federal Government and suggest that they should call a meeting as soon as possible to get the different provinces together. We do not have the resources to start reinventing the wheel in every province and that we have a policy and work together on that.

The Federal Government has accepted and suggests that it would be discussed at the coming meeting of the Deputy Ministers in a couple of weeks, in June some time.

AIDS - concerns of health care workers re unknown carriers of virus

MRS. B. MITCHELSON: Given that the government is going to come out with a statement, a policy statement by next week, is the Minister of Health including, or will he be addressing, in that policy

statement the concerns of health care workers who are caring for patients who may be carrying the AIDS virus unknowingly to themselves, and to the caregivers and will he be advocating a screening policy for those admitted to hospital, a blood-screening policy?

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, I suggest that the honourable member wait till the statement is made and then, also as stated, I intend to organize a seminar, or a day where we would have the most knowledgeable people in this province to discuss with the MLA's and the members of the press all our policies and any other suggestion that any members might want to make.

Gambling consultant - purpose of

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Madam Speaker, a question to the Minister responsible for the Lotteries Foundation, of which I've given her prior notice.

Could she indicate or inform the House, Madam Speaker, whether she is bringing to Manitoba a gambling consultant or operator from Lake Tahoe and, if so, for what purpose?

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister responsible for Lotteries.

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I'd like to thank the Member for St. Norbert for raising this matter with me earlier.

As I confirmed to the Member for St. Norbert privately, we, the Lotteries Foundation has hired a consultant from Lake Tahoe to train staff at the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation on the operation of a new game that is being introduced at the casino, and the name of the game is called Pai-Gow and apparently is quite popular with many people who enjoy going to the casino and it was just more cost-effective and efficient to bring the consultant here for the training rather than to send all the staff to Lake Tahoe.

Gambling consultant - cost to Foundation

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Minister indicate how long the consultant will be here, and at what cost to the Lotteries Foundation?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: The consultant, whose name by the way is Mr. Bob Yee, will be here for the months of - around a period of August and September of this year. The cost for the total course should be no more than \$15,000; however, it's estimated - and we can never be certain about these estimations - because of the popularity of this game, it could raise roughly \$7,500 a day.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MADAM SPEAKER: Order please.

Gambling - expansion of casino days

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A final supplementary question to the Minister.

Could she indicate whether the hiring of this consultant is in itself an indication that the number of casino days will be expanded in the city?

HON. J. WASYLICIA-LEIS: Not at all, Madam Speaker.

Evaluation programs - consideration of long-term jobs

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. G. DOER: Madam Speaker, the Member for River Heights asked questions on the Core Area Training Program and asked for evaluation reports. I have a copy for her and the critic from the Opposition, of a number of reports from the Core Area Training Program in terms of the training.

Gerontology Community Workers Program - wasted due to lack of employment

HON. G. DOER: In terms of the specific question on gerontology students, I indicated at the time of graduation, we had a real lag and some potential failure in some of the hiring of those people.

I am happy to report that of the 17 graduated, 11 are now working in the field, which was higher than at the time of graduation. One has moved to Brazil, one is working in another area, one has gone to social work program, one is in medical school and two are still looking for employment and are going to school and being subsidized by some tuition fees for the Core to keep them current, so I'll table those reports.

MADAM SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MADAM SPEAKER: May I direct the attention of honourable members to the gallery, where we have 20 students, ages 16 to 24, from the Yes Canada School, under the direction of Mr. J.G. Shingoose. The school is located in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Housing.

On behalf of all the members, we welcome you to the Legislature this afternoon.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg leave to make a non-political statement.

MADAM SPEAKER: Does the honourable member have leave? (Agreed)

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. A. KOVNATS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, on a news release dated May 15, 1987, under the Department of Agriculture, Communications, it starts off: "Manitobans love the taste of fresh vine-ripened tomatoes."

Madam Speaker, in the early part of March, somewhere around the 7th or 8th of March, when I decided that I would share my love of tomatoes with all members of the Legislature and some other Manitobans, I thought that at this point, when I was planting the seeds in the vermiculite and all the soil that is required, that I would think very nicely of when it came time to present the tomatoes to the members of the Legislature.

This year, in addition to the members of the Legislature, I have presented some tomatoes to the press gallery and to some of the staff that now works in this Chamber.

Madam Speaker, there will be a contest later on in the year, when the fruits of the tomato plant will be judged for roundness, maturity, and colour, and I will be obliged, at that time, to give a non-biased view and to select the winner, which I know will be on this side of the House.

In addition, Madam Speaker, I represent an area of South St. Vital, where there are many greenhouses and there's quite a greenhouse industry, as well as throughout the whole area outside of the City of Winnipeg, and it was through the association of one of my friends out there that the geraniums were supplied from Gary Paul's Greenhouse.

I was given a little bit of action from my seatmate, who said, where's my tomato? Madam Speaker, I said to her that there was her tomato right in front of her, it just had a red flower on it; but I will be very pleased, when the time comes, to enjoy the fruits of the tomato later on in the year, and I hope that you all will enjoy the effort that was put into starting these tomatoes from seed. Now it's your turn.

I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Madam Speaker, in the name of the members on this side of the House and indeed all the members of this House, I'm sure we would like to thank the honourable member for his kind gesture again. I think it was very appropriate, very nice that he should make this presentation at this time.

I've noticed that in his usual thoughtful manner, he provided the members of the female sex with beautiful flowers, and the male sex with the flower plant. I wonder if there is any indication or message in the fact that both his leader and my leader received one of each.

I do have a concern though, Madam Speaker. I wonder also what the reason is that you have a much larger flower, and I wonder if that could be some kind of a conflict of interest.

Seriously, Madam Speaker, we're anxious for this contest that he mentioned. I think we should win it on this side, and thank you again for your kind gesture.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. G. FILMON: Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Official Opposition in the Legislature, I want to add my words of thanks to the Member for Niakwa, and I want to assure the Member for St. Boniface that the reason that I have one of each is because I'm equally supportive in concerns of the needs of men and women in society in Manitoba.

Madam Speaker, I just wanted to put on the record that, when we told the Member for Niakwa that he ought to bring some tomatoes for the press gallery, this wasn't what we had in mind.

Madam Speaker, we do appreciate . . .

HON. L. DESJARDINS: It has nothing to do with you being a great breeder.

MR. G. FILMON: I won't touch that one.

Madam Speaker, I do want to join with all the members in thanking the Member for Niakwa for his continuing generosity and his thoughtfulness today.

MADAM SPEAKER: I would like to add my thanks to the Honourable Member for Niakwa who again asked my permission to deliver his plants, which I readily agreed to. I would just like to remind him that we are still working for bread and roses.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MADAM SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. J. COWAN: I sense, Madam Speaker, after some quick consultations that there is an inclination on the part of members to forego Private Members' Hour today and to continue on in the Committee of Supply debate, by leave.

MADAM SPEAKER: Is that agreed? (Agreed)

HON. J. COWAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I move, Madam Speaker, seconded by the Minister of Labour, that Madam Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

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 Burrows in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet in the Chair for the Department of the Attorney-General.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Baker: The committee will come to order. When we adjourned last, we were on 2.(b)(1). Mr. Minister, do you want a word or two?

HON. R. PENNER: Yesterday, the Member for St. Norbert asked for some information and I'm pleased

to be able to provide most of it today and, where I'm not able to provide the information today, it will be forthcoming.

First of all, a question was asked at the beginning with respect to the cost of the Hecla Conference and I'll provide the member with a breakdown showing a total of \$5,015.00.

The Member for St. Norbert asked about the cost reduction in the previous fiscal year and I'm providing the member with a detail showing from which appropriation the amounts came. I can tell him or at least corroborate or verify the information I gave yesterday, namely, that all of this money, virtually all of this money, was found in salaried dollars in terms of keeping positions vacant for X weeks or months, as the case may be. As a result of that effort, a net saving as shown was attained, not without of course some loss in service, but not by cutting out programs or not by in any way severely impacting the public.

The member asked some questions yesterday about the Victim Witness Assistance Program. I have some information and I also have a set of materials for the member giving an update on the videotaping project and on the Victim Impact Statement Project. The material on the videotaping project includes the first quarterly progress report to June 1986 and the second progress report July 1986 to February 1987. He'll probably find there is more information than he ever wanted to know or I ever wanted to know and so on the Victim Impact Statement.

With respect to Affirmative Action, I have a set of figures that compares - okay, I don't know if this is calendar or fiscal - '85-86 to '86-87, and gives the breakdown of male-female employment in a number of categories. So from that, any changes can be extrapolated. Just for example - perhaps give the member a copy before I refer to it.

In the managerial and administrative component, the percentage of women year over year increased by about 10 percent from 17.6 percent to 27.8 percent. In some cases, there has been little or no change. Overall, on the first page, the percentage of women employees in the department increased marginally from 74.6 percent to 75.7 percent; in the legal classifications, a marginal increase from 42 percent to 43.8 percent, but getting there; in the last category, a change as noted from 65.7 percent to 75 percent. I think I've given the member a copy. In fact, there is an additional copy for the Member for Brandon West.

I think that is most of the information that was requested, and more will be forthcoming as we proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Yesterday, I had a question to be as noted that would fall into the Crown Prosecutors' area, I would think, or perhaps it could fall later on under Law Enforcement, but I wonder if I could just ask it now.

It would be this, I wonder if the Attorney-General could advise us as to the status of the RCMP investigation into the MTS-MTX matter.

HON. R. PENNER: I don't have any more information than that which I provided to the House a couple of

weeks ago, but I will try to get an update on that for tomorrow.

As I recall, I was advised by the RCMP that they were waiting on External Affairs, which department with the Federal Government as a matter of protocol handles the basic protocols that are required to have the entry for investigation purposes of a foreign police force. I'll get the update on that, perhaps even later this afternoon.

MR. G. MERCIER: If there was some indication as to when the investigation would be completed as best as possible, that could be . . .

HON. R. PENNER: I'll have that information for later this afternoon.

MR. G. MERCIER: I believe we're now into 2.(c)(1)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, 2.(c)(1).

MR. G. MERCIER: Does the Minister have the report? Is the report available?

HON. R. PENNER: On the Fatality Inquiries, yes, we have some information.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I know I indicated, the Attorney-General asked me yesterday if I wanted Dr. Markesteyn here and I said no. So I appreciate the fact that he's not here. But what I would like to do is raise the matter, and the Attorney-General can take it as notice and provide me with an answer as soon as he can.

A few weeks ago, a criminal prosecution was completed, and a female person was found guilty of not providing the necessities of life to an infant. I think it was the Abraham's case.

HON. R. PENNER: The Abraham's case, yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: I'm advised that the natural father of that child who was killed late last week had an infant of his die. It may have involved sudden infant syndrome. I'm told that the Chief Medical Examiner is investigating. He may have already investigated that case. I'd like to know the results of that, whether that child was in care, was known to be in a high-risk situation. It may have been - and I'm just raising it for informational purposes at this stage - that there was absolutely no fault of anyone, but I understand the Chief Medical Examiner was investigating that, and would ask the Attorney-General if he could provide me with that report.

HON. R. PENNER: If you could perhaps provide me in writing, before the end of the afternoon or in the next few minutes, the name of the father if it's different than the name of the person who was found guilty, and the name of the infant and the date of death. If he can't do it today, tomorrow.

MR. G. MERCIER: I can't do that, but it's such a notorious situation, I think the Chief Medical Examiner will be well aware.

HON. R. PENNER: All right. We'll certainly check it and, if we need more information, we'll get back to you.

MR. G. MERCIER: The other matter I would raise under this section - and the Attorney-General may not have had sufficient opportunity to yet consider it, but in the Dr. Sigurdson-Professor Reid review of the child abuse system, they recommend that The Fatality Inquiries Act be amended so that, where there is a child in care and there is a death, there be an automatic inquest and the Chief Medical Examiner make recommendations as to the involvement of any child care agency. I've suggested that not be the only situation, that death cannot be the only situation but, where there is a child in care and there is significant mental or physical disability incurred as a result of abuse while that child is in care, such an independent investigation by someone like the Chief Medical Examiner be obtained - for Dr. Sigurdson or Professor Reid to point out that the Department of Community Services is ill-equipped to do a proper type of investigation in those circumstances.

I would ask the Attorney-General if he's had an opportunity to give any consideration to the amendments that were recommended in that report.

HON. R. PENNER: First of all, I should tell the member that we're planning a complete revision of The Fatality Inquiries Act for the next Session. We've had several consultations with Dr. Markesteyn, and the process is now under way under the direction of our ADM, Justice Ron Perozzo, who is here.

But on the specific question, I did have a request from the Minister of Community Services, received in fact, coincidentally enough the day before yesterday, asking me whether, pending that full revision, it might not be possible to bring in an amendment to the existing act in this Session. I immediately referred that to the ADM Criminal Justice whose responsibility is that area, John Guy, and as soon as I can get an update to see whether it's something that can be done by a simple bill or even with consensus via statute law amendment. If there's something we can do this year on that particular aspect, then we'd certainly be anxious to do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, on page 35, of the Supplementary Information . . .

HON. R. PENNER: Page 35?

MR. J. McCRAE: 35.

HON. R. PENNER: You're way ahead of all of us.

MR. J. McCRAE: Isn't that where we're supposed to be?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, that's the place.

HON. R. PENNER: There we are. I was just complimenting you.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, under Objectives, there is the provision of grief counselling and supportive nursing care to the families of the - I take it, that's

decedents. Then that is also listed under Activity Identification, providing counselling and nursing care. Could the Attorney-General tell us how many people would be involved in services of that kind?

HON. R. PENNER: You're referring particularly to the grief counselling and supportive nursing care to the families, the descendants? There are two of the staff in the office of the Chief Medical Examiner who are primarily responsible, but they are more coordinators than actual line counsellors. They'll make sure, if they are unable to handle the problem themselves, that the appropriate agencies are brought into the situation.

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

Section 2.(d)(1) Board of Review - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many persons are being detained under the Criminal Code under this section?

HON. R. PENNER: I'm going to give the member a breakdown. The total is 30, and the breakdown which he will receive indicates where they are detained. Half of the 30 are detained in Selkirk, and the others in various other places.

MR. G. MERCIER: The statistics that the Attorney-General has given me indicate that, other than mental health centres or correctional institutions, one is in the St. Boniface Hospital, six are in the community, one in a group home, two in care homes. The fact that there are persons in the community in group homes and care homes, is that a recent change, that persons being detained are now placed in the community in group homes?

HON. R. PENNER: No, that's always been part of the mandate of the Board of Review to, in appropriate cases, see if a progression can be made from an intensive-care type unit, such as Selkirk or Brandon, through group or care homes and, in some instances, into the community. Normally where a community release is indicated - and it's almost never. I can't recall an instance where there's been a direct transfer from the more intensive units into the community, but where ultimately there is a community release, it's usually accompanied by the equivalent of probation conditions and terms, for example, of regular attendances for medication or medication supervision, things of that kind.

MR. G. MERCIER: Who sits on the Board of Review now?

HON. R. PENNER: The Board of Review is headed by Caroline Cramer, as it has been for some years now. There are two psychiatrists, Prosen and Fred Shane, and two other members, Dr. Marilyn MacKay and Patricia Desjardins.

I should indicate, just as a footnote to the response, that draft legislation has been circulated from about six months ago, perhaps a little longer, by the Minister of Justice. Fundamental changes are being proposed in the area.

One of the changes will be that the Board of Review in fact will become, in a sense, the final arbiter. Normally, as the member will recall, the Board of Review makes a recommendation, and then it comes up sort of as a Lieutenant-Governor Warrant to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. It is very difficult for the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to do much with it. Fortunately, the recommendations in my term of office - I think it was the same in the member's - have not met with any failures. But in order to . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: With delays though.

HON. R. PENNER: With delays.

The proposal would, as originally drafted, call for each provincial Board of Review to be headed by a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench. I think all of the Attorneys-General suggested that be broad enough to include the possibility for a provincial court judge heading the Board of Review. So if in fact they're to be the final arbiters of release mechanisms, there be someone with the authority of judicial office heading it up. We're supportive of that.

I'm advised that, at our forthcoming meeting of Attorneys-General, Minister of Justice, next week, that issue is on the agenda and is now reasonably well advanced.

MR. G. MERCIER: I would tend to be supportive of that type of change, if that's of any significance.

But those are all the questions I have in this section.

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

Resolution No. 18: Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,414,000 for Attorney-General, Criminal Justice, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

MR. G. MERCIER: Are we at 3.(a)(1)?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: There's a reference here to special programs. I wonder if the Attorney-General could expand on that.

HON. R. PENNER: The special program that is included in there is the grant to the anti-apartheid group.

MR. G. MERCIER: Okay, that was the other area where I think the Attorney-General was going to bring some information . . .

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, that's right and, in fact, I'll get it later this afternoon.

MR. G. MERCIER: That grant, then, would account for virtually almost all of the increase in this particular area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pass?

MR. G. MERCIER: Subject to getting the information on the grants.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, that information will be available within half-an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(a)(1)—pass; 3.(a)(2)—pass.
Civil Legal Services, 3.(b)(1).

MR. G. MERCIER: On that one, Mr. Chairman, is there an addition in this particular area in view of the increase in Salaries?

HON. R. PENNER: There are no staff additions in this fiscal year. There was an addition in the last fiscal year related to the creation of the regulations unit, which we now have in place and to which I referred yesterday.

MR. G. MERCIER: Are there people hired on contract in this section?

HON. R. PENNER: Not on contract. We have either SY's or term SY's.

MR. G. MERCIER: Does this include the hiring of any outside counsel?

HON. R. PENNER: You're referring to 3.(b)?

MR. G. MERCIER: 3.(b).

HON. R. PENNER: I believe there's a small allowance of up to \$5,000 for outside counsel.

MR. G. MERCIER: Were there any outside counsel hired last year?

HON. R. PENNER: Outside counsel that would be hired, let's say for Energy and Mines - and I believe outside counsel were hired for Energy and Mines last year - would show up in that appropriation. Because it's a charge back, it doesn't show in our appropriation.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the hiring of all outside counsel at least routed through the Attorney-General for approval?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, the General Manual of Administration calls for the approval of the hiring of outside counsel by the Department of the Attorney-General.

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Attorney-General provide us with a list of outside counsel who were hired during the last year and the amounts paid?

HON. R. PENNER: Sure. Although it might appear in Public Accounts but, nevertheless, I think to simplify the task of the member, we'll provide such information as we have.

MR. G. MERCIER: When we get into Other Expenditures, there's a significant increase in communication and supplies and service.

HON. R. PENNER: What we really have here is an internal reallocation. The actual amount, for example, that was spent through these various items in the last fiscal year was 132.5 and there was money of about the difference underspent, for example, in the office of Legislative Counsel. So for the presentation this year

Thursday, 21 May, 1987

to be more realistic, we've transferred money from Legislative Counsel into this appropriation where we expect it to be spent.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many people work in the Regulations Unit?

HON. R. PENNER: Seven. That includes the four staff.

MR. G. MERCIER: What exactly are they doing? Are they reviewing the regulations with a view to - certainly the translation that has to be done, which would be done not in this section - or is it being done in this section?

HON. R. PENNER: We're just at the beginning of the process. The Regulations Unit are proceeding department by department and reviewing all the existing regulations, weeding out stuff that should have been weeded out long since, trying to eliminate redundant or unnecessary matters. Then it goes to translation. When that process has been completed, then it comes up to Cabinet for reenactment in both languages. We have begun with the Department of Labour and have now reenacted two fairly substantial - in fact, I'm advised that we've now, with the passage of a batch last Wednesday, reenacted all of the regulations of the Department of Labour, and they are gazetted.

MR. G. MERCIER: How long is that expected to take?

HON. R. PENNER: I think that will take well into '88, but will certainly be completed before the target date, which is December 31, '88.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is the plan for this unit? Obviously, it certainly wouldn't be required in those numbers.

HON. R. PENNER: That's why some of the positions are term. We plan to keep a Regulations Unit, but it could be a relatively small one in place. Certainly it is proving itself to serve a very useful purpose in making sure our regulations are crisp and clean and current.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Is it from this branch, Mr. Chairman, one of the lawyers from this branch who acts as board counsel for the Labour Board?

HON. R. PENNER: From Legal Services, yes.

MR. J. McCRAE: So the appropriation for that person's salary shows here and it wouldn't show under the Labour Estimates?

HON. R. PENNER: That's right.

MR. J. McCRAE: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1)—pass - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated there was no increase in staff years, but I'm advised

that Mr. Frost was transferred to Manitoba Hydro for a period of years. Can the Minister expand upon that?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. Mr. Frost was transferred effective, I think, June 1-May 1, and I believe it's for two or three years - for three years. The Hydro will pay us the value of his services so that he can be replaced for that period of time by term staff.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has he been replaced?

HON. R. PENNER: I don't think he's been replaced yet. Excuse me for a moment. He will be replaced as of June 1.

MR. G. MERCIER: Pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(b)(1)—pass; 3.(b)(2)—pass.
3.(c) Legislative Counsel, Salaries - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is there any increase in staff here? Or has there been recently?

HON. R. PENNER: There isn't year over year. I believe there was an increase in staff between '85-'86 and '86-'87. We'll check in a moment, but our recollection is that there was an increase in '85-'86, '86-'87 of about six when we really began the intensive work on translation of the Statutes.

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, I have to raise a matter again that I think I raised a few years ago, Mr. Chairman, in my capacity as Opposition House Leader.

I had brought to my attention about a month ago a response from Legislative Counsel to someone who works for our caucus who was asked to deal with Legislative Counsel in developing a bill for preparation of a Private Member's bill for a member, and the response - I did speak to the Government House Leader about it - essentially was, I don't have time to deal with your request because there's so much government legislation.

Now, I think, to raise again the fact that the rules of the House provide that Legislative Counsel is Legislative Counsel for all members of the House and there certainly is, to my knowledge. The members of the Opposition have not requested very much at all in the way of Private Members' bills. I think there have been two on the Order Paper at this Session, and this was the only other request for preparation of a Private Member's bill and I think, in view of the rules and I think in view of the long-standing practice of the House, that someone in the Legislative Counsel's office should be prepared to respond in a reasonable way. Nobody's asking for overnight production of a bill but to respond in a reasonable way to a request from a member of the Opposition for preparation of a Private Member's bill. You simply can't do a Private Member's bill only after you're finished all the government legislation.

HON. R. PENNER: First of all, I'm aware of the situation, and I want to assure the member that we're more than anxious to cooperate. It's not a question of sort of an interpretation of the rules. I think that there ought to

be the facility to provide that kind of service to all members. It's certainly, again, not a case of saying that it will not be done; it's a question of priorities. It's my hope that staff there will be able to get to that particular matter - I don't know what it is, of course - in enough time for the Opposition to consider the introduction of that matter, whatever it may be, in good time.

We are cognizant of a difficulty that hasn't yet been overcome, namely, that for a relatively few months of the 12, there's a great kind of press of work. The net result is that a number of difficulties are created for both sides of the House, in fact, in the drafting of legislation when the House is in Session.

We are trying to deal with that in two ways. One is to augment - the staff of the Legislative Counsel's office indicated that Mr. Larson will be coming back and will be a member of the drafting staff in a matter of a couple of months.

The other thing that we're doing is that, internally, in the way in which we generate the legislative package for a Session, we've begun this year several months earlier than in previous years in order to see if we can get staff working on drafting in the fall, well before we're into a Session.

MR. G. MERCIER: Having said that, I wouldn't want the record to show that I'm really being critical of the Chief Legislative Counsel. He's made presentations to us on Bill No. 4 and I think all members of the caucus are impressed by his abilities.

Mr. Chairman, does this area, I ask the Minister, contain the cost of the translations?

HON. R. PENNER: The cost of legal translations, yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: This is a change is it not? You've been moving this back and forth between Cultural Affairs.

HON. R. PENNER: We made the significant change two years ago, and I think that was appropriate to have the legal translation unit in the office of the Legislative Counsel. It continues to be there, and it functions very well there.

MR. G. MERCIER: What amount of money is being spent on translations in this year's budget?

HON. R. PENNER: In addition of course to the salaries of the staff, the in-house staff, then the amount of money that is being paid externally is found in the big number under Supplies and Services. The majority of that \$689,800 - I'll try to get the exact number - but most of it is for legal translation by two or three firms located in the Ottawa Valley, Quebec City areas.

More particularly then, the external contracts presently in place are capped at \$400,000.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Which outside firms did the outside work last year?

HON. R. PENNER: We don't have a current contract. We did have contracts with the University of Moncton.

MR. G. MERCIER: Last year, there were two contracts with . . . Mulcare?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, Mulcare in Montreal. Traduction Universelles - they're primarily doing the regulations.

MR. G. MERCIER: What amount was paid to each of those firms last year?

HON. R. PENNER: We'll provide that either later this afternoon or tomorrow.

MR. G. MERCIER: In those contracts, is money paid per word to each of the firms? Is that the basis of payment?

HON. R. PENNER: With Traduction Universelles, it's per word. With Mulcare, he actually acts as a reviser. As the member may know, when you have the translation done, then it goes to a more experienced person who does very careful analytical editing and also does concordance, which is more difficult.

MR. G. MERCIER: They're doing different types of work, then.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: Was the contract to the Traduction Universelles tendered?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: They were the lowest tenderer?

HON. R. PENNER: -(Interjection)- I'd put that on the record in exactly the same terms. I'm advised they weren't the lowest, but they were considered to be the best in terms of the quality of work which we've seen. We've had work from several firms - not several, that would be exaggerating; about three or four firms - including the University of Moncton, and this is not to disparage any particular firm but we are insisting on quality work. Fortunately, because we now have our own in-house staff, headed by a very, very good legal translator, Michel Nantel, we are able to check the quality of work. Because, under our law, both texts are official, we want to make sure that there is no disparity.

MR. G. MERCIER: What was the difference in the tenders?

HON. R. PENNER: That information will be supplied later this afternoon.

MR. G. MERCIER: Who is doing what work? Are those contracts allocated for this year? We were speaking about last fiscal year, now we're speaking about this fiscal year.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, the question as I understand it is: Have these contracts been tendered anew for this fiscal year? Not to this date. The contract with Traduction Universelles was, as I understand it, a contract for doing the regulations, and so that contract will run for another year and a bit.

The contract with Mulcare will probably come to an end in September this year because of the fact that we only have about another 37 of the CCSM to do.

MR. G. MERCIER: In the Estimates, it shows Recoverable from Canada, \$300,000, but I think the Attorney-General indicated that it may in fact be \$400,000 or \$500,000.00?

HON. R. PENNER: \$500,000 - yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: I have no further questions on this section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(c)(1)—pass; 3.(c)(2)—pass.
3.(d) Manitoba Law Reform Commission: Salaries - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: There's a note in the Supplementary Information that the first increase of total salaries is due to funds added back to salaries budget after they had been deducted in error in '85-86. What was the actual amount they got last year from the government?

HON. R. PENNER: In the last fiscal year, the amount that was received from Consolidated from the government directly - The Law Reform Commission actually received the amount shown in the adjusted vote, but we received back from the Law Foundation \$100,000.00.

The Law Reform Commission received a total of 336.5 and we, in turn - the Paymaster - received \$100,000 from the Law Foundation.

MR. G. MERCIER: I don't know if you'll have this information, but what had they got in the previous year?

HON. R. PENNER: Actual, 329.5.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm looking at the Annual Report of the Law Reform Commission in which they talk about their budget and the fact that the agreement between the government and Law Society provided that they were to receive 100,000 per annum for three years, commencing with the '86-87 fiscal year. They say the Commission was given to understand that the amount of funding received from the government would only be partially reduced and that, in effect, the budget of the Commission would increase through the provision of additional funds for outside consultants. Unfortunately, no additional funds were received for the '86-87 fiscal year. However, we have been assured that this matter will be corrected and that the commission will indeed receive additional funds during the 1987-88 fiscal year.

Are they receiving additional funds?

HON. R. PENNER: I'm sorry, would you just give me the last part of that?

MR. G. MERCIER: Are they receiving additional funds or is this increase simply going to, I guess normal increases in salary . . .

HON. R. PENNER: No, there will be, I'm advised, in addition to what is shown here in print, an additional 40,000 in salary dollars that will be transferred internally to make up what the budget should be.

MR. G. MERCIER: Where will that come from?

HON. R. PENNER: It will come from within the department. In fact, the transfer of the staff year and the salary dollars will go with it.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I've discussed with the Attorney-General previously that Dean Edwards resigned as chairman, effective December 31. I note that the new chairman has not been appointed.

I would like to remind him of a situation that occurred in 1977 when we formed the government and this position was vacant. The former chairman at that time, Mr. Gibson, within a few weeks, I think, of taking office was requesting me to fill this position immediately, and taking some time to search for a capable replacement, I think it was a matter of a few more months before eventually we were successful in finding and obtaining the services of Dean Edwards.

I recall the ferocity with which Mr. Gibson and of course Mr. Cherniack, who was in the Opposition, criticized me for not filling this important position, and it is an important position. But in view of the fact - and I won't use that as a precedent for criticizing this Attorney-General. But I would ask if there is a search on to fill the position of chairman or chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, and whether it's anticipated that the new chairman will be a full-time chairman.

Perhaps the Attorney-General will simply give us an update as to that matter.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, in fact, I have been making some soundings with respect to a replacement for Dean Edwards, but haven't advanced on it very rapidly.

Just a footnote here, I'm glad that ferocity is not an attribute of either the Member for St. Norbert or myself.

Seriously, I've arranged for a meeting with the full commission for June 12, I think - June 8 - to discuss with the commission its mandate for the next year or two and, in that context, to discuss the question with the commission of full-time/part-time and to see, as well, whether or not there's any potential interest on the part of current members of the commission in the position of chair. So I'm making a fairly significant move along the direction of resolving the question.

I should point out there is I think, if memory serves, a fairly substantial difference between the existing situation and the situation a few years ago - I can't relate that back to the time when the member was Attorney-General - and that is that we have a person who is, in effect, the executive director of the commission, Jeff Schnoor. Fortunately, the fact that we haven't had a chairperson has not crippled the work of the commission carrying on and completing some current assignments, and we want to look at some of their new assignments.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the Appendix 8 of the report, dealing with the reports of the Manitoba Law Reform Commission and indicating when the reports were submitted and when there has been legislation implementing and dealing with the commission's recommendations, one notes that up until about 1983, about April, early spring of 1983, most of the - in fact, the vast majority of the reports of the Law Reform Commission have been implemented. But when one looks at page 21, dealing with reports made

from the middle of 1983 on, we see very little - in fact, we see no implementation of the recommendations.

I appreciate that the Law Reform Commission reports are not infallible and they are never going to be accepted holus-bolus by any government, but I wonder how the Attorney-General accounts for the lack of implementation of any of the reports since about the middle of 1983.

HON. R. PENNER: Actually, there is more there than meets the eye.

No. 59, breach of promise to marry, No. 14(a) jactitation of marriage, are in fact, contained in a bill that is already before the House - the amendments to The Quality of Status Act. So those are, in fact, in this Session.

The Human Tissue Act, as the Minister of Health mentioned in his ministerial statement to the House, I expect to get first reading to a significant amending bill to The Human Tissue Act which will build on some of the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission in Report No. 66.

I believe, subject to my checking back, that section 300 of The Liquor Control Act is being dealt with or has been dealt with.

I'm not sure what section 83 of The Queen's Bench Act is, but that may also have been dealt with.

The major family legislation, examination of The Dower Act - the Intestate Succession, Testated Family Maintenance, Married Women's Property - all of those are reflected in the discussion paper that's out and will be reflected in the White Paper to come, with the intention of introducing major family legislation in the next Session of the Legislature.

I should say that I've just received in the last few days, 68, Periodic Payment of Damages. Perhaps it's a couple of weeks. That is certainly something that I will be reviewing very closely with a view to whether or not it can be dealt with in the next Session of the Legislature.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney-General referred to a discussion paper relating to Family Law, family property and, I take it, all aspects of it.

I've been receiving, in the last little while, copies of responses to that discussion paper but have never received a copy of the discussion paper. I wonder if the Attorney-General's Office could provide me with a copy of that.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. In fact, it will be up in a few moments.

MR. G. MERCIER: I have no further questions on this section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(d)(1)—pass; 3.(d)(2)—pass.
3.(e)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: The Supplementary Information indicates a transfer of sub-appropriation 3.(c), more adequately reflect expenditures in Family Law. I wonder if the Attorney-General could just explain what is happening there.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. Again, that's an internal transfer from the appropriation of Leg. Counsel to this unit to more realistically reflect its actual needs.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions other than to say - that would be on the Maintenance question. I note in the Supplementary Information reference to implementation of a federal-provincial report dealing with parental child abduction. Again, this is an old problem. Have any other provinces yet adopted the practice that we have in Manitoba of supplying Crown attorneys to deal with the cases where the child is abducted into the Province of Manitoba? Do any other provinces yet provide that same service?

HON. R. PENNER: We believe that Alberta does, but we'll check that.

MR. G. MERCIER: I take it this report - is the report going to federal-provincial meeting dealing with that question?

HON. R. PENNER: Next week, in fact. I should point out that our Director of the Family Law Department, Robin Diamond, was in fact nationally the coordinator of the project.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(e)(1)—pass; 3.(e)(2)—pass.
3.(f)(1) - Member from Brandon West.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, one of the objectives of the Constitutional Law Branch is to ensure compliance with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in existing statutes in Manitoba. The Minister has told me, when I referred him to section 6(2) of The Manitoba Labour Relations Act which deprives Manitobans of the right to speak their mind or express themselves, the Minister reminded me that another section of that act guarantees.

So it strikes me as strange that in one act you can have a section that deprives your right to express yourself and another section that guarantees it. Not being a drafter of legislation and not being a lawyer, I'm confused by that answer the Minister gave us. I'm asking the Minister if he has asked this branch of his department to give him an opinion on that very specific question. If not, will he do that and let us in the Legislature have the benefit of that advice?

HON. R. PENNER: No, I haven't in fact made a specific reference to the Constitutional Law Branch or to counsel, which generally works on issues of Charter compliance to look at that specific section. I did outline in the House a process or review which we have and which has resulted in the introduction of compliance bills in the House for the last two or three years, and again that will be the case in this year. That's one way in which we deal with the question of possible conflicts with the Constitution or, in particular, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and that's the pro-active way.

The other way is reactively. If in fact in the course of a given case our legislation is challenged and then it would be part of the duty of the Constitutional Law Branch to do the appropriate research. The member may recall another part of my answer - I think we've dealt with this in the House on a couple of occasions - and that is because in fact there was a particular case. We should perhaps more accurately say that there is a particular case involving, among other plaintiffs,

the Metropolitan Stores, that in fact the Constitutional Law Branch - and I'm not sure if others from other parts - Legal Services, I think so.

Two or three of our staff lawyers have been very, very heavily engaged over quite a period of time in very fundamental research on the whole area of labour law and potential constitutional problems that may arise because of the litigation that in fact is already going through the courts in other parts of Canada, litigation that has gone through the courts in a somewhat similar constitutional context in the United States. So we have a very, very extensive legal brief that discusses, for example, the relationship between what might loosely be described as trade union rights and questions of freedom of expression as dealt with by section 2 of the Charter.

The member may recall or may know, because of his particular interest in labour legislation and labour law, that case was about to be argued in full, our brief having been prepared and filed with the court at the beginning of April when the Supreme Court, in a case arising from another jurisdiction, made a decision which in effect said that trade union rights, such as the right to strike, were not protected by the Charter.

The Charter is generally held, as far as litigation and jurisprudence has now developed, is primarily aimed at the protection of individual rights and not primarily aimed at the protection of collective rights.

There has been some concerned expressed by various commentators about that decision, but there it is, and that gives us some parameters within which to analyze the operative effect of our own labour legislation and whether or not it's in conflict.

I should perhaps just make one other general remark, and that is that, of course, no rights are absolute, whether they're collective rights or individual rights. The right that is stipulated in The Labour Relations Act with respect to freedom of expression has to be read in the context of other rights. You have those individual rights that have to be weighed, and appropriately by the judiciary, I would think, in any given case, against the rights that are given - the collective rights - with respect to matters such as unlawful interference with organizing and unfair labour practices.

One final footnote, not meaning to personalize, but I was counsel in a fairly significant case in that precise area not that many years ago, involving the Free Press and one of the printing unions, which is no longer the bargaining agent - this was the editorial staff, really, not the typographers and so on - in which the allegation was made on the part of those, or their predecessors who sit in the Legislative Gallery, and others on that side of the production of the paper that their attempt to unionize and to negotiate had been unlawfully interfered with by the management of the Free Press.

The defence advanced, in fact, by the Free Press was that exact section of The Labour Relations Act, that had a different number at the time, and they succeeded.

I don't normally confess that I lose cases, but indeed I did lose that case because of that provision of The Labour Relations Act.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think I detected that the Minister is willing to refer that complaint that

I have about The Labour Act to this constitutional division for special consideration. Circumstances arise, and I realize the branch is doing a review or is monitoring cases, but every once in awhile in the course of events, certain things transpire which, to my way of thinking, should cause a repriorization of what the department is doing.

Certainly, in the case of Jennifer Campbell, I know I have a daughter who is 17 years old, and if a year from now when she was 18, she was faced with the problem that Jennifer Campbell is faced with, I think we all tend to forget that these people are put to a lot of legal cost if they're going to defend themselves against the type of things Jennifer Campbell is facing.

It seems to me that a government with any sense of humanity or kindness would turn its attention to this kind of legislation which puts people like Jennifer Campbell in the position that they're in.

When we look at section 22(4) of The Labour Act, we find the various penalties that are available to the Labour Board and some of them, if carried to the maximum, would be - well, in the case of people like Jennifer Campbell, would destroy her life if the board were to impose a penalty of the likes that it could.

On the face of it, and not knowing Jennifer Campbell personally, but on the face of it, it strikes me that she's put into a very, very uncomfortable position which is not right for a young person probably in one of her first jobs, who expresses herself and finds herself slapped with this kind of thing.

The Premier of the province and the Minister of Labour, and I believe this Minister as well, have gone to the trouble to point out that they don't think Jennifer Campbell is going to have to face the kind of penalties that are envisioned in the act because of some comment made by a union leader.

The fact is the complaint is still there before the Labour Board and it will be up to the Labour Board to decide. If the Labour Board decides, by virtue of the laws that we have in this province, that Jennifer Campbell has somehow done something wrong, then it is in the hands of the Labour Board to punish her rather severely. After that, it's up to Jennifer Campbell to appeal to a higher level and this all, of course, brings about great expense for her.

In this case, I'm appealing to this Minister to ask the Constitutional Law Division to review those sections of The Labour Act that we've been referring to.

I refer, also, to some of the sections dealing with automatic certification and sections which don't necessarily call for a vote in the workplace. I refer, of course, to the Springhill Farms pork processing plant situation and the problems the majority of the workers there face.

The workers at the Sooter Photo plant in Winnipeg have not been listened to by the Labour Board.

We're dealing with ordinary Manitobans, Mr. Chairman; we're not dealing with rich and powerful employers and rich and powerful union leaders. We're dealing with average, ordinary Manitobans who don't have the resources to take these things to the highest court in the land.

On their behalf, I implore and plead with this Minister to bring The Manitoba Labour Relations Act under very close scrutiny by his department so that the average Manitoba working man and woman can be protected from the kind of thing Jennifer Campbell is now facing.

HON. R. PENNER: First of all, I think it would be a serious error in judgment to discuss the law, whether it's the criminal law or a provincial regulatory statute by reference to a case which is still before either a judicial or a quasi-judicial tribunal. That is a serious error in judgment, and I reject it out of hand. I think the member is doing a disservice to Jennifer Campbell and to the union and to the cause of industrial peace by doing that.

If he wants to raise the general issue, fine, and I'm prepared to discuss it even though I'm not the Minister of Labour; but since the question has been put, I won't evade it.

Secondly, it should not come as a surprise to the member, but apparently it does, that there are some employers in the province - thank God, I think, far from being the majority - who are not above trying to break a union, or to weaken its position on the threshold of bargaining for a new agreement, or for amendments to agreement. If it comes as a surprise to the Member for Brandon West, then he's more naive than I think he is, No. 1.

Number two, it should not come as a surprise to the Member for Brandon West - it certainly doesn't come as a surprise to me because I've been involved in trade union activities for something like 57 years - not quite 57 - 52 - since I was a kid - that unscrupulous employers may use some of their employees to front for them in carrying out . . .

A MEMBER: May.

HON. R. PENNER: May, of course. Somebody else has to judge it, not us in this committee. That's what we have a Labour Board for and that's what we have the courts for.

A MEMBER: It sounds like you're prejudging.

HON. R. PENNER: Let me finish my answer. In fact, it may be the case - it may be the case - and that's all I'm saying - in some instances that an apparently innocent employee, perhaps young, may be used in some instances by an employer. I've known of lots of instances. I make no comment in this case because I know nothing of the facts of this case, don't want to know anything about the facts of this case. It would impair my position as an Attorney-General to know and be concerned about the facts of a case that is before a properly constituted tribunal.

You know, we have constant reference to an 18 year old. Damn it all, we have 16 year olds and 17 year olds committing murder in this province, so the question of age is irrelevant. It may be in a particular case - and I don't refer to this case at all - that if a young person is used, as is sometimes in a criminal context is used to break into a place or used by an employer to carry out something that the employer hasn't got the guts to do himself or herself or itself - and again I stress, I'm not referring to this case - that can happen.

But who's to judge? Not the Legislature, not a committee of the Legislature, not a Minister of the Crown. Who's to judge is the properly constituted, legally and constitutionally valid tribunal constituted by the people of Manitoba through their elected

representatives to make such decisions. And that's where the matter should rest.

Finally, references made in this searching for hyperbole, searching for exaggeration, searching for frightening tactics to the maximum penalties, the maximum penalty for break and enter a house is life imprisonment. It's never suggested by the Crown that, because that maximum is there, indeed that is what in fact should be inflicted in a given case.

Similarly, there's no way if you have a penalty that's basically designed as a \$2,000 maximum penalty and somebody wants to test the law, if that's indeed what they want to do, by putting in a claim and say well that really means \$2,000 per employee and, if you take the number of employees and you multiply by 2,000, you come up to \$3.5 million, whatever it might be.

You know, I once used to use as an example the fact that there is really nothing to stop somebody filing a statement of claim in the Court of Queen's Bench accusing the Queen of England of breach of promise of marriage. You know, in the fullness of time, something as frivolous and as vexatious as that will be dealt with by those who are charged with the responsibility for dealing with it. It is not the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba, and it is not individual legislators in the Province of Manitoba. That's not what we're elected to do, to interfere with the court process.

If you don't like the court process or the particular process, get yourself elected as the Government of Manitoba and pass all the anti-union laws that you want. But remember this, there was a pact made in this country in 1944. We learned something from the Wagner Act (phonetic) passed in the United States in 1935, and that is that industrial peace benefits all of society. That pact was that trade unions gave up the right to strike during the lifetime of a collective agreement in order to have bargaining rights as a sole bargaining agent if they followed a whole number of steps to get to that place.

It's because of that pact which was made in the exigencies of war, to make sure that war production wasn't interfered with, that in fact Canada has an enviable record of industrial peace. Our Labour Relations Act, which is far from being the most stringent in the country, is based on that historic pact. Any attempt to disrupt it by using one's position as a legislator to interfere in union activities that are taking place, to put pressure on a quasi-judicial tribunal is, in my view, entirely wrong. I think, with respect, the Member for Brandon West is making a serious error in judgement, and I don't intend to respond to it any further.

MR. J. McCRAE: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney-General is not dealing fairly with my question. He suggests that I'm discussing the merits of a particular case, which I did not do, but then went on to discuss the merits of that very case himself by making the suggestion that the likes of Jennifer Campbell are being manipulated and dominated by the employer, which is something that the Labour Board is supposed to decide and not this Minister.

So, to say that I am fighting these battles . . .

HON. R. PENNER: You're finally learning.

MR. J. McCRAE: . . . in public is quite unfair, because this Minister and his colleagues are doing exactly the thing they're accusing me of.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister wonders why we raise these things. We're trying to give a focus to a labour act that is bad, that has been the focus of the - if we had no particular problems to bring to the attention of the government, they would say, well there's no problem, so why are you bothering us about this Labour Act.

What we're doing is we're bringing specific examples of problems to the attention of the government in an effort to try to persuade them to look more closely at the nature of The Labour Act, which has been described by those who know a lot more about it than I do and a lot more than this Attorney-General knows about The Labour Act. It's been described as a laboratory here in Manitoba so that all other jurisdictions can look at Manitoba to see how the provisions brought in by this government are working. Those who know more about the labour law than I do and more than the Attorney-General knows have also said that they have taken the worst portions of labour legislation from the various jurisdictions in this Canada and lumped them all together in the Manitoba Labour Relations Act, and the Minister has the gall to suggest that I shouldn't be criticizing The Labour Act. I should stay out of any discussion about labour matters in this province.

The fact is that ordinary Manitoba working men and women are affected rather significantly by The Labour Act in this province. This Minister knows it and refuses to act, and that bothers me as an elected representative of the people here.

That's one other matter before I stop, Mr. Chairman, and that is the other day, when the Minister in the House suggested that I carried a brief for the Chamber of Commerce and for union-busting employers in this province, I really take offence at that, Mr. Chairman. As a nine-year member of a union working for this Minister's department, I take offence to that. I've never been a member of any Chamber of Commerce.

On the other hand, I have been a member of a union, and I agree with the Minister that most employers in this province are good employers, and I agree with the Minister that most unions in this province are good unions. For the Minister to suggest that what we would do would be to change The Labour Act to create labour disharmony and destroy unions, I suggest is foolishness and sophistry on the part of the Minister. He should know better, if he knows me at all by now. To make comments like that does a disservice to anyone who wants to speak for men and women who are working in this province, and I take offence at the Minister's comments in that respect.

HON. R. PENNER: I avoid, but with difficulty, the temptation to reply to the suggestion that I know the Member for Brandon West. Indeed, I suppose, in a number of ways I do.

I was not the one, incidentally, who brought the whole issue forward or mentioned in these proceedings a particular case and a particular complainant. I wasn't the one who did it, and I took great pains in replying to say that I would not discuss that case. I talked about general principles. I'm content to leave it at that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(f)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise as to the status of the case involving the prisoners at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, which I believe is being looked after by his department? That is going to the Court of Appeal? Can he indicate if there is a date set?

HON. R. PENNER: It is technically before the Court of Appeal, but we haven't proceeded with it. It can be proceeded with on our initiative. What we're trying to do is an examination of The Election Act as a whole to see whether or not any part of section 31 may be in conflict with the Charter, as suggested. You will recall that, in the Badger case, it was the judgment of Judge Scollin that section 31 painted with too broad a brush in lumping together as persons not entitled to vote somebody who might be in jail for non-payment of a traffic fine, and somebody who might in a penitentiary for sexual assault or murder. We're examining that. That's one of the issues that I've asked our Constitutional Law Branch to look at.

I've had put before me some time several months prior to the last election a claim by a provincial court judge, who I shall not name, who felt that this judge's rights were violated by one of the other sections of section 31, which said that judges can't vote, and indeed was prepared to take the matter to court. Following the receipt of a number of recommendations dealing with The Elections Act by the Chief Electoral Officer, I'm trying to find time to do a complete analysis of the bill. There will not be any legislation brought forward in this Session, but I prefer to look at those issues before deciding whether or not to go ahead with the appeal.

I say that because it may be that the very broad sweep of section 31(a) is questionable, and maybe a less stringent exclusion can be developed.

MR. G. MERCIER: I would just make one comment, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be unwise to anticipate in a lot of these situations and cases that the courts will find against the existing legislation. We shouldn't anticipate too much in the way of sort of negative comment from the court system. I think they may have more common sense than we wish to give them credit for. In a case like this, I would frankly prefer to see it go to the Court of Appeal, and let them make a judgment on it.

HON. R. PENNER: That's certainly an option that is being considered. In the particular instance, let's recall that in fact a very experienced judge of the Court of Queen's Bench has already ruled. So we're not dealing with the matter in a judicial vacuum.

MR. G. MERCIER: He has a view of the Charter of Rights that many concur with.

HON. R. PENNER: Which indicates that it's not a giveaway judgment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 3.(f)(1)—pass; 3.(f)(2)—pass.

Resolution No. 19: Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$5,131,100

for Attorney-General, Legal Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

A MEMBER: What was that? On the whole . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, all of section 3.

Now, we're on section 4., Law Enforcement - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I think firstly we have to deal with what occurred during the Estimates last year in this particular section. I had asked a question of the Attorney-General as to which detachments are being looked at in a preliminary way for closure. He did make a reference that the area of the Winnipeg Beach detachment was being looked at. Then I asked him: ". . . but is the Attorney-General saying he will consult with the communities affected, the municipalities and the local organizations well in advance of making a decision, before a decision is made? Or is he suggesting to simply notify them in advance that the decision is made, period, and that's it, because these things mean a lot to these individual communities?"

(Mr. Deputy Chairman, M. Dolin, in the Chair.)

The Attorney-General responded by saying: "I agree. I can say categorically that before any final decision is made in this area, or any other analagous kind of area, there will be consultation with the communities involved."

Then we all recall, Mr. Chairman, what happened after that when there was a decision made to close the detachments in Winnipeg Beach, in Deloraine and in Reston. There certainly had been no consultation at all with the communities affected. Of course, each and every one of those communities has very much objected to the decision that has been made.

I would ask him now, what is the status of these matters now in these communities. I think I'm aware, in Winnipeg Beach as I understand it, the detachment is to close its office some time in September. In that regard, I had occasion to be out there earlier Monday, and was told by the operator of a commercial residence that, for example, in the past month there have been over - I believe the figure is accurate, and I ask the Attorney-General to perhaps confirm it. In the past month, there have been over 100 break-ins in that community. That's with the RCMP detachment there at this time. Next year, they won't be there at this time.

I would ask the Attorney-General to indicate to the committee what is the status of the closing of each of these detachments.

HON. R. PENNER: The effective dates of the alterations - in a sense, I prefer to use that word rather than "closures," because the only sort of outright closure, if you will, is Winnipeg Beach whereas, with Deloraine and Reston, some adjustments have been made as part of the consultative process, which I would be the first to admit came much later than it should have, but nevertheless did take place and was productive.

But the effective dates for the transfer of responsibilities: in Deloraine, June 1, '87; Reston, September 1, '87; Winnipeg Beach, September 10, '87.

Just one other comment, the Member for St. Norbert says that next year, if we have these increasing break-

ins, the RCMP won't be there. That, with respect, is not an accurate statement of the situation. The RCMP will certainly be there, and be there just as effectively - and, in fact, I am advised, on weekends, probably more effectively, working out of a larger detachment than is presently the case.

You must remember, with Winnipeg Beach, that the detachment office - and that's what is being moved - will be in Gimli, a few kilometres north of Winnipeg Beach, well within acceptable response time, and patrolling will continue unquestionably. In fact, the Gimli detachment has been upgraded to a subdivision status and is now the Gimli subdivision and, as such, has additional personnel. I think we're going to have a very efficient policing unit in that subdivision for Winnipeg Beach. I don't think there'll be - in fact, I'm assured that there won't be less policing, there'll be more policing.

MR. G. MERCIER: What will exist in Winnipeg Beach in terms of manpower, as compared to what is there now?

HON. R. PENNER: The actual location in terms of the office out of which they work will be in Gimli, but some of those who will be members of the Gimli detachment and working out of Gimli will continue, I believe, to actually live in Winnipeg Beach. There are one or two of the RCMP, who actually will be working out of Gimli, will still continue to be living in Winnipeg Beach, but their operations will be directed out of the detachment office.

MR. G. MERCIER: Will there be the same numbers of people?

HON. R. PENNER: Living in Winnipeg Beach? No.

MR. G. MERCIER: No, working in the area.

HON. R. PENNER: What will happen is that the Winnipeg Beach detachment office will close. The Gimli Division detachment - and that will involve, I think, in the closure of five people, and three will go to Gimli. Five positions gone in the closure; three added to Gimli.

MR. G. MERCIER: So the total numbers are down.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is that the saving?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, that's the saving, plus there's a civilian saving and some operational cost saving - accommodation saving.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is the total saving?

HON. R. PENNER: The net annual saving in the Winnipeg Beach detachment area, based of course on this year's cost sharing and this year's salaries, will be \$72,530.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Are there larger premises being acquired in Gimli?

HON. R. PENNER: Not required.

MR. G. MERCIER: Are the RCMP in Winnipeg Beach presently renting that facility or do they own that facility?

HON. R. PENNER: It belongs to the town.

MR. G. MERCIER: That figure of \$72,000 contemplates some saving in rent?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. Operations and maintenance costs included in that saving are \$11,131.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is the Attorney-General assuring the people presently served by the Winnipeg Beach detachment that there will be no lessening of the presence of the RCMP in terms of their visibility in the community and the number of checks done, etc., the number of patrols? There will be the same number of patrols and the same degree of visibility in the community after the closing of the office as exists now.

HON. R. PENNER: The assurances I have is that the level of policing - I can't break it down in quite the way the question is phrased, but the level of policing will be during the course of the week at least the same, with the likelihood of the level of policing being even better on weekends.

You see, when you're working out of a larger detachment, you have more flexibility in the allocation of members over the 24 hours in which policing must be done. If you're down to a very small detachment - a two-person detachment, I guess, as being the smallest that we've had since I've been A-G, and there are not many of them left. I think there are perhaps two two-person detachments left.

But when you're down to a two-person, you really have got a lot of blanks in which you're not policing. Somebody has to sleep at some time and you can't ask people to do efficient policing on a 12-hour basis. So there are difficulties of that kind, particularly if one of the two is out on call and the particular call is being, heaven forbid, a catastrophe on the highway and they have to wait for the highway unit to get down from wherever they're going to get down, then policing just isn't been done. If you build larger units, then you do have sufficient flexibility to in fact in many instances improve policing.

MR. G. MERCIER: What did the Attorney-General mean when he said during Estimates last year: "And I say categorically that, before any final decision is made in this area or any other analogous kind of area, there will be consultation with the communities involved"? Has this decision with respect to the closing of Winnipeg Beach changed in any way as a result of any discussions he's had with the mayor, the town council or any other citizen or representative of the area?

HON. R. PENNER: I suppose that the word, "categoric," is a word that ought to be avoided by most people in life and especially politicians. But certainly in any event, when I said, categorically there will be consultations, that's exactly what I said and I can reply now, categorically, there were consultations. I never said that

it will inevitably be the result that, as a result of the consultations, we'll do something different than we're proposing to do. As it happened we were able, because of I think a very good kind of attempt by the Municipality of Brenda and the Town of Deloraine to look at creative ways of dealing with the policing situation in the town and the municipality, to work out something that, if not completely satisfactory, I think essentially is satisfactory to the town and the municipality.

With respect to Winnipeg Beach, there was no sensible alternative. I'm not saying that there was no alternative suggested by Mayor Sabeski but the alternatives which he proposed seemed to us to have, to result in a more expensive, more inefficient kind of policing. And so, although there were a lot of meetings, a good deal of correspondence and a certain amount of heat generated over the course of some months, there was no basic alteration in the closure plan there as there was with respect to the Deloraine detachment, for example.

MR. G. MERCIER: The question though, Mr. Chairman, was: Was there any change made in the original decision with respect to the closing of the Winnipeg Beach detachment? Was that modified in any way as a result of the discussions that were held?

HON. R. PENNER: No.

MR. G. MERCIER: Was any consideration given to occupying or working out of the existing office in Winnipeg Beach during, particularly, the May to September season in order to allow for a greater presence in Winnipeg Beach at that time? At that particular time of the year, as the Attorney-General well knows, it is a very highly populated area.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, consideration was given but finally that was not accepted as being a reasonable proposal when the basic notion of having one command station was being proceeded with. Winnipeg Beach is not a tiny community in the summer; it's a very substantial community. I think the population swells to 12,000 or 14,000, something of that kind. I'm sure the member has been to Winnipeg Beach. I hadn't for a ton of years but I've been there fairly recently, last year and the year before, and you can have a cruiser car at one end of Winnipeg Beach and all kinds of shenanigans going on on the beach or somewhere else and the fact that there's a police cruiser somewhere in the general area doesn't necessarily mean that you've got hot-shot policing taking place. If you have a command unit responding to calls and needs in addition to regular patrolling, which will take place, you've got efficient policing.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has the Attorney-General been invited to a public meeting on Saturday, July 4 in Winnipeg Beach to defend this position?

HON. R. PENNER: Apparently I have. I don't know - did the member write this letter?

MR. G. MERCIER: No.

HON. R. PENNER: It's with great regret, I would have to decline the very kind invitation due to the fact that

it's American Independence Day and I will be celebrating it.- (Interjection)- July 4? I mean, I wouldn't want to work on July 4. What kind of flagrant insult to our American cousins is this?

Yes, I've just received the letter and certainly I'll have to check my diary and consider whether I am able to respond on that particular day. Just think, we may need a considerable break at that time. Maybe I'll counterpropose a meeting for August 4. We'll work something out.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be prepared to review this decision, say, after the first year's operation and have an opportunity to look at any change there may be in crime statistics?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, of course.

A MEMBER: Categorically.

HON. R. PENNER: I don't know if "of course" is the same as "categorically." In fact, I receive probably two or three proposals from the RCMP every year for changes, and I can't think of any occasion in which I've said no.

The proposal that came in the fall of 1983, I guess, that resulted finally in these closures, I didn't act on immediately because of the consequences of closing detachments. I really did want to consider every possible alternative before moving along those lines.

But, for example, I had during the course of 1986, a proposal that several members be taken, one from here and one from there - and these were detachments that had five or six or seven or eight people so that it would not result in the closure - but the needs were no longer there. Needs had arisen elsewhere. The RCMP is a very efficient police force, very well organized and they have a computer-based method of analyzing personnel needs in any particular area at any particular time, or they may - they're very innovative - decide that they need a central auto theft unit and have to pull the people from somewhere. So those things are under review.

We've had situations where - just to be more specific - I think it was with respect to Gillam. It might have been Grand Rapids, in one year, in 1985, the size of the detachment was reduced but, because there was a change in statistics, a request came in to go back up to or perhaps even to exceed the original detachment size, and we do respond positively to those suggestions.

MR. G. MERCIER: Would the Attorney-General undertake to supply myself and I think the Member for Arthur, crime statistics for the past, say five years, in the three areas served by the detachments which he's closed.

HON. R. PENNER: I may not be able to go back . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: And also undertake to supply us, have available, at or preferably before the consideration of his Estimates next year, the statistics that are available from the time of the closing of the detachments up until that time next year.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, I'll undertake to do that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to spend a few minutes to try and relay to the Attorney-General the concerns of the constituents of Arthur and of course my colleague has touched on them for Winnipeg Beach.

I guess it would be appropriate to start with the shock waves that went through the constituency last fall, in the latter part of September, when word had leaked or had been obtained through, I guess it was RCMP or some connections, that there were in fact going to be two closures of detachments in the southwest corner of the province, which was extremely shocking to those communities and I'm sure the Deputy Attorney-General can concur with this, caused immediate communication to his office from me and, as well, I was able to contact the Attorney-General directly to discuss what the proposals were. In fact, my message to the reeve of the R.M. of Pipestone was what I had been reading and what my colleague, the critic for the Attorney-General's Department, had been reading out of Hansard; that, in fact, before anything would happen, there would be consultations.

I have to admit I was extremely upset and put in an embarrassing situation as a member of the Legislature. I was going by what I had read in Hansard, what my colleague from St. Norbert had told me, and I was relaying this to the reeve. Well, subsequently, the next day I was proven to be wrong, which no one likes to have done, but it happened, and I was upset and I communicated that message to both the Deputy Attorney-General and to the Attorney-General.

Subsequent to that, of course the Minister did carry out the consultative process with some arm-twisting and some jockeying of meetings. They really found out how upset the community was with the decision that had been taken, or the proposed decision that had been taken. I can tell you that 1,500 people probably turned out to two meetings, and I don't know how many letters the Attorney-General received from constituents of mine, but I know that I received a lot and there was a massive number of people communicating on the matter. Subsequent to that, there were some changes in the decision made.

I don't give the Minister credit. I don't think we had to go through any of them. I think that what we have seen is some manoeuvres which, yes, will maintain some police officers in Deloraine, but a less than satisfactory agreement has been reached in Reston, and I will spend a little of time on both of them.

I want to go back a little bit in history though, Mr. Chairman. My colleague from St. Norbert, when he negotiated the deal with the Federal Government dealing with the RCMP coverage for rural Manitoba, when one looks at the contractual arrangements that were made between the Federal and Provincial Government set up in 1979-80, the agreement was entered into in which Manitoba, the province, would share in 56 percent of the cost and that was maintained over a three-year period. Well, when the current government got into office, the new agreement which they entered into allowed for an escalator, and we have now gone from 56 percent of the federal costing of the agreement to this year, 1987-88, of 64 percent.

I can appreciate the fact that the Attorney-General's Department is concerned about an increased cost because of an agreement which was entered into. There was an escalator there and I'm sure that, if he'd negotiated a little harder and probably looked at the previous agreement a little closer, maybe we could have maintained that. I don't know what negotiations took place and I'm sure, as a new Minister, probably he felt it was important to be somewhat of a conciliator or an individual who could get along with the Federal Government, and maybe didn't want to take the tough line that apparently he's prepared to take with some of the federal-provincial agreements that are now going on. But I think it goes right back to that, that our former Attorney-General had negotiated a good deal with the Federal Government back in 1979-80, where we were sharing 56 percent of the cost . . .

HON. R. PENNER: Do you want to stop him now Gerry, before he gets you in too deep?

MR. J. DOWNEY: Anyway, the point I'm making is that the Attorney-General, through an agreement with the Federal Government, is locked into an increased provincial cost of policing. That's the bottom line. But I give the former Attorney-General credit for the agreement which he entered into.

Mr. Chairman, that takes us to the next point of who has to suffer because of this decision, and it's the people of Reston and Deloraine and those people who have, for 50-some years, enjoyed the services of the RCMP stationed in their community with a barracks. Let me tell you, and I know the Member for Flin Flon who grew up in a rural community, as many other members of the Legislature have, when you take the presence of an RCMP detachment out of a town, it's really like pulling the foundation out from under a town. People have come to depend on the presence of the RCMP. The presence of the law officer does as much to deter the criminal activity as probably trying to catch them. There is an element of deterrence there. The presence is extremely important, particularly to young people, particularly to elderly people and to people who are trying to maintain a business in those communities.

So one cannot overestimate the emotional impact that this decision had. It was demonstrated - and again, I'm sure the Assistant Commissioner Henry, Mr. Elton, the Deputy Attorney-General can relay the message, the emotional feeling - and my colleague from Brandon West was at the meeting as well - the emotional feelings of those communities demonstrated in packed high school auditoriums, two different nights. I do appreciate the time that was spent there by those individuals. Although I don't appreciate the decision that was made leading up to it, I appreciated the effort that was made to try and deal with those situations.

But there are some conflicting things, and it all comes back to dollars and cents, Mr. Chairman. We see the decision by the government to say it's better to have the subdivisions in Gimli, Beausejour, Carman, and Steinbach. They're decentralizing to have better hands-on policing. But yet we come to the communities of Deloraine and Reston in the southwest corner of the province, we're going to centralize into the bigger centres because - why? - because it's cost saving. Well,

where'd the hands-on policing policy go or principle disappear to? I think it's important to have the hands-on policing there, as it is in your other communities.

It's just as important, particularly when we're dealing with Deloraine, and let me just talk about Deloraine for a few minutes. There is a fairly major resort area there, as well as the one at Winnipeg Beach. We have probably 800 cottages on Lake Metigoshe, which is patrolled by the Deloraine Police Department. It's an interface with the United States of America.

If anybody has recently checked the price of alcohol in the United States or cigarettes, you would find it's a substantial savings to purchase them in the United States of America. I will wager with the Attorney-General, I would say that you just watch the summer activity in the Lake Metigoshe area, as far as the illegal importation of alcohol and cigarettes. It's practically going to be impossible to cover it, or it would have been under the initial proposal.

Now there has been a change, as I have indicated, they have changed their decision and now, rather than having what was there, two RCMP and the local town police, they've removed the local town police or will be removing them. There will be, as I understand it, four RCMP in Deloraine now. We've gone from a policy saying, well we didn't really need them, we were going to remove them all. Now we're going to have four of them there. You know, it's hard for me to understand as to why, all at once, we were able to get rid of them totally, but now we're back to four. And I'll tell you why we're back to four, because the local taxpayers are now prepared to pick up some more of the costs. It becomes a little easier to tolerate the situation if the local taxpayers are prepared to cover part of it.

I think it's unfair, Mr. Chairman. I know that there has been some agreement worked out where the levy on all municipalities paying into the RCMP, costs which go to the Department of Municipal Affairs, I'm aware that Deloraine or some of those municipalities will have that lifted off so that it isn't a case of double taxation.

But I think it's an extremely difficult situation to put the surrounding municipalities in. They're going to be paying for the provincial police costs through the municipal program and, as well, in some cases - it depends on where the boundaries are drawn - they're going to be paying as well through the agreement that was reached in Deloraine.

Why did the people of Deloraine agree to this? Because, Mr. Chairman, I have to tell you, there was such a nervousness from young women and farm wives and people in business that they were prepared to say we will pay for it rather than lose them. That's what it got right down to.

Reston, Mr. Chairman, is equally upset but they didn't yield to the pressure. There was an agreement, as I understand, that worked out where there's one officer going to be left in Reston, working as a satellite officer out of Virden.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know how the Attorney-General is going to keep track of what's going on with the provincial policing. I think it's the responsibility, to be quite honest, of the province to pay for the RCMP protection for all people in rural Manitoba under the agreements that they have.

I think, when you start into the satellite or these other kinds of agreements, that you're going to end up with

inequities in certain cases as far as police coverage is concerned. I think you're going to have a system that is going to be in disarray. I don't believe that we're going to have the kind of police protection that the Attorney-General perceives that we're going to have, and I know he's been told by the RCMP that everything will run along smoothly.

The community of Reston and the R.M. of Pipestone have not been convinced of that, Mr. Chairman. They have not been convinced that they're going to get the same coverage with one RCMP officer living in Reston as when they had three. I don't know who around this table or anywhere in the Legislature can put an argument forward that can convince my constituents or me of that situation that you're going to have as good a protection, the good kind of protection that they've had when, Mr. Chairman, they've only got one officer now and they had three. I cannot be convinced of that argument. And even worse, Mr. Chairman, they were trying to convince them that, without any RCMP officers, they were going to have as good a protection as they had when they were there. I mean, you just can't sell that argument.

I want to touch briefly, because I do have a few numbers that were provided at one of the meetings - and again the decision was based on, as I say, cost savings. One of the comments that kept coming up is that the incidence of crime was down in those communities. Well, information that I have, Mr. Chairman, was not so, particularly when it deals with both Deloraine and Reston.

I'll refer to a study that was done - this deals with Deloraine - and I'll refer to the information which I have, and that's under Criminal Code. They indicate here that Criminal Code cases dropped considerably in 1985, but are now returning to the 1984 levels. Well, when we look at what 1984 and 1985 levels were under the Criminal Code, 1984 was 88 and 1985 was 58. Well, there was a drop. But now, in 1986, they were returning back to the 1984 level. So to say the incidence of Criminal Code activity was down is really not a true statement, and I think that should be put on the record.

Reston, as well, they indicate in the report, Mr. Chairman, that it was at a stable condition or Criminal Code cases have remained relatively constant. Well, does that mean to say, if they're constant, we're going to see if they'll increase by removing the RCMP protection? I think that's a pretty good record. If it's not bad and you can maintain a constant number, then why change anything? Why change it? Why reduce the number of RCMP's? If it's not increasing, then why take the chance on having it increased? Why gamble with the lives of people, their property and their safety? That's the point I want to make there.

Mr. Chairman, I note some specific questions dealing with the numbers. The total complement of the RCMP which protects rural Manitoba, what is the current in this year's Estimates? What is the complement of RCMP throughout Manitoba, dealing with RCMP staff man-years or staffpersons?

HON. R. PENNER: Do you want me just to answer that question or to deal with the other points that you mentioned?

MR. J. DOWNEY: You can deal with the whole thing.

HON. R. PENNER: Well, I'll deal with the last one first.

The authorized establishment currently - and that doesn't mean that every position is filled - is provincial, 597, federal, 187, and municipal, 164.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Provincial was what again?

HON. R. PENNER: 597; federal, 187; municipal, 164, for a total of 948, which includes, I think, civilians. No, those are regular members, plus 30 Special 3B; that is Indian constables dispersed through some 20 communities.

Just a footnote to that particular response, the federal component which we don't pay for as taxpayers directly - that is as provincial taxpayers - is involved in, among other things, the responsibility for protecting the border in terms of smuggling and all the rest of it. So it's primarily our view, in any event that the policing that may be necessary on lovely Lake Metigoshe is a federal responsibility, not one that ought to be the primary responsibility of the provincial units stationed at Deloraine or wherever.

The only other comment I wanted to make - one is just a relatively minor factual difference - the number of regular members who will now be in Deloraine is not four but three, in fact.

Two other comments, with respect to Deloraine, if one takes all of the matters for which the RCMP are responsible - that is it goes well beyond Criminal Code, and includes federal statutes such as narcotics and excise, income tax and so on, provincial offences and highway traffic - the figures for '84, '85 and '86 for the Deloraine detachment are, in total, 480 for '84, 407 for '85 and 372 for '86. So that in fact there has been a considerable decline in that area served by the Deloraine detachment.

Did I understand the Member for Arthur suggest that perhaps it ought to be a provincial responsibility to pay for all policing costs, including town policing and towns and villages?

MR. J. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman, I indicated that the agreement that was in place currently, as far as I can see, was working not that badly with the towns that were under 750, I believe it is, that's it's the responsibility for the . . .

HON. R. PENNER: That's right.

MR. J. DOWNEY: That's right, and over and above that, that there is a responsibility to pay for the town policing by those towns, although there is a grant back to them from the Department of Municipal Affairs.

HON. R. PENNER: That's right, yes.

MR. J. DOWNEY: What I'm indicating was that the system that we have - I'm making direct reference to both Deloraine and Reston - was not working that badly. And for the sake of - and I'll get into that now if the Minister doesn't mind - what we were told was a cost saving of several hundreds of thousands of dollars. Well, I've never been able to calculate - there were some large numbers being tossed around over a period of time.

Mr. Chairman, I'm still not convinced that there is going to be any saving other than that. There will just be a redeployment of those people taken from Winnipeg Beach, Deloraine, Reston and put elsewhere in the system; that it's really not a saving as the Minister indicated but just a reorganization of the staff and of the RCMP officers. The 597 provincial RCMP officers that he's talking about, that was last year's number, and is it the same proposed for this coming year?

HON. R. PENNER: No, there'll be a net reduction of at least three, the three that the closures in effect spring out.

MR. J. DOWNEY: So the SMY's for this coming year will be 594, is that the authority that you asked for?

HON. R. PENNER: That will be the authorized establishment, right.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, then let's deal with that. If the wages of three officers, in the information that I have, you're dealing with two officers in Deloraine. Well, the total for 1987-88 were savings of \$181,000 for that year. Is that correct, \$181,927.00?

HON. R. PENNER: I'm sorry, would you repeat the . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes, the number of which - the cost-saving summary which I was referring to is in the neighbourhood of \$181,000 for 1987-88?

HON. R. PENNER: Well, what I can undertake to do for the member, rather than engage in calculating step by step today, is take it as notice and the information will be provided tomorrow. I'm referring it to . . .

MR. J. DOWNEY: Maybe I can make it easier and quicker for the Minister, Mr. Chairman.

The Minister said the total officer saving will be three. In my calculations, I don't know what an officer makes, something in the neighbourhood of \$35,000 a year. Is that the kind of cost saving per officer?

HON. R. PENNER: The average provincial share of a salary, plus benefits, is \$30,620; that's the provincial share.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Okay, so then, Mr. Chairman, let's get onto that. We're talking about a \$90,000 cost saving per year.

HON. R. PENNER: Plus some operational costs of savings.

MR. J. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman, there is a credit on the barracks, there isn't a cost of maintenance of barracks. There's a credit back to the province on the barracks.

HON. R. PENNER: If I may, to the Member for Arthur, I'm talking about the whole ball of wax.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Yes.

HON. R. PENNER: Winnipeg Beach, Reston, Deloraine.

MR. J. DOWNEY: The point I'm trying to make, Mr. Chairman, is that there isn't near the cost saving in what move was made as the Minister was trying to tell the public, and to try and tell us at the time the change was being proposed that there isn't really the dollar saving there. He was using the figure of \$1.5 million or several hundreds of thousands of dollars at that time. So it should be fairly easy to give us the number, that there's \$30,000 roughly in the Provincial Government's share of wages. What is the support per officer? That must be known by the department. What is the cost of the support portion of it?

HON. R. PENNER: The basic figure which I was using was a projection of the cost saving over the lifetime of the existing contract, adjusting for the increased percentages of provincial share.

Let me again recall an agreement, a joint venture between the former Attorney-General and myself. Because when I came into office, that agreement had already been negotiated and was waiting for my signature, much to everybody's surprise, I expect. If you take the increasing percentage over the lifetime of the contract, which caps at about 72 percent - it's currently at 64 in this fiscal year - and adjust for anticipated salary increases, if you factor all of that through in the remaining years of the contract you do reach - and I can't give you the precise figure - a figure which in fact is several hundred thousand dollars.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I can give the Minister a number that I have, and I think this is extremely high. I don't think it's accurate. I think this is a lot higher than the reduction of three RCMP officers, a figure of just about \$800,000 is what the saving is over the lifetime of the contract. That was what the decision was based on. I don't agree with that figure. I think it's extremely high when you calculate the cost of three RCMP officers is what he's saving, over the period of time from 1987 to 1991, at \$30,000 per officer, and I don't know. As I said, I'm looking for the support amount of money that goes with them; it can't come up to that. I'd think you'd be looking at less than half-a-million dollars.

I know that if I were to go back to some of the press clippings and some of the statements made by the Attorney-General at the time, we were being told that it was going to cost in the neighbourhood of \$1 million - or it would be a saving of \$1.5 million and that isn't accurate. What I'm saying, Mr. Chairman, is there were a lot of other areas in his department that he could have saved \$800,000 or \$500,000, probably within his own administrative staff, because the Minister should be able to indicate what his overall administrative costs have gone up since he has become the Attorney-General with increase of employment, employees and support staff to him and to his top departmental people.

The point is, Mr. Chairman, his priorities are wrong. His government's priorities are wrong to sacrifice the police protection, life and property in rural, or any town in Manitoba, at a time when he's increasing the support to his own department, his head office. I agree there has to be some expenses and there are increases, but

I think if we got into the numbers - and I'm not going to take the time to do it right now, Mr. Chairman, because of the time. But the point I want to make and I want the Minister to prove me wrong, that he isn't first of all getting the cost saving out of this manoeuvre that he has indicated he was going to and that, if he was going to save money, he could have done it in other areas within his department that wouldn't have had the impact on the safety of lives and people in Reston, Deloraine and Winnipeg Beach.

The price that the population is paying is too much for the cost saving that he is proposing. It's an essential service. It's as essential, Mr. Chairman, to have the RCMP out there as it is to have the schools. I'm telling you, Mr. Chairman, it's a wrong-headed approach to the safety of the lives of people and to the protection of property. His numbers, he hasn't been able to substantiate it from Day One of this argument, and, Mr. Chairman, I won't accept his argument that he's making the right move. In fact, my colleague from St. Norbert has asked for a review in a year's time.

Mr. Chairman, there's one cost that hasn't been calculated in this whole exercise, and that's when we came back into office, Mr. Chairman, what it will cost to put the RCMP officers back in place in those communities in Manitoba that deserve it. That's one cost that hasn't been calculated by his department. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that will be a cost that the government will have to pay to replace RCMP officers where they're needed in communities that they've been stripped from by him.

Mr. Chairman, his move in Reston is not acceptable to me. It's not acceptable in Deloraine, although I do appreciate there is an increase in RCMP protection in that area, albeit a cost to the local taxpayers. I don't think it's fair to impose that tax on them when other communities and all the other municipalities in Manitoba get it provided by the province. Why do the communities of Winchester and Brenda because of, let's say, blackmail tactics almost, to maintain RCMP service, that they have to pay off their own tax base? They're paying the majority of education taxes, Mr. Chairman, and now they're expected to pay their RCMP.

When is it going to strike Lac du Bonnet? When is it going to be a decision in Lac du Bonnet riding to reduce RCMP? And the only way they can maintain them if the local taxpayers say, look, we'll have to pay it because we won't lose it. Dauphin, Ste. Rose, these are all small town communities that could be in danger by policies that we've seen implemented by this administration.

I've a list of many rural municipalities that have written in protest of this move. The head of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities has met with the Attorney-General and the Premier to try and stop this ill-conceived move.

Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to give up until we get a full complement of RCMP back in the Town of Reston, and those in Deloraine are paid for where they should be paid out of, and that's out of the provincial coffers. I don't believe it's their responsibility and I'm not going to quit until the Minister gives us a commitment that either next year - if it takes until we replace him in office, Mr. Chairman, so be it, but we're not going to give up trying to have the people protected.

Winnipeg Beach, I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, there are people with investments; certainly maybe it's a

cottage, maybe it's some other type of property. Do you think they feel comfortable that the RCMP presence will be moved out of there on a weekend in August that he wants to change the meeting to, or whether it'd be July? Mr. Chairman, certainly, they can drive down from Gimli, but it's somewhat different than having an RCMP detachment and presence in that community, the same thing in Reston.

In fact, Mr. Chairman, there won't be an RCMP presence. If they'd have removed the one from Reston, from Carlyle, Saskatchewan to Souris, Manitoba, that's a series of several hundred miles on that stretch of highway coming in from Saskatchewan - not responsible. Yes, and we do have one left in Reston. I say it's not acceptable, and I'm going to continue to press until we have our full complement back there, Mr. Chairman.

HON. R. PENNER: Generally, throughout North America but certainly in Canada, in the last decade, the increase in the number of police and in policing costs has vastly exceeded the increase in crime.

I think there's a common misconception - one which I think, to some extent, the Member for Arthur is prey to - that by increasing or maintaining the number of police in any given community, we are thereby going to be dealing efficiently and effectively with the problem of crime. That just isn't so and there are simply no statistics to bear that out. Nevertheless, I agree entirely. People are concerned. I agree entirely that there is a certain basic level of policing which must be provided.

But I'll tell you, as an Attorney-General and not as a police administrator, I rely on the RCMP to tell me what it is that in fact they need. There are clauses in the agreement between ourselves and the RCMP which say that they have the final right with respect to standards of policing that must be maintained. I think it's good that the contract has that provision. I wouldn't want it otherwise.

The process that we're now discussing was put in motion - let me emphasize again for the record - by a submission from the then-Assistant Commissioner of the RCMP to myself in 1983 with a very comprehensive review of policing throughout the province and with respect to the formulae that are used in making decisions of this kind, point No. 1.

Point No. 2 - and I'm only going to be making one or two - I don't think it's an answer to a proposal that saves, let it be \$500,000.00. Five hundred thousand dollars is not a small amount of money to say, well, you could save \$500,000 elsewhere. Indeed, if we can save \$500,000 elsewhere, then we should be saving \$500,000 elsewhere. In each case, one must do of course a cost-benefit analysis because sometimes it is true that what appears to be a cost saving, in fact, creates an expensive inefficiency. Not every reduction in the expenditure of dollars that is at the bottom line is a cost saving.

I make no apologies, incidentally, for some developments within the Department of the Attorney-General in terms of its administrative development because, you know, in the material that's available, other material that can be made available, you will see that you have in the Department of the Attorney-General one of the most efficient, if not the most efficient, departments in the whole of government.

A MEMBER: Better than Health?

HON. R. PENNER: Anything is better than Health.

HON. L. DESJARDINS: Wait till you're sick!

HON. R. PENNER: The Minister of Health says wait till I'm sick. I want to tell the Minister of Health and the Member for Arthur, who's already got his eye on my office, you know, you don't have to be a lawyer to be an Attorney-General. But I recently had a medical check-up and I'm so healthy that the insurance companies are lining up to increase my insurance. I know that's bad news for you, but don't worry about it.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Wait till they hear about the meeting in Winnipeg Beach.

HON. R. PENNER: Oh no, I'm not attending any meetings on July 4, out of respect for our American neighbours.

Seriously, if we can save money in this area, then we have a responsibility to save money in this area. If, as the member says, he thinks we might be able to save it elsewhere in the department, then I think we have a responsibility to examine that and I think we've done a damn good job in doing that over the years. I think we operate a lean - I hope not a mean - department in many ways.

What really we're doing and have done very effectively, I think - I don't want to blow my horn too much - in the department is to repriorize so that, in fact, we can meet new demands. You may recall, just as an example, in the introductory remarks that I made, that we are seeing a considerable increase in commercial fraud. We don't think it's just a blip; I think it's an endemic disease. Both the RCMP and ourselves have had to allocate more personnel to this area. When you're talking about commercial fraud, in some instances you're talking about scams that cost Manitobans, whether they're ordinary or extraordinary Manitobans, it doesn't matter, millions of dollars. We've got to allocate resources to deal with these new developments as they take place.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I've got a final comment to make. I make it again on behalf of an option that may be able to be looked at as far as Reston is concerned.

It's hard, and I'm not opposed to the Dakota-Ojibway police system. There probably could be some improvements, but I think it's a good opportunity for personal development within the system and for police protection on the reserves. But what doesn't make sense to the constituents and the people of Reston when they look at it, that there are three Dakota-Ojibway officers on the reserve looking after the protection of 300 people.

We have the R.M. of Pipestone, Reston and the populations of those areas probably coming close to 3,000 people and it's only six miles apart - the reserve is about six miles away - and we see three officers looking after 300 people and we have the proposal to totally remove the RCMP away from some close to

3,000 people, and it just doesn't wash, it doesn't seem to make economic sense.

I'm not saying that they should be totally removed out of the Dakota-Ojibway, but it seems to be a little heavy to have that many officers there for that many people and none in Reston - or now there's one. There must be some way that we can - and particularly when it comes to heavy Criminal Code cases, the RCMP have to cover the reserve anyway. That's who has to move in. So there's something wrong, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't make common sense. It isn't a common-sense approach in the minds of many people, and it isn't in mine, that we should move in that direction.

So I think that when you're looking at it, Mr. Chairman, looking at the whole of the area, let's take into consideration those factors as well; and I would hope, within a year, that the Minister could see fit to reimplement the number of RCMP in Reston that have been traditionally there.

HON. R. PENNER: The Member for Arthur and I are coming perilously close to an agreement here, and we can have it expunged from the record if you wish, but in terms of efficiency and operational effectiveness, I have some concerns about programs such as the DOTC Program where I think that we have whatever the opposite of economies of scale - I guess it's diseconomies of scale - in the operation of that kind.

It was put in place beginning in '77, I guess, as a trial program, and its cost has increased considerably, but the provincial grant to that program has been capped at the same level for the past several years and in fact the feds are picking up now virtually 85 percent of the cost of that program.

Quite frankly, it seems to me, I have - I hope this comes neither as a surprise or as a shock to anyone around the table - a very high regard for the RCMP, and I think that basically one provincial police force, albeit with specialized components, makes a lot more sense because you have a basic infrastructure in terms of training, communications, central office, central data, all the rest of it, and I'm content at the moment.

The feds have been saying for the past two or three years that they're going to be doing an in-depth across-the-country study of how best to police the reserves, and they haven't really come up with something. I think all that can be said is they can certainly do a heck of a lot better job than they've been doing in terms of the federal responsibility for policing on the reserves.

But I would hope that one of the components that is kept in place is the utilization of the 3B RCMP constables for policing in those circumstances.

MR. J. DOWNEY: I'll just come back, Mr. Chairman, to say that I think if you're dealing with it and asking for my recommendation, if the people in that community had - and I think the people on the Indian reserve would agree as well - that if you're going to have the backup of the RCMP anyway, then work in a program that maintains the presence of the RCMP in Reston, with the full complement of RCMP working with the DOT officers there, and you may see a reduction in numbers of DOT police officers and maintain the backup of RCMP in Reston. That's the common-sense approach, and I would hope that the department would be prepared

to look at it and proceed to take action before too long on it.

HON. R. PENNER: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I almost hesitate to ask this question, but could the Attorney-General indicate whether they're looking at any other detachments for closure in the future?

HON. R. PENNER: I've had no recommendations for closure from the RCMP, and accordingly - although it's implied, let me make it explicit - I have nothing under consideration.

MR. G. MERCIER: That's for this total fiscal year?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, have any decisions been made - as I understand it, the decisions on manpower are made a year in advance?

HON. R. PENNER: Technically, it should be 18 months in advance. The requirement of the contract is that any changes given in October of one year for the beginning of the fiscal year two years down the line.

MR. G. MERCIER: Could the Attorney-General indicate what, if any, changes there will be in manpower in Manitoba?

HON. R. PENNER: There are none that are currently in contemplation. We had been discussing with the RCMP the addition of some specials to the 30 that we have. We wanted to effect, in a sense, a two-for-one exchange, that we would be prepared to see if we could squeeze out a few of the regular members, say three or four, if we could get eight 3B's in exchange. That had been approved in principle prior to the last federal election, but subsequently, when the screws were being tightened, Federal Treasury said no. If they did it all, it would be a one-for-one, and we didn't feel we had enough available regular members to squeeze out of the establishment to make that deal.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary Information indicates that the Minister will be contracting with appropriate communities for extension policing services subsequent to the release of the 1986 official census data. That data, I expect, will show a reduction in population in a number of rural areas.

Could the Attorney-General indicate what the effects of these new contracts will be?

HON. R. PENNER: Tentatively, the indications that they have and are considering is that under the present formula, in all likelihood, Emerson - and you know there's been some discussions about whether Emerson is 750 or 756, or if you stand on a corner and count on a rainy night, 742. But it's clear, from the '86, that it's fallen below the 750, so its obligation for policing, if that is right, would disappear.

There are two communities, I think - Hamiota and Treherne - that have gone above the 750, and according to the existing formula would be obligated to enter into a contract for one policeperson in those two communities. Those are the only three communities that appear to be affected by the census.

MR. G. MERCIER: There's a reference here to reallocating existing police resources to meet the needs of northern communities. What does that mean?

HON. R. PENNER: What that has meant in fact is the new assistant commissioner is looking at more efficiencies, for example - and I'll give you the exact details in a moment. We served a number of communities out of Lynn, so you have a big enough detachment so that you could fly them into X, Y and Z from Lynn. It seems more efficient if you serve some of them out of Thompson so we moved some from Lynn to Thompson. That's the kind of . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: You're just talking about reallocating existing resources in Northern Manitoba, not adding to them.

HON. R. PENNER: Essentially, that is right.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is a pilot auxiliary policing project?

HON. R. PENNER: This is a project which is under consideration pursuant to which persons can volunteer to be an RCMP auxiliary. They're not paid and they do not serve on their own. They serve as a backup or assistant to a regular member, might, for example, be in a cruiser car with a regular member so that if the regular member has to go from the cruiser car to carry out some policing duty, the auxiliary could, if on duty, sit there and take messages or assist in some way but never policing on his or her own. The only provincial cost would be an initial cost for a uniform and some training and after that the auxiliaries serve gratis.

MR. G. MERCIER: Who started this or who asked for this project?

HON. R. PENNER: Now in about three, four provinces; perhaps B.C., Alberta and Newfoundland, I think about three, and others are considering it.

MR. G. MERCIER: Where is this going to done in Manitoba?

HON. R. PENNER: We have no decision, but the RCMP itself would be the ones, if, for example, we agreed. Let me take a number that has been discussed, that 50 auxiliaries is what we could probably afford and the RCMP would decide where they can use them best.

MR. G. MERCIER: That will take place this year?

HON. R. PENNER: I hope so. It's under consideration, it's under active consideration.

MR. G. MERCIER: How long is it referred to as a pilot test?

HON. R. PENNER: I think that something like that you'd want to try over 18 months, two years.

MR. G. MERCIER: There's also reference to negotiating a new contract with respect to the 3B Indian Special Police Constables. Is the contract up or what are we looking at there?

HON. R. PENNER: With respect to, you mean the master contract?

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes.

HON. R. PENNER: No, it's not up until '91.

MR. G. MERCIER: This is in reference to the 3B Indian Special Police Constables.

HON. R. PENNER: No, I'm not aware of any negotiations presently taking place with respect to 3B. Is there a reference in the . . .

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes, page 54, it says negotiated new contract with respect to RCMP/3B Indian Special Police Constables.

HON. R. PENNER: Oh, I think that's RCMP/3B. Both are matters that are under consideration. With respect to RCMP, although the contract doesn't run out until '90-91, we have urged upon the federal Solicitor-General, as have other jurisdictions incidentally, that we begin negotiations now, recognizing how tough those negotiations were last time around. The reference to negotiating with respect to 3B is something I referred to a short time ago when I talked about our pressure on the Federal Government to look at the whole area of Indian policing. There are several components to it, and the feds said, okay, we'll do a national study and we're still waiting for the study to use that as a springboard for some negotiations.

For example, it seems to me from my own recent experiences in the North that one of the primary policing needs, since we cannot possibly have a detachment on every reserve, is to increase the Band Constable Program both in terms of numbers, in terms of salaries, in terms of training and in terms of backup. That is something we very much want to do, but that would be - if we could convince the feds - entirely a federal cost program.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister, dealing with an Order-in-Council - and this again was something that I find interesting when he's saying that they're out of money for RCMP support and protection of people in Manitoba - and I'm not saying that I'm opposed to what the money was used for. Why was his department called upon to provide \$20,000 in an Order-in-Council dated December 17, 1986? That's \$20,000 out of the Law Enforcement Provincial Police to go to the grant to the Indian Council of First Nations of Manitoba to prepare for and make representation to the 1987 First Ministers' Conference on aboriginal matters. Why was it drawn from this department? Why

was it not taken from the Department of Indian Affairs or some other department? Does he have a surplus of funds in his department, is that why it was drawn from there?

HON. R. PENNER: No, no, that's in fact not what happened. What happened is that during the course of the year, since I was the Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs, including the ongoing aboriginal constitutional discussions, the grants that were made, were made during the course of the fiscal year, and we had no specific appropriation in the department. Treasury Board directed that we encumber funds within departmental appropriations pending the disposition at year-end of the source of funds. The only sizable appropriation that we had was the Law Enforcement - that being the biggest - so we simply logged it there partly in expectation that there might have been, as there had been in previous years, a surplus there. As it turned out, in fact, there wasn't; it was the opposite of a surplus in that appropriation. So that at the end of the fiscal year when we got our supplementary as we did, we got a supplementary that covered those grants.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Were there any other grants taken out of this department, or this appropriation for other purposes?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. There were a couple for the same purposes and, if I'm not mistaken, one was given to Rosaire House in The Pas for IPDA lockups. The reason for that is in fact it is in effect an RCMP expenditure, because most of the IPDA facilities in the province are RCMP lockups. The RCMP lockup fell into such a state of disrepair or inadequacy in The Pas that it could no longer be used and the RCMP are building a new detachment. Pending the completion of that building, we are using Rosaire House and have to pay for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)—pass.
4.(b)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: There's indication that there's a research analyst in Law Enforcement. Who is that?

HON. R. PENNER: J. Roy, a research analyst.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is that a new position?

HON. R. PENNER: It was a new position last year. September 1, 1985, was when that position was established.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Arthur.

MR. J. DOWNEY: Is that person's job the one to draw up the recommendations dealing with the changes to the RCMP detachments?

HON. R. PENNER: No, that is not the main function of that person. The most recent function of that person, just to give you an example of the kind of things, in this case what she is expected to do was the roadside

ALERT Program that we ran jointly with the feds. She organized it and she's the one who's working under the director of Law Enforcement, is building our data base with respect to time stats and so on.

MR. J. DOWNEY: The reason I ask, because she was involved in the two meetings that took place in Deloraine and Reston, I'm sure, and I wondered if she's compiled the data that the decision was made on.

HON. R. PENNER: She assisted in the compilation of some of the data subsequent to the making of the decision, but certainly not leading to the making of the decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: The annual report indicates that this area investigates applicants for security guards or private investigators. How many were turned down last year?

HON. R. PENNER: The nearest estimate I can give is that we approved through that particular unit approximately 1,400 private investigators, security guards each year, because they're licensed at a year at a time. Basically, it's our estimation that we probably turn down about 5 percent. They don't come directly to us. They come from the companies and do whatever is required to be done; and then we notify the companies that X or Y or Z is unacceptable, and they do the formal turning down.

MR. G. MERCIER: It seems to be a pretty high number. For what reasons are they turned down?

HON. R. PENNER: Usually, but not always, criminal records.

MR. G. MERCIER: If you have any criminal record, you are turned down?

HON. R. PENNER: No, I think there would have to be something which would lead us to believe that the person may not, at that particular stage, be one that ought to be entrusted with that particular degree of responsibility. It would have to Criminal Code, indictable usually.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(b)(1)—pass; 4.(b)(2)—pass.
4.(c)(1) Police Commission: Salaries - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many appeals did the commission hear last year?

HON. R. PENNER: I think probably a half-dozen, in that order, not too many more. But you must remember that when those appeals are heard, some of them take a pretty fair amount of time and workout. But in terms of that branch of the Police Commission's work, I don't have the figure immediately handy. I can have it. I know I received the draft of their annual report just within the last couple of days, so I can give you that tomorrow, but I think it's about half-a-dozen of appeals.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, it would appear that the bulk of the work of the Police Commission relates to crime prevention programs with the appointment of The Crime Prevention Foundation Act to be passed through this Session of the Legislature. Obviously there's a fair bit of duplication. I would expect there would be a plan to have the Crime Prevention Foundation assume much of the responsibility of the Manitoba Police Commission.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, the point is well taken. It's expected, to the extent that the Manitoba Police Commission carries out a Crime Prevention Program - and it still does but not in a major way - with the coming into existence of the foundation and the centre, that basically the locus of crime prevention would move from the Manitoba Police Commission to the foundation. That means that the overall mandate of the commission will change in terms of priorities. For example, of increasing importance to the work of the commission is beginning to look at things like a protocol with respect to the handling of sexual abuse victims. The commission has been working on that in a very consultative way for the past several months, a protocol with respect to high-speed chases. The commission has been working on that for a considerable period of time.

Indicators for police recruitment and training, and they've been working on that for some period of time, and indeed, in order to enhance the function of the commission in dealing in that area, we've changed the staff for the Manitoba Police Commission, increased it. We've had, as an acting executive director, the former assistant commissioner of the RCMP, Sandy McHaffie, is the Acting Executive Director of the Manitoba Police Commission to indicate the direction of the work of the commission in that area. So basically we have, as I say, put some staff in position on a term basis and hope to be able to establish the position, to have people like Sandy McHaffie and former Assistant Commissioner and former Inspector Ray Johnson as part of the team assisting the commission in the development of those kinds of initiatives.

MR. G. MERCIER: Wouldn't it make sense to, when the Crime Prevention Foundation is in place, put all the crime prevention activities there and do away with the commission, and put the police activities under the Law Enforcement section, and the only thing remaining would be appeals and to give some other body the appeal authority?

HON. R. PENNER: In fact, what has happened is that the mandate, certainly the priorities of the Manitoba Police Commission has changed very considerably in the last few years.

We are doing now much more departmentally than was previously the case with the appointment of Charlie Hill as director of Law Enforcement Services. We've built up that section of the department where Charlie is director; Des DePourcq, formerly of the Winnipeg Police Department, in Firearms; Bill Hanson is still there in Investigation; J. Roy, analyst, and they're carrying out a number of the kinds of functions departmentally that I have indicated.

The Crime Prevention function of the Manitoba Police Commission has gone down and its residual work, which

was carried out by Officer Ollie, Lorne Gregorash will move over to the foundation. It's still you see, by statute, has a statutory function with respect to appeals. It may be that down the line what you're suggesting is what happens, but at the moment we think there is a continuing mandate in the areas that I suggested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(c)(1)—pass; 4.(c)(2)—pass.

4.(d)(1) Law Enforcement Review Act: Salaries - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Is there an annual report for this section?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, there is an annual report. Just bear with me for a moment. I'll provide the member with these figures, but I'll give them at the moment. Comparing '85, which I'm not sure, it might have been a partial year; '86, total representations made to LERA in '86 were 179, compared to 167 the year before; complaints refused, 84, compared to 55; complaints accepted, 95, compared to 112; so the number of complaints accepted in '86 went down by about 15 percent. So you ended up dealing through the year with 95 complaints. Disposition, indicated in the figures that I have, with no further action, 43 of those 95; withdrawn, 18; informal resolution is where we really put the emphasis, 22; referred to the board, 10; admission by the officer, 1. So we've got, of the total intake, starting with 179, we ended up with 10 matters being referred for adjudication.

MR. G. MERCIER: Since the agency came into effect, has there ever been a finding against an officer of having committed a disciplinary default?

HON. R. PENNER: I think in all of that period of time, the only formal disposition has been the one that I referred to, an admission by an officer, one, but that has to be seen in the context of, in the two years, some 47 informal resolutions. The informal resolutions mean that both the citizen and the officer were satisfied by some meeting, some apology, some explanation. That's what we really anticipated, that we would be providing a means of letting the citizen feel that he had an opportunity to deal with the beef and a way in which police officers could have beefs of that kind dealt without being feeling threatened and intimidated in their own jobs and duties.

MR. G. MERCIER: What is the commissioner receiving this year?

HON. R. PENNER: His salary?

MR. G. MERCIER: Yes.

HON. R. PENNER: 67, something like that. Seventy, is that it, is that his salary? His salary for the fiscal year that we're discussing would be 77 - \$77,100.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: \$77,000.00.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, \$77,100.00.

MR. G. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I think there would be a number of people who would make the argument

that this is a pretty expensive procedure to end up with. The Minister says there may be one admission of fault, no other findings against any officer of committing a default. It would appear that there are a lot of groundless accusations made against members of the Police Department. Does the Minister really think that the expenditure of some \$126,000 - particularly with a Chairman earning \$77,000 - is justifiable?

HON. R. PENNER: I think one first of all has to measure the cost in terms of the role that LERA plays in the totality of things. I think it's very important to have an independent law enforcement review agency. The deputy just suggested to me sotto voce, but I think he's right so I'll put it on the record that this is probably the cheapest law enforcement review agency in the world.

It certainly is not considered in terms of the figures that we have for the operation for example of the Metropolitan Toronto. The budget for the Metropolitan Toronto operation is in excess of \$1 million, if I'm not mistaken. One has to of course, take a look at the Toronto population - that's true - but they have 17 investigators alone in the Toronto operation. But's it way out of proportion to our costs.

Secondly, when we established it, it was a genuine concern on the part of the police that the agency might turn into some thinly disguised unit for attacking the police. We took some pains to make sure that a senior person occupied the chair in its inception. And we hired probably at a higher level than might otherwise be the case. It might be the case, we're looking at some options, anticipating a possible retirement of the existing commissioner that would see the cost of the managerial end of it go down.

What I think the case is as well is that in effect it's been fairly low profile. The agency hasn't been out there drumming up business, nor indeed do I think it should be in the situation of drumming up business. But in terms of its location vis-a-vis the central focal point for police activity and so on, it's not a high-profile operation. I think that we ought to continue operating LERA. I'm satisfied that it is doing a job, that a lot of the complaints that we heard loudly and worryingly about the lack of such an independent body, we don't hear them anymore. There's general acceptance by the police of the agency, some criticisms from time to time, that's inevitable, but we'll continue to monitor the operation, try to make economies if we can. But I think it fulfills a useful function and is not really, globally speaking, an expensive operation.

MR. G. MERCIER: The agency only has jurisdiction with respect to the City of Winnipeg Police Department and other municipal police departments. There were some discussions a number of years ago about the way in which complaints against members of the RCMP were dealt with. Could the Attorney-General indicate how that has been resolved?

HON. R. PENNER: They finally, after God knows how many years, passed the legislation to establish what seems to be quite a parallel sort of operation in terms of a body to which complaints can be brought, but the Federal Government hasn't proclaimed it. And that's

one of the issues that we'll be discussing with the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor-General in the near future.

They've appointed the person, Ray Morran in fact who will be heading it. So they've gone that far and earning \$125,000 a year so, we're cheapskates. But they do recognize the importance of having such an agency and we'll be glad to see it.

MR. G. MERCIER: There still is an existing system though for dealing with complaints against the RCMP.

HON. R. PENNER: It's entirely internal and when I receive complaints, as we do from time to time, not all that frequently, they're immediately referred by me to the RCMP. I receive a report in writing and it's subsequently discussed verbally in our regular meetings.

MR. G. MERCIER: Have there been any findings of fault against members of the RCMP serving in Manitoba?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, and in fact not too long ago a particular incident in The Pas led to criminal proceedings.

MR. G. MERCIER: How many findings of fault have there been . . .

HON. R. PENNER: I'll have to take that as notice. We don't keep those statistics basically.

MR. G. MERCIER: So you refer to criminal proceedings though, but the Law Enforcement Review Agency wouldn't full show in their statistics, and there have been those with members of the City of Winnipeg Police Department.

HON. R. PENNER: You're talking about the RCMP, right? And the question is, how many findings of fault have been made by the internal process in the RCMP in the last year. We'll get those figures for you precisely either, well not later this afternoon, but tomorrow.

MR. G. MERCIER: Those wouldn't refer to criminal proceedings?

HON. R. PENNER: No. I just mentioned as an aside that in fact one incident up at The Pas was serious enough to warrant criminal proceedings.

MR. G. MERCIER: Pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(d)(1)—pass; 4.(d)(2)—pass.
Resolution No. 20: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$32,019,000 for the Attorney-General, Law Enforcement, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.
Do you want to begin the other section?
That's 5.(a)(1) Salaries - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: Pass.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5.(a)(1)—pass; 5.(a)(2)—pass.
5.(b)(1) - the Member for St. Norbert.

MR. G. MERCIER: There's a note on page 63 here, staff-year transferred from rural courts. Is that a change in the format of the budget to have federal courts and then to have, later on in J, rural courts?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, it is a change. It's an administrative change pursuant to which we wanted to give more management and assistance to the functioning of the rural courts.

MR. G. MERCIER: What do you include in the rural court? You're talking about the rural Court of Queen's Bench, is that what you mean?

HON. R. PENNER: All courts outside of Winnipeg, so they have their own administrator.

MR. G. MERCIER: Provincial and federal.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, that's right. We do try to blend the administrations.

MR. G. MERCIER: What's the reason for doing it that way?

HON. R. PENNER: It really is efficiency, in the sense that there is one central manager for all of the rural courts offices and it includes the provincial courts and the Court of Queen's Bench, instead of them responding to be in rural courts to a number of individuals.

MR. G. MERCIER: Has that resulted in any cost saving?

HON. R. PENNER: Optimistically, we hope that it will but there is certainly no cost increase. I'm advised by my Deputy and the Director of Administration that we're seeing more consistency in the way in which the courts are being managed.

MR. G. MERCIER: Can the Minister advise as to the status of the Construction Program?

HON. R. PENNER: On schedule. I expect that the construction and reconstruction will be completed at the end of the summer, September, but then there'll be a period of some months for furnishing and getting ready for the move. I think we're looking at - what? - about April 1, perhaps a little earlier for the actual move.

The actual completion of the construction will be some time in September. The move is very complex, and it will take three or four months. The Great Library has to be moved back, and then we take the space that's freed up in the new Provincial Courthouse where part of the Great Library is, and we set that up for the provincial judges. The logistics of it are beyond my competence.

MR. G. MERCIER: Just to get an understanding. The Land Titles Office will be completed. That's to be occupied by Queen's Bench judges.

HON. R. PENNER: Yes, those are judges' chambers.

MR. G. MERCIER: That's to be done by September 1?

HON. R. PENNER: Basically the physical end of it will be completed.

MR. G. MERCIER: As part of this process, you have the Provincial Judges' Court moved from Broadway into the new building?

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. At the end of the process, the Provincial Judges' Courts in the Public Safety Building, the Provincial Judges' Court on Broadway, and I think, the Provincial Judges' Courts, Donald and out at Fort Osborne, Tuxedo, all move into the new building.

MR. G. MERCIER: Then who will move into Broadway?

HON. R. PENNER: We're looking at the use of Broadway, probably the creation of a Summary Conviction Court there that might, for example, deal with by-law matters, be a by-law court.

MR. G. MERCIER: All of the former Juvenile and Family Courts that were out on Fort Osborne will be moved downtown to the new building, a tremendous improvement. The Minister is indicating "yes".

HON. R. PENNER: Yes.

MR. G. MERCIER: What happens to that facility? I take it they'll bulldoze it down.

HON. R. PENNER: We'd gladly abandon it to the Minister of Government Services who isn't here. I want to tell you that is a place of historic importance. I want to tell you that in 1942 I did my basic training in the Army out there. You can still see the blood and the agony and the sweat on some of the remaining walls.

MR. G. MERCIER: There are Probation Services out there too. Will they be moving? How will that work? Will they somehow be located downtown?

HON. R. PENNER: Because the Youth Centre is still there, there'll still be at least one component of Probation Services.

MR. G. MERCIER: They were also involved in the Young Offenders proceedings down . . .

HON. R. PENNER: Yes. There are downtown offices, adult probation. To the extent that there's any adult probation out there, it'll be moved downtown.

MR. G. MERCIER: So the use of 380 Broadway is not decided upon?

HON. R. PENNER: A number of options, we really do need a facility for the Chief Medical Examiner, that's one possibility. The Summary Conviction Court by-law, again the Donald operation, Highway Traffic might not go into the Provincial Court Building but into 373.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour now being 6:00 p.m., committee rise.

SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES

MR. CHAIRMAN, C. Santos: Committee of Supply, please come to order.

We have been considering the Estimates of the Department of Community Services. We are now on Item No. 4.(d) Child Day Care: No. (1), (2), (3) and (4). The Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to refer back to the situation in the day care that the Member for River Heights referred to where the kindergarten children were charged an enormous amount for . . .

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In Carman.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: In Carman, where the kindergarten children were charged the full amount for one hour because they happened to be kindergarten and the regulations said it would be for Grade 1.

Am I correct in that premise?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I did outline the problem there. The local board has the opportunity to set the fee. What we do is set the upper limit. In fact, they had quite a staggered fee. Our upper limits were very close in terms of kindergarten and younger children. They had chosen to put in a fair differential.

The reason in the standards that we have different rates is that the number of staff required is dependent on the age and therefore the needs of the children. We give the authority to the board to charge up to a certain level.

I think there's about a dollar differential between the two groups, but they in fact put in a differential of almost \$3.00. So the remedy was within their range of action. It wasn't a direct result of our regulations.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What I would like to get at, Mr. Chairman, in this particular area, is this happened - when you have parent boards, the majority of the people have children in the upper levels from 1-6. In fact, there would be nobody representing the kids when they are first coming in to the kindergarten. There would be very few representing that area.

What happened in a day care situation in my area was that the parent board chose to eliminate the K spaces altogether and just have extra spaces in the 1-6 level where the majority of the parents on the board were. Now, after a lot of consultation with different members of the department, we managed to get about five of those spaces back. But this is the type of thing that can happen where you have parent boards and where the majority may represent a certain level.

I wonder if the Minister wouldn't look into this situation a little more carefully. Because of the way the boards are set up, or the majority of the parents, I'm sure, would be from the 1-6, you're going to get this kind of situation and this may not be the only area that this type of thing happens.

I wonder if there are any other areas in the province that this is happening because of the boards and the way they are set up and if there isn't any way that they could equalize these a little better so that this type of thing doesn't happen.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we, in fact, have not had this as a regular complaint sufficient to make us change any of our guidelines. The problem is that the centres need a predictable revenue so that they have the correct number of staff available for the number and ages of children they are dealing with. There are uniform fees set for less than four hours or more than four hours per day. The school age, one period of attendance, the maximum is \$4.25; for two periods of attendance, the maximum is \$6.75. For the preschoolers, the maximum for four hours or less is \$5.80. So there is not a great difference in the ceiling that we put on.

With regard to how the boards handle it, there may be an occasional situation such as the member describes, but by far the majority, in fact, as I said, we haven't had any other complaints. The parents often have children of different ages. They also, I think, are demonstrating a very good capacity to hear the concerns of one another and to try to arrive at that which is fair, rather than always just going for what is beneficial to them that year. After all, each one of them who has a child or two children in a centre will experience the different regime as their children age.

So I submit that it's not appeared to us as a general systemic problem. If it were coming to us as a regular complaint, we would see whether there was anything further to be done; but at some point we have to enable centres to have enough revenue to plan and to plan for sufficient staff.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I won't belabour the situation at all. I just think if there is an inequity like this happening, even though it is one, I believe - and it's been brought to the attention of the Minister that something should be done about it - just because there are only one or two, I think that's not a very gracious way to look at it. I think that you go out of your way to maybe help the exception where it's happening rather than say, oh well, these are the rules.

My next question, Mr. Chairman, deals with the child care by Sandy and Associates. I believe, when I asked the Minister yesterday about what care there was for evening- and weekend-shift workers, if I'm not mistaken, the Minister answered Sandy and Associates. Before I realized that this was not a funded centre, when the Minister gave me the answer, I was under the impression that this is something that was funded. Obviously, it is not. And they have sent a letter to Family Services asking for a grant for the child, and because there is no funding for this type of care, they are not asking for maintenance grants or across-the-board subsidies.

Has the Minister given any thought, or has the department looked at the occasional going outside of their policy, not funding areas such as this, and would she consider funding parents who need this kind of support rather than the whole centre?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, well, there are two things. I did give a list of the number of spaces we have available for extended hours. There are 85 spaces and they are funded. Then I also referred to child care by Sandy and Associates where another 10 unfunded spaces are.

With regard to the question as to whether the funding could be given to the families to provide more flexibility,

I remind the member that one of the realities of building the day care system is that there is not enough money to meet all the needs.

If there was enough money, there might be a variety of ways that you could build in more flexibility. There are a variety of tax measures, straight grants and so on to families that would maximize their choice; but until such time as the total system is closer to covering the need, we can only permit it to grow at a certain rate. It's all very well to want flexibility for the individual case, but if you introduce too much flexibility, you then open the entire system and each of the centres to accusations of favouritism.

We would love to have the system at a size and capacity to meet all the needs. We know it isn't there yet. The only real solution is going to be to keep the system growing in the way we have been. As I say, if we do get a substantial federal initiative, it will help immeasurably. I think that's the route to go rather than to build in so much flexibility at the local level that we then have the other problem of favouritism.

Sandy and Associates, I understand, has gone to Family Services, but Family Services has an administrative grant to use for family day care. They are doing a pilot on evening care, but they really, I don't think, have been able to accommodate Sandy and Associates for many of the same reasons that we run into. We're in the process of building. We can only build at a certain rate and, at this point in time, that particular service doesn't qualify.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has a copy of the letter that went to Miss Speers of Family Services, and it indicated that even if they changed to a community board, it wouldn't guarantee funding. It would simply make us eligible for assistance and there is already a parent-operated day care in our area at Sir William Osler School which has been trying to obtain funding for some time. I think since 1984, the William Osler Centre has been trying to get funding.

I'll read just one more paragraph in. I understand that. That's why I really didn't want to get into private versus community day care, because it's a no-win situation here. There is one sentence that I think says a lot. It says, "Unfortunately, neither she," indicating Sandy and Associates, "nor the other parents using her centre can afford to fund a public service for other parents by lowering fees. In the meantime, for want of a better solution, as we understand that you do some funding for group day care homes, we will refer callers who need this service to you in their search for after-hours child care."

I honestly wish, and it can never be anything more than a wish, that the Minister would take off the blinders and take a look at situations where we have care that is desperately needed and so short of supply as for shift workers and try and give some flexibility to the day care system that we have.

I can't implore enough that this happened. It is so needed and yet we have a situation where they are not asking for the moon as far as grants. They don't want all the grants. They need some subsidy for parents who can't afford to go to this care. It's the ones who can't afford it, of course, that are the ones who are being penalized and having to take lower quality care, possibly

leave their children in situations that they may not feel safe but, if they have to work, they are put into this position.

I would suggest that the department take a look at some of the alternate care that is being given and look to funding the parents in something. I don't see that exceptions hurt any kind of a system. I think when there is a need, then certainly you work around the policy or work in some kind of a policy where common sense is the rule and that the people are who we're thinking of.

HON. M. SMITH: With respect, Mr. Chair, I have to disagree with the member. I agree, and she and I would probably have absolutely no difference of opinion, that there is a lot of need out there that is not being met, that there are families where there are particular problems, there are particular special needs; all of that I agree with. But the question as to how we deal with it - if we fund commercial centres, whether it's through Family Services or through our program, we are going down a certain path. If we spend dollars there, we don't have them for the other side of the program.

Now it's our policy position, having looked at all the factors and the long-term direction in terms of building a system, that just letting it go ad hoc and bending here and bending there, in other words, building total flexibility into the system, is part of what gets us into trouble in the first place. There have to be some parameters and we set them. We've tried to apply the monies consistently.

Sandy and Associates does not qualify for funding under our program, nor does it qualify under Family Services, because they received money from the department for family day care. Sandy and Associates is really group day care, so they don't qualify.

They may have recommended that they shift to a parent board. I don't know whether that is a suggestion that they acquire an advisory board or whether they convert from a commercial operation to a nonprofit with a parent board. If they did that, they would then qualify under our infant or our shift-care type program. They could apply. Since we're already designated we want expansion in that area, they could get the funding.

Again, I think it looks common sensical until you look at the total amount of dollars. If you put them one place, you haven't got them for another. We have made the policy. We've chartered a policy direction because we believe it's in the best interest of quality care and protection for the children and the most responsible way to see that the limited public dollars get to the quality care and to the staff that are performing the service.

We don't see how the profit-making approach is responsible on all those grants. Now we don't prevent profit-making care from existing. We don't directly support or control the use by families of a whole range of child caring options: grandparents, neighbours, relatives, friends, and so on, so long as they aren't caring full time for more than a certain number of children.

In other words, there are a great many patterns out there and, at some point, we have to put the limit as to where the public monies go. We have made very clear so that people don't labour under any delusions

and they can make their plans accordingly. If they believe there is a market out there that they can tap of people who will pay enough for them to operate a commercial centre, we're saying, so long as they meet standards, they can do that. But our determination as to where scarce public funds go, I think is clear, and it's based on our experience with the economics of day care.

So again, with respect, I guess we'll just have to disagree on the pattern of development of day care, although we can certainly agree that there is, as yet, quite a lot of unmet need and that we want these programs to develop as rapidly as they can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When the Mount Carmel Day Care Clinic was built in July of 1985, it was built with a facility for 15 extra spaces which have not yet been approved.

In addition of the 625 spaces this year, will the Mount Carmel Clinic be given 15 funded spaces?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, to be consistent, I'm not announcing the detail for the 625 spaces at this point. I will do it very shortly and will be communicating directly with the centres.

We did have some differences with Mount Carmel, partly because of the way in which their centre had originally functioned. It had a little different role and it really was a day hospital, and that gradually gave some program to the children. It had quite a different funding and relationship with families, and we've been working with them in an attempt to resolve those issues. So we are mindful of the very attractive and sizeable building that they have and have been working with them. But I can't make the specific announcement at this time.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Does the department have any plans to fund any specific day cares; for example, Native day cares, which would encourage the development of Native languages, or indeed, any other ethnic language heritage within our society?

HON. M. SMITH: There have certainly been some initiatives and we look forward to more. There's one at South Indian Lake; there's a Native one in the city called A-Bah-Nu-Gee for school-age children; there's one in Brandon with the Metis Focus, Southwest Day Care; and Ma-Mow-We has been approved for development of a Native based child care.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 4.(d)(1) Child Day Care: Salaries—pass; 4.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(d)(3) Subsidies—pass; 4.(d)(4) Grants—pass.

Item No. 4.(e)(1) Family Dispute Services: (1) Salaries; 4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures; 4.(e)(3) External Agencies - the Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: For the Family Dispute Services

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I wonder if we can just wait a minute until the staff have arrived.

I should say that this particular responsibility has shifted over to the Community Social Services, so we'll have Aleda Turnbull, the ADM for that area, and Shirley Smith, who is the director in charge of Family Dispute Services. But the shift, the organizational shift, had not occurred at the time that we had finalized the Estimates. They will be in directly.

Again, I have Ken Gray, who is the director of Admin. and Finance, not Aleda Turnbull; and Shirley Smith, who is the director of the Family Dispute Division.

This program has the Family Conciliation Services of the Family Division of the Court of Queen's Bench and coordinates the Family Violence Program for the province. There has been an increase in this area of \$467,900.00. Of that, \$400,000 for Family Violence Enhancement, \$30,000 for Women Human Resource Centre increase and \$37,900 for a general 3.5 percent increase.

I do have the grant pattern which I can read off to you. The new Winnipeg shelter - we are planning a new Winnipeg shelter facility, so there was nothing in the '86-87. We have \$24,000 for '87-88. Again, in a shelter, we provide the central administrative grant but the per diems are paid through the social security and there's a special grant that will enable centres, if they have people who are in financial difficulty but don't qualify under social assistance. So that is not the total amount of money that is provided for the operating.

The Immigrant Outreach Program, we have \$73,000 in this year and that will be a new program. There's the Selkirk Cooperative on Abuse Against Women, a new satellite shelter model, and it's \$13,000 in the '86-87 and \$30,000 in '87-88. Again, this is a regional crisis line as well as a satellite shelter. The funds will go for staffing the crisis line and the women's and children's support groups.

South Central Committee, and that's like central region, Morden-Winkler, and so on, \$30,000 in '86-87, and \$41,900.00. There have been new program developments in this region including women's support groups, new careers trainees and plans for a second stage facility which have required additional resources.

The next area is the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre. There was \$30,000 in the '86-87. Again, for Wife Abuse Services, the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre is now receiving core funding under the Human Resource Centre area. So they have not claimed this amount for the coming year. So that money has been reallocated to the Women's Post-Treatment project. That is a new project which was not on stream last year, at least under our jurisdiction. Thirty thousand dollars has been allocated for this year. It's an individual and group counselling program for women who have completed chemical dependency treatment and are in need of support to deal with past and current abusive relationships.

There is a total of, it was \$20,600 last year, \$44,000 this year, of fee waiver monies that are given to the different shelters. As I said earlier, this is for women who are ineligible for social assistance but who are not in a position often to pay the fee and because of the nature of the problem - violence - we feel that to add a financial debt onto their existing problems was not appropriate, so we did deal with this problem through this special allocation.

Program grants to the different shelters have gone from \$123,500 in '86-87 to \$141,400 in '87-88. There

are four full-scale shelters currently in operation, Thompson, The Pas, Brandon and Winnipeg. The increases reflect a 3.5 percent price increase and 11 percent program expansion to encourage the development of women's and children's support groups.

Non-residential services in urban area in '86-87 - 449,500; '87-88 - 466,300.

In Winnipeg, there are four agencies which received funding in '86-87: The Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse; WISH, or Women in Second-Stage Housing; Clinic Community Health Centre - Evolve; and Ma Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata.

The increases consist of 5.4 percent increase to Clinic, to respond to the Winnipeg Foundations Diminishing Grant. They paid a bridging grant to enable that program to get moving prior to our being able to fully fund it.

A 3.5 percent cost increase to Ma Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata and a 14 percent increase to WISH for outreach program development.

Program support for the Winnipeg Wife Abuse Unit - this is in the Public Safety Building - nothing in '86-87; \$10,000 in '87-88. These funds have been allocated for a fee-for-service program support. Three staff are carrying a caseload of 1,000 clients and additional resources are necessary to maintain the current standard of service.

Non-residential rural services - the total in '86-87 of 219,200; in '87-88 of 234,000. We have developed in the province 21 non-residential domestic assault programs, of which 16 received funding in '85-86. So we are experiencing quite a lot of growth.

Funding is being provided in the six rural regions: Central, Interlake, Eastman, Westman, Norman and Parklands. Again, in some cases there was a nucleus of women who were acting as volunteer supports; in others, the department had to go out and act as a catalyst to get these volunteer groups going and to get their plans worked in with the local regional staff.

Family Violence Initiative monies, and an increase of 3.5 percent for '87-88, will provide for some stabilization of program and staffing in most of the centres. There's a Family Violence Initiative - zero last year and 250,000 this year. These are funds that were provided during the Estimates process to provide some enhancement for wife abuse and child abuse prevention and treatment initiatives.

Women's Resource Centres - there was 260,000 allocated in '86-87, and 269,100 for '87-88. These include full year costs with a 3.5 percent price increase for Core Grants to Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre, North End Women's Resource Centre and monies are included for the proposed establishment of a women's resource centre in Thompson.

So the total expenditures in '86-87 were 1,665,300 and '87-88 - 2,129,300.00.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder, the Minister mentioned there would be a new Winnipeg shelter.

Would she elaborate on where the shelter will be and who it will house?

HON. M. SMITH: We have been aware for some time that one of the groups, where there has been a heavy incidence of abuse but where our existing services have

Thursday, 21 May, 1987

not been either fully appropriate or sufficient in quantity, and that is the Native women. We have met with various groups to try and determine what the next step should be and have also at the same time got feedback from them as to the effectiveness of existing programs.

So what we're looking at now is a combination, actually some accomplishment of revising some of the current program delivery, trying to improve some of the cross-cultural sensitivity specifically at Osborne House. We're looking at one Native shelter in the core of the city. We haven't a location. We are exploring with the Department of Housing, who have been very helpful in the entire development of our Abuse Shelter Program, to look at whether we can purchase or rehabilitate the structure. We haven't a specific location at this point in time, but that will be the group we'll be dealing with.

There has also been interest in the immigrant community among the immigrant women to develop some of the services that they might need in this regard. They are not looking necessarily at a shelter. They are looking at some of the counselling, cross-cultural sensitivity education in the field of Family Violence and appropriate types of service. So that's where we are at in the development with that program. As I say, we hope to have it up and running during the year.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister indicate the number of staff - just a minute, it's here. In the department, I see there is one managerial, which I take it to be a director, seven professional/technical.

Would the Minister give me an average salary, please, or maybe could give me the salaries of the professionals working in the department?

HON. M. SMITH: I think the member asked me for specifics rather than averages. I'm assuming that you could arrive at the average yourself. There are some variations year by year depending upon transfers in and sort of adjustments of salaries. The seven that are in the professional/technical, again, they have different levels, but there is a 27.5, 28, 42.8, 39.3, 42.8, 44.6 and 27.5.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder if the Minister could indicate, the staff at the Committee on Wife Abuse, would you have those figures and the salary of the director, if possible.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the way in which we fund agencies is we agree on a grant level. We do not determine how many staff they have or what level they pay them. That is their responsibility.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is that public knowledge, Mr. Chairman? Is it possible to get a budget where we could find out what the salary or the salaries of staff?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, it wouldn't be appropriate for us to make those available. We do receive copies, but they are publicly available at those organizations' annual meetings, and I would think if the member wished to approach the agency, it would be at their discretion to make that available to you.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask some questions of the Minister about Osborne House.

Have the MHRC done a feasibility study on Osborne House, whether it's feasible to fix it or should they be moved?

HON. M. SMITH: That study is in progress, Mr. Chair, and we are awaiting the results to see what the next step should be with that shelter.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Osborne House, as the Minister well knows, I took a tour of it, and the occupancy rate, I understand, is on an average I guess of 63 percent. I happened to have phoned today because we were going to be in these Estimates to find out how many people were occupying the House at this moment. There are 11 families in the house that has seven bedrooms. There is no space for adequate counselling on a one-to-one basis. They have Child and Family Services people going in with lawyers, counsellors, outside agencies and they have one small meeting room. They often meet in the hallways. There is no quiet space.

What happens to women who go in, in crisis - and we're talking about 11 families, we're talking about 11 women, and probably double children, so you may be looking at 20 to 22 children in that home at the present time. What are the plans?

I understand that a feasibility study is being done, but what are the plans for the people in the house now? Is the government looking to give them some help, a spot where women can go when they need help and they are able to at least have some dignity when they need this help?

I just wonder if the Minister would explain how a house that has been there for, I think it's 10 years, physically clean, but just depressing, totally inadequate today for the kinds of needs, especially when before the election, the Minister had a campaign of \$100,000 on wife abuse and raised the expectations and made women feel that there was a place that they could go and have adequate help. Now, the staff, I feel, must do an unbelievable job under the circumstances.

I ask the Minister exactly what plans, if there has been anything in the works, that is going to help these women in Osborne House to have a facility that is worthy of the kind of needs that women have?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the Osborne House was developed years ago by that organization that's identified women's needs and tried to meet them over the years - the YWCA.

In the time when they were initiating this type of program, there was no public money other than what could be got through the United Way funding and, over time, our government, Provincial Government, listened and started to provide some funding. Now the development of provincially funded services in this area is relatively new.

One of the things that was happening, when we tried to take a systematic look at services for family violence, and specifically for women and children, was that there were a few short-term funded shelters from short-term federal grants and they would often be funded at a relatively high level, but there was no continuity. There was virtually no attempt to develop services across the province to network the volunteer groups with the staff in the regions or to do the follow-up development that's

so essential. Because, after all, a shelter is an emergency service; it's not meant to be a long-term placement.

So looking at all of these factors, our department, our government, undertook the initiative in family violence. We started out with a heavy public education campaign to alert the community to the horror that really lay behind a lot of this violence to sensitize the community to the point where we could actually try and shift community values, where this would no longer be tolerated. We knew there was some risk in going that route before we had a whole lot of services prepared.

It's been our belief all along that many of the best resources for women in need are in fact their friends and neighbours and families, and that in the long run it's probably going to be a changing of the community values and the tolerance for violence and the supportive roles that community members can give individuals that will provide more of a prevention or solution than any number of emergency programs that we can put in place.

However, we did, as well, start to develop the first-stage response. We worked with the community groups, women's groups, who had on their own been delivering voluntary crisis phone response and initial counselling. We worked with those groups, funded them, but gave them funding only after and if they would work with local regional staff to come up with a shared plan.

There was resistance at this approach initially because many of the women felt that staff had never understood their problem in the past. There had never been a government response and there was a certain amount of alienation, not strange to an emerging social service area.

However, the message we delivered back to them was that if in working together with regional staff, they weren't able to sensitize and develop a cooperative approach among staff, we wanted to know about that because we laid the expectations on our local staff in Health and Community Services that they be responsive to the changing needs in the community and that they work cooperatively with them.

I'm happy to say that the existence of the 21 funded groups throughout the province is a result of that type of approach. So, in a sense, we've taken relatively small resources and multiplied their effectiveness by requiring that kind of cooperation.

Then we looked at the shelter system and we did have a network of safe homes that we were trying in the rural area. Some of them have worked for a time but don't seem to provide a full response. We didn't want to multiply the number of costly shelters until we had got other parts of the program in place. We did hold the line at four for a couple of years, but worked on the second-stage housing, because, in the long run, you can only give emergency short-term care in a shelter. They never were meant to be palaces. They are refuges and what we wanted to do was have somewhere people could go if they in fact could not resolve the situation and go back home to either a reconciliation or a home setting where the abuser had been removed by the court or some other option that was within the individual's inventiveness to find.

What we knew some of the women needed was a second-stage housing location and, in fact, there have been groups like WISH who have done some innovative

work in developing that. We have also found the Department of Housing extremely cooperative. They have been willing to look at the inclusion of second-stage housing in all their new public housing or social housing developments and, indeed, to review whether some suites could be delegated with local support systems in existing housing. So that has been the focus up until now.

We are now at the stage where we can see the expansion of the shelter system, particularly in Winnipeg. That is why we have budgeted this year for a new shelter in Winnipeg and for the possibility of a relocated Osborne House.

The new shelter will be designated for Native women. Over 50 percent of the clientele at Osborne House over a year are Native women and we feel that that is the biggest unmet need. So hopefully some of the space and service needs will be better met.

Again, as we're finding with child abuse, the quantity of need, sometimes when you start to provide the services, it does take quite a while before the need levels off. We all hope, devoutly, that we are not going to see continued escalation in this area; but I think the way we have built the system, virtually from scratch, Mr. Chair, because no prior government had even attempted to build a system or acknowledge the problem as deserving of priority, I think we've built in a responsible way.

There is some extra space available now at Baldwin House for some of the overflow at Osborne House and that has been available during the year.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: When the Minister is describing that the shelters weren't to be palaces, she's certainly quite right. Osborne House is not a palace and what was adequate a number of years ago is definitely not adequate today. The home itself is terribly depressing. I would hope that when they find a home for the Native women, that they will not be looking at something that is just to say, "it's not a palace; it's a shelter."

I think when women, whether they be Native, whether they be white, or whatever, they need something that is going to allow them a little bit of dignity and some privacy certainly when they're in a situation such as family violence. When they reach Osborne House, they are in crisis.

I would like to ask the Minister that if there is a policy of 10 days, because women are rarely kept over 10 days; and, if so, who set the policy?

HON. M. SMITH: Well, Mr. Chair, I'm finding it really very hard to keep my cool over here, being lectured to about the inadequacy of a program that was non-existent before we came into government.

I would like to draw the member's attention to the fact that it's the Federal Government, in their cost-sharing for the whole Family Violence Program, that has limited it and blocked it practically at every turn and kept it at a welfare level. That's the only type of cost-sharing that is available

Now many of the women who end up in Osborne House have not necessarily come from the economically poorest homes in the city, but I can tell the member that there is a great deal of housing in this city that we've been trying our best to either repair or replace

and gradually build up a stock of affordable housing. I know my colleague from Logan, the Minister of Housing, will have a great deal to say about that during her Estimates, but we've been trying to address that problem at that end.

Osborne House, as I say, is a short-term refuge, and I repeat, it is not a palace, but to many it has provided a very important refuge in those early stages. We have in place the feasibility plan for a replacement for Osborne House. We have in the budget monies for another shelter in the City of Winnipeg and, again, one does not achieve a program like this overnight when you start from stop.

We would be able to move a great deal more rapidly in some of these social programs if we got major reform in the Canada Assistance Plan and the funding from the Federal Government and if we got major tax reform. Those are going to be the crucial areas that will affect our ability to expand in future years.

But let me just tell you the effort that this government has made towards this entire area. In a few short years, we have built, as I say, from virtually no program to quite a broad program. Surely, there is a long way to go, but I think it's quite inappropriate of the member opposite, whose party did nothing on these matters when they certainly were in the public consciousness when they were in power, to start lecturing us about not going quickly enough.

The Department of Employment Services and Economic Security each year, through provincial per diems for safe homes where there were 3,000 bed nights, subsidized and sheltered, 12,351 bed nights, minus the municipal contribution, the total amount that they have spent is \$450,000.00.

Through New Careers, the training program for workers in Wife Abuse Service Agencies - over two years they have contributed \$853,100.00. The Department of Housing, in their annual amortization costs in capital and also operational grants, has put in \$70,000.00.

Program grants through the Department of Community Services have totalled 1,094,600, for a grand total, Mr. Chairman, of 2,467,700.00. It's a very major effort when you consider the economic and fiscal times that we are in.

Just so that we get some clarity as to the role of Osborne House - Osborne House has offered in '86-87 a total of 6,888 bed nights. I remind everyone these are bed nights that are secure. Again, crowding - and we're all sensitive to the fact we'd like better surroundings - but when people are suffering from the threat of violence, a safe, secure refuge is an extremely important factor.

The total number of women who have been served - 541; the total number of children - 715; the average length of stay is five nights; the average occupancy rate is 60 percent; that would average out 63 persons.

The Fee Waiver Grant has increased 160 percent from 13,000 in 1985-86 to 20,980 in '86-87. Again, a very much faster growth rate than the other kinds of things we've been able to afford in the province and evidence of this government's commitment to building this program.

The Non-Residential Program Grant has increased 180 percent, from \$6,000 in '85-86 to \$11,000 in '86-87. The Non-Residential Program Grant for '87-88 is \$20,000, an increase of 180 percent.

Major program developments at Osborne House have been in the non-residential area in the past year. The development of women's support groups and children's support groups have been very successful.

We know that adequate space for these programs is not available within Osborne House. That is why the Department of Housing has agreed and is undertaking a feasibility study of Osborne House. We are working closely with the Department of Housing to be sure that study is completed and to explore the next steps.

Again, a great deal has been accomplished in a short time. Much remains to be done, but I think the effort made in building this program and building all the parts of it in a coordinated way, with some equity across the province, Mr. Chairman. We haven't just focused on the one shelter that perhaps might have the most vocal board or support group. We've tried to build this type of service as best we can across the entire province.

I think, again, I'm proud of what's been accomplished and look forward to the new initiatives that we have proposed for the coming year.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry if the Minister thinks I'm lecturing her. I wanted to make sure that someone else is aware also of what is happening in the area of family violence. I also want to mention that there was a lot of money put into advertising these programs before the election, that everywhere you looked, in the Reader's Digest, on television, there was \$100,000 that went into that kind of service. So when you go to do that type of thing, then don't be pained if somebody suggests you're not moving quickly enough in an area.

And when you consider that there is only one shelter in Winnipeg for 600,000 people, then I would suggest that there's nothing wrong with me suggesting that you could move a little quicker in the area of Osborne House or bringing it to your attention.

I asked the Minister if there was a policy on a stay of 10 days. I'm not sure that she gave me an answer to that question.

HON. M. SMITH: The policy of the department is to try to make it very much an emergency shelter in a short-term state. I said the average was five days. In fact, the city in their zoning concerns is very uneasy if people are there for longer than 10 days, but our whole approach has been to build up our capacity on the second-stage housing so that there were a range of options available and that more of the women could pass through.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: How many of the women go directly from Osborne House to the second-stage housing?

HON. M. SMITH: In Winnipeg, we have a capacity for 32 at WISH and then we try also to access public housing where that's appropriate.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Mr. Chairman, one of the reasons that I'm asking about the policy of the 10 days is that 10 days really does not today give the women a long enough time to be properly prepared to give them a choice whether to go back to the home that they have

left or get the expert help that they need. Often, because of the short stay, they do end up going back - especially the first time - and what happens is that the lawyers get fed up because the woman wants to stop proceedings and there isn't adequate housing. Possibly 10 years ago, 10 days might have been a sufficient time, but that isn't so today.

I wanted to ask the Minister about the preventative part of the service that could be given at Osborne House. I understand that they are given about \$20,000 a year for support groups.

Has that been increased?

HON. M. SMITH: The non-residential program for '87-'88 is \$20,000.00. It represents 180 percent increase over two years. I don't have the precise measure over one year.

Again, talking a bit about the length of stay, an emergency shelter is not necessarily the best place for people to stay to sort out their future, and that's why the importance of the second-stage housing. It is not as if people are sent away from the shelter and cut off from these supports. They're plugged in to the appropriate supports. It may be Child and Family; it may be legal; it may be social assistance. The second-stage housing also has support personnel that are supportive of a certain number in an area, so that they are not left completely on their own.

But there's never been a desire - as a matter of fact, we've tried to discourage people staying too long in the emergency shelter because, as you can appreciate, it's kind of like being in the hospital where there's always a new sort of person in a critical illness stage arriving. There's always an arrival of people who are in a fairly traumatized state, and it's not necessarily the best place for people who are starting to sort things out.

I do have the information. There has been a \$5,000 increase in those support programs year over year.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is the department still advertising the crisis lines and, if they are, in what area?

HON. M. SMITH: The department does put out these three pamphlets with information: the Wife Abuse, the Women's Advocacy Program and the Physicians Guide, and there are quite a few numbers listed, particularly in the Physicians Guide.

The Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse has been doing a lot of the - well, really provincial crisis line. They were getting some federal funding for that service, but that was withdrawn. So they're now carrying on that program through the funding that we give them and they have been advertising on transit shelters and so on. So we've done our best to make this information available on a province-wide basis.

The wife abuse committees across the province do advertise in their areas and through the local Health and Community Services offices, and so on, and then, again, all those numbers are listed in this Physicians Guide.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: What is happening? Where do the women go when they call in and things are just not quite right at home? It's before they've reached the crisis stage.

The cost when they get into a crisis, of course, is often the police car going to pick them up, the hospital, emergency services, Legal Aid, and you have court costs, Child and Family Services. It's a 24-hour-a-day coverage.

What exactly is being done and where are these women being sent when they phone and they need preventative medicine in family violence when they're at the stage where they could use some counselling to possibly stop the violence before it gets bad enough that they end up in a crisis situation?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, there are a variety of resources. Some of the committees throughout the province can provide initial counselling. Health and Community Services throughout the regions are available, as are the Child and Family Services Agencies. Again, they cover a large part of the population in the province. There are family service lines, mental health services and so on.

I would say the first stop would be the wife abuse committees throughout the province. The next one most often used would be the regional Health and Community Services offices.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: When someone phones the Committee on Wife Abuse or Osborne House to get some initial help, not in a crisis situation, what is the exact procedure? What happens to them after they make that phone call?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, it would vary so greatly depending on what the presenting problem is. We ensure that all the crisis line people have listings of the community resources, and depending whether the presenting problem is something that would call for police or legal help or family counselling, there would be a different referral.

It's one reason that we insisted in supporting the volunteer committees in some of their crisis line and first-stage counselling service, that they link in with the regional Health and Community Services so that they would be aware of what the different services were and be able to cooperate in terms of the most efficient, effective use of resources.

So that would be part of the training of the crisis line people to detect whether they're dealing with a real crisis or just a potential crisis. They have to make that judgment and then offer the appropriate type of help.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Is there any follow-up?

HON. M. SMITH: The local committees certainly are building that type of network and sort of friendly support. Whether the provincial committee that operates the province-wide line - they don't always have the geographical mobility. They are linked into the local committees.

But some of the responsibility for follow-up would rest with the individual, unless it is a crisis situation, in which case the follow-up, the police or legal people or medical people would be referred, or the individual would be referred to them.

That's the sort of sorting out that the crisis line people must be trained to do. They must be able to detect

whether they have perhaps a situation where the individual is beyond helping themselves in initiating help and therefore should have some help sent to them, or whether they are just sorting out their options and what they need really is emotional support and some identification of options, some information.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Osborne House, I understand, has been placing a large focus on child care and child counselling because it's at this stage that they're trying to break the cycle.

What happens to the children after they leave Osborne House? Is there any follow-up with these children if, say, they go back to the home? What would be the follow-up procedure with some of the children?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, D. Scott: Madam Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: There are children's support groups. Again, it would vary from place to place, but there are linkages with day cares where there might be need for a follow-up, either placement or observation or counselling support for the child. There's a linkage with the University of Winnipeg Day Care. There's also a linkage with school situations where there is some sharing of information so that the child can get appropriate support in these school situations.

These are areas that, over time, I think can develop and link in with some of the networking that's been going on with the local child and family agencies and local schools and day cares. I think we're trying almost to re-create the neighbourhood or community or extended family support system that people used to have naturally. We're trying to re-create it in an urban environment, and indeed in the rural or small town environments.

I think my hat's really off to the women who've identified this type of problem. It's often not a popular issue to address, particularly in smaller communities. They may even experience some social stigma as a result of addressing some of these issues. But I think that the strength and the resourcefulness and the ingenuity that many of them have shown in providing support has been quite astonishing. There seems to be a great energy that's released when you get a group of women being able to talk about something, that a lot of them have suffered through in silence, in isolation, bringing them together and enabling them: (1) to talk freely with one another; but, (2) to start offering help and real counselling to other women has been an extremely impressive development.

There are quite a few workshops that are held throughout the year helping both the volunteers and the staff acquire some of the counselling skills and the group counselling skills, because there's a tremendous resource among women in helping one another. Of course, again, dealing with the special problems of their children is another element.

Just for an example, we did receive a letter from the Steinbach Family Crisis Intervention Centre to our staff person in charge of Family Dispute Services, showing a great deal of appreciation for the workshops that were held - one regarding children's groups and the other on women's support groups. They felt that training and the organizational help were really appreciated.

It's one way to very much increase or strengthen the type of service that's available especially in small communities where people can be fairly isolated.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: I wonder if the Minister would be able to give me some information about the Committee on Wife Abuse. I understand that they've had three directors in less than five years.

What is the turnover in the crisis and wife abuse community? It sounds like it's been fairly high. Could you give me any idea?

Also, do you have any statistics on the Committee for Wife Abuse? How many calls that they have? Are they required, like some of the crisis centres, to raise extra funds out of the community?

HON. M. SMITH: The experience of the local committees is a combination of continuity and turnover. The types of issues being dealt with do tend to lead people to a bit of burnout. Many of the women involved are of an age where their own family circumstances are in constant flux, but there seems to be enough regenerative capacity in the communities.

As with any issue like this, where people have often kept it to themselves for a long period of time or not even known about it, when they first start to do something about it, there's a lot of learning goes on. Some of the developmental issues that we've certainly been aware of, both with the individual committees and with the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse, stem from one of sort of ownership of the problem and wanting public funding, sometimes expecting unrealistic funding right off, you know, building up the staff and training and so on, that is of a rate of growth that just is way beyond government departments, I think ever, but certainly in today's environment, to expect.

So there are issues of ownership of the problems; there are issues of accountability. Who does the planning? How does a province-wide system get developed? Who initiates, and how do we dialogue back and forth.

We've certainly tried to be sensitive to that development and facilitate it. I think with the smaller committees, as I say, some of them we've actually had to spark ourselves to get going. Others have been developed through the initiative of the provincial Committee on Wife Abuse by helping them work with local staff.

I must say, I was quite delighted at the change that I encountered in a community like Dauphin where a few years back, when you went out there, it was as if the women who were working on wife abuse and the local Health and Community staff people lived in entirely different worlds in terms of their perception, their awareness of the problem, and their willingness to tackle it.

When I went back two years later after they had been required to get together and plan and work out who would do what and how the money would get spent, it was like an entirely different part of the world. The staff person from the Health and Community Services region was in fact of an age, perhaps younger, and just as up on the issue and as sensitive as any of the members of the volunteer group, and was contributing as much as they to the development of the program.

So, over time, some of that fear and suspicion and the silences have been overcome by working that kind of cooperation. It's also changed the sensitivity of all those paid staff out there, whether they're in Child and Family or Mental Retardation or Public Health, because the Health and Community Service regions have had to think about wife abuse and not blame the victim or ignore the problem, as was the pattern in the past.

With regard to the Committee on Wife Abuse, it has had turnover. It's not a completely strange phenomenon in a new social service. In some ways, they've been having the problem of success. I don't know of any other social problem that has built up public awareness and talked government into moving as rapidly as the Manitoba Committee on Wife Abuse. But in a sense, they had trouble adjusting to the fact that, having pushed, pulled, cajoled, and persuaded government into action, they then were not the only actors in the field. Some of them still had the idea that they had to own that whole system out there and, as I say, we understood that feeling because we had valued their initiative and the energy and the creativity they'd shown in dealing with it. On the other hand, we couldn't just give them all the money they wanted without planning at our end.

So we've been working hard with them to develop a cooperative planning approach and to let them know, after dialogue and listening, what particular pieces of the total service delivery we were prepared, in a sense, to purchase from them and what other areas, if they chose to go into them, they would have to either do on a volunteer basis or seek out alternate funding. So it's been that sort of evolution that we've been going through in our relationship with them.

Most of the women I've known who have worked in this field are subject to burnout. It's a bit like dealing with child abuse. It's a painful, difficult, heart-rending type of problem. There's a feeling in a way that if we only had a lot of money we could solve the problem over to the other side of how do you really change people's attitudes? You know, even money doesn't help. To some, it becomes just an insuperable problem, and they want to get away from it for awhile and regain perspective and regroup and come back perhaps at another angle.

I think again, as with any community group that we fund, I think they should speak for themselves in terms of how they perceive what's been going on. We meet with them often and have done our very best to dialogue and to share with them as much of our thinking, our planning, what resources we have, what realistically we can expect to have year by year, so that they can make their plans with full knowledge. We don't always agree, but I think over time - as I say, I think some of the problems have been brought about just because of their very success in sensitizing the community at large and government and moving us into action.

MRS. G. HAMMOND: Could the Minister give me a comparison, maybe an approximate comparison, of the front-line workers' salaries in comparison with the salaries that she gave from the department? I'd like to get an idea of what the people in the front line and the directors of some of these organizations are being paid. I believe the director in Osborne House gets

approximately \$25,000 for someone who is on call pretty well 24 hours a day.

Do you have any figures on the salaries that are being paid to the front-line workers and if there's any consideration, if they're very low, to giving them the Salary Enhancement Grants?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think with all of the Community Services area, so much of the work started with people doing it voluntarily; then, as they gradually expanded it, there often were people willing to work at relatively lower pay, but the decision as to how much is attempted and the pay levels that are to be given are made by those voluntary organizations.

I can truthfully say that the organizations I've had a lot to do with are so keen to do a great deal that they often do keep pay levels relatively low. But it's not through our requiring that, and we try to caution them to be somewhat more realistic in terms of what they can bite off.

We do encourage them as well, particularly an organization like Osborne House which has a connection with the YWCA, which has never been directly funded by government other than there was some mortgage assistance with what was their new building in the late Sixties. But their programs have been largely funded through United Way and Foundation and so on, and membership fees. So it is their policy in terms of what pay levels they give.

Again, some of the funding assumptions of the Canada Assistance Plan end up giving us difficulty because they often assume that only people in the direst financial need can get help. So trying to get appropriate cost-sharing there is a problem for us.

We have tried to respond with increases and also with things like the fee waiver, but I think the agencies who operate these centres are more appropriately the ones to go to to see whether they think a Salary Enhancement Grant should be given.

I suppose that we are always, in a developing program, torn between the spreading of the program across the province and the adequate enrichment of the programs we've got. It's a dilemma for us in day care; it's a dilemma in this area.

We've tried to, I guess, strike the best balance we could in terms of available resources, trying to animate and keep active that volunteer community and at the same time make available some monies for ongoing staffing; but the actual decisions, and this is true whenever we're dealing with community agencies, it is their final determination how much work they're going to attempt and what balance they put between salaries, operating costs, and supports to clients.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Can the Minister tell me what occurred in her department that the manager would, in fact, get a salary increase of 17.4 percent and the administrative support would actually get a salary reduction of 39.1 percent?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, this area of work has been developing rapidly and in the '86-87 numbers, we actually had persons who came with a certain salary

level, and then as we sorted out the organizational structure to try to get the best structure, then we were able to identify the appropriate pay level attached to that position. There is always some shift in the incumbents, and the normal practice is, when a person is transferred in, they will often retain their level of pay until an organizational restructuring goes on. It depends on the situation. Sometimes they retain their level of pay at two years, and then go to the level appropriate to the organization, or that incumbent might leave and the new person would come in.

So it's been that type of sorting out. No individual received a decrease in pay.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell us if the manager indeed, in this department, changed or if in fact the manager got a 17.4 percent raise?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, again, as part of the structuring of the area of responsibility, last year's figure in the printed Estimates was in fact less than the person who had that position was receiving during the year. There was no increase to that individual of 17 percent as it sort of appears in the information. Last year's actual was in fact higher, and then there were only the normal increases for the '87-88.

Again, because what we've been trying to do throughout the department is to group together all the people doing somewhat similar work under what we call a responsibility centre instead of having bits and pieces of an area service scattered throughout the department, we've been trying to put together this particular area which we've called Family Dispute and we've actually got the Family Conciliation Services as well as the Family Violence Program linked together here. But that is the explanation for that - those two figures.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I was going to say this in closing remarks, but I think it's important that it be said right here.

You know, as an Opposition member, we really do our best not to waste everybody's time in asking questions which could in fact be readily explained to us by a simple note, such as in this one which could have been - that indeed was not the salary which the individual received last year, or for example in another area where I noted there was a 44 percent increase, and then we were told in Estimates that, well, those people don't really have the same jobs that they had last year and that's why we have to have a 44 percent increase.

It's very difficult to know what we are passing in these Estimates because we then come back a year later and discover that what we thought we had agreed to wasn't what we'd agreed to at all. Yet it is my belief that this is supposed to be a time of accountability but what comes up next year isn't necessarily what we think is going to come up at all.

To continue with that kind of line of complaint, it's very difficult when the Minister starts off as she did today and lists new agencies for which we have no indication in our Estimate books at all that they are even receiving grants. We then don't receive information

as we did last year about what the Dauphin Crisis Centre is going to get for '87-88. It is almost impossible to know whether these agencies are receiving appropriate funding or inadequate funding.

In light of that, am I led to believe by a statement made by the Minister earlier that 3.5 percent is all that these non-residential services are going to get this year for program and staffing, which, to the best of my ability, is a percentage point below the inflation rate in Manitoba?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the information that the Opposition are entitled to is what's in the budget. The Supplementary Information gives some additional information and it is prepared as accurately as it can be somewhat ahead of time. A budget is a plan for the year. There is an actual expenditure report that comes out after. As I say, there's a whole year lag; we're just getting the '85-86 reports tabled here now.

There are, especially in areas like this where there is quite a bit of change in program development and where there are relatively few numbers of persons, there are bound to be some variations.

The member has, throughout my Estimates, been calculating percentages and so on, and I agree that it's difficult as an Opposition member who's trying to figure out where the government's priorities are, and I try to be patient with the questions asked. But I think the answer I've given consistently is that there are procedures for slotting a person in on a certain job level, depending on what the structure or the organizational structure of an area is, and there's a hierarchy, according to skill, effort, responsibility and so on.

There are then, within those job levels, people come in on different increment levels depending on the experience they bring with them. So a person who is new in the field may come in at the bottom of a scale. Someone who's been quite experienced and transferred in from somewhere might come in at the fourth of five levels. Then the general salary increases and so on are applied right across the whole system, but the variations show up disproportionately high when you have a small number of employees. In this case, members might have noticed that the total salary budget is actually down because the net effect of the reorganization has produced a reduction, even though the individual components show other variations.

We're trying to put together a team of people who can do the job that needs to be done; and again, I think I can give all the variations year by year if we go through the Estimates in that format.

With regard to the increases given, 3.5 percent isn't exciting, but the revenue increase to the province, given all the variations that we have to deal with and offloading and decreased equalization and so on, or decreasing proportions of equalization and EPF from the Federal Government, plus all the variations in our own economy, don't exactly give us a fiscal framework that is static.

We also have to deal with the dynamics of the changing fiscal situation. We do our best to give you the detailed information, identify for you what the new initiatives are, what the rationale is. Government has tried to be even-handed in tough times. We haven't given princely increases to all the agencies we fund,

but nor have we eliminated the grants or reduced them, as is being practised in provinces to the west of us. We really have dealt responsibly, I think.

We acknowledge that agencies that we help fund, we are not their sole funder. They have access to other ways of raising money, they're not easy ways, and I think any group of people who are in receipt of Community Services, they often are people who are relatively lower on the social economic scale, so they themselves are not always in a position to pay the full way. Again, it's this party and this government that's been singing out about the need for more equitable taxation, a better sharing of resource, a better support of social service systems, so that we in fact don't find that we're underfunding the most needy members of the society; but all those dynamics that we're dealing with do result in certain decisions about funding levels.

Again, I think we dealt responsibly, although tightly, with this particular area. It has been expanding much more rapidly than is happening almost anywhere else in government because of our acknowledgment of the need, but the money is certainly not being spent irresponsibly, and again, it is a judgment call, exactly how we allocate the monies, and we do a conscientious job on it.

There may be differences of agreement in detail, differences of opinion, and I can respect that.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: In this particular section of the Minister's budget, there's been a 14.6 percent increase if you look from Adjusted Vote to the present, and even more than that if you look from what we passed last year.

Can the Minister explain how the External Agencies therefore end up very much at the bottom of the totem pole at 3.5 percent, and where is the commitment to the kind of crisis centres and protection for women that this Minister and others within her Cabinet have espoused?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the 3.5 percent is a general increase. There are also new initiatives where some of the agencies are receiving incremental amounts for new program thrusts. There is also that full amount of money which I read out earlier, where Economic Security and Employment Services are kicking in, I think it's \$1 million; and Housing is putting in a considerable amount; and in aggregate, the total amount of money to this area is substantial.

There is an increase in volume, and again this is always the dilemma that a community service, which is developing and trying to meet an emerging need, the need is running way ahead of the ability to meet it. In the development process we're always torn between trying to spread the service equitably and to cover more people or to enrich the people who are actually delivering the service.

That dilemma is there. We try to come down as best we can, in a balance; and again, as I say, it's not that every agency just got three-and-a-half. If they were developing a new program thrust, they would get a share of that incremental money. There were 150,000 new initiatives added on top of the 3.5 percent general increase.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, the bottom line is that the staff needs of crisis centres will be matched

by a 3.5 percent increase in funding by the Provincial Government. This is a Provincial Government which prides itself on affirmative action programs for women and the vast majority of the employees of these crisis centres are indeed women. So they are not keeping up with the status quo in our society; they are in fact going to be cut back.

Where we seem to have more than adequate enough monies to provide very large increases for our civil servants - we see it over and over and over again through this particular department's Estimates - we do not have any money to provide adequate salary levels for those who are working in the field in this most vital area.

I'd like the Minister to tell me why.

HON. M. SMITH: I would like to remind the member or perhaps clarify for the member that the 3.5 percent increase from this department is matched by a similar increase in the per diems that are coming from Employment Security.

The agencies have the responsibility for sorting out how that money gets used. Many of them, because of the commitment to their work, are willing to try to accommodate more people and keep the salaries relatively low. That's common in the development of a lot of community services. We don't dictate to them the rate at which they pay, nor can we guarantee that we can fund all the work they're doing. There are incremental monies available each year; it's grown much faster than other types of services. They do have access to other fund raising bodies and, again, I think that the member really is commenting in a misleading way.

It is not the government that is making that kind of determination. It is important that when you are developing something like Family Conciliation and Family Violence Programs, especially when we're responsible for provincewide delivery and not just one particular shelter, that we do invest some monies in people who are going to plan, educate and develop that service provincewide and build into it some equity and some standards and some planning capacity. I really think that the member has misconstrued the nature of the budget and the way in which the impact is being felt.

Many of these services started out as partly volunteer, and the groups that started them were committed to providing some of that service in that form. Again, if you're going to take particular shelters, I think you have to look both at what their boards are, how they are disbursing the money and you also have to look at the federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements. If they were not quite as low, we would be in a better spot. Then again you can say, well, other government levels have deficits too and what are they going to do? We say, tax reform. It sounds like a squeaky wheel, but really, if in Canada, with our kind of economy and fiscal situation, if we don't address that basic problem, we're going to have worsening situations.

The three provinces to the west of us are reducing expenditures on social services. They are not giving them either a maintenance budget or an increase.

We're getting daily reports from Saskatchewan, from Alberta, from British Columbia, where programs like this are disappearing. We are not a wealthy province

in Manitoba, but we have sustained and intend to sustain a steady development. We are doing it carefully; it's not a rich program. We are trying to see that the different components of the service are getting reasonably funded.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, if I was in Alberta and I was in Saskatchewan, and I was a member of those two Legislatures, I would hold those two departments accountable. But I'm not; I'm a member of the Manitoba Legislature and I'm supposed to be holding this Minister accountable, and that is the purpose of Estimates.

What we have here is a situation in which the Minister of Community Services and the Minister responsible for the Status of Women meet regularly on the steps of the Legislature, express their concerns about violence towards women, as they well should, and then they follow that up with a 3.5 percent grant for staffing of crisis centres. I think that kind of level of funding is inappropriate.

HON. M. SMITH: Again I will repeat, Mr. Chair, there is the 3.5 percent general increase; there is also an increase of per diems from Employment Services and Economic Security; \$450,000 in the per diems and \$853,100 in training through New Careers. All of that is training that the individuals receiving the training would not have got had there not been this program, and the shelters would not have benefited from that training - the Department of Housing, \$70,000 annually; Community Services, \$1,094,600.00.

Again, I don't need, and I don't think our department needs to be told that there is need out there that we aren't meeting, and that people couldn't use a lot more money. We know that in a daily way because our services, by their very nature, most of them have only been developed recently and developed in a very spotty way, here and there where there were volunteers. They have not had decades to develop, such as health care or education. They're in an early development stage, and I submit that the expansion of the programs and the development of the programs has gone on at a pace, in the last few years, that far outpaces the rate of expansion of provincial revenues, to show that we have given it high priority. But to think that it can somehow, you know, that we're going to completely close the gap, is unrealistic.

I don't hear the member commenting on the fact that our total salaries in the departmental end have gone down in this area as we've reorganized and tightened up, you know, and I do think the recognition that in addition to the 3.5 percent increase across the board, we have put this extra money into new initiatives and those shelters are receiving improvement. I'd just like to say that since 1983 there's been a 700 percent increase in the grants.

I have implemented, the salary and benefit and so on, the rates that are currently being applied in Osborne House, Westman Shelter, Norwin House and Aurora House, and they've gone up from what was a \$20 rate is now kicking in at \$28.60 for Osborne and Westman.

The northern ones have a northern differential. They've moved from \$22.10 to \$31.46 a day.

There has been a salary adjustment for size increase. There's been an increase in the administration grant, in the food and household supply shelter under MHRC. They've been dealing, particularly in the North, with increased need.

I guess what point I would like to make is that overall the rates have been moving up, and again, I think the member is drawing an inappropriate conclusion saying that there's more money going into the centre and less out to the field. I don't think the facts bear that out.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, we know that External Agencies are going to get 1.6 million, and then we have a line which says Total Other Expenditures \$1.7 million.

Who's getting this \$1.7 million?

HON. M. SMITH: It's a combination of Operating Expenditures of \$168,000 and Grants to External Agencies of \$1,613,700.00. So they are receiving that money. It's actually an increase of almost \$500,000 to the External Agencies year over year.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Well, then, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure that I'm correct here as I read this page.

We have \$2.1 million being spent by this particular appropriation. We have, as far as I can see, \$1.6 million going to External Agencies that deliver service, and we have \$515,600 being spent by the department to, I guess, direct the External Agencies.

So we now have 32 percent spent by the department, delivering no service, and 68 percent spent by the agencies delivering service. Perhaps that's an inappropriate relationship, Mr. Chairman.

HON. M. SMITH: There is another whole half of this area. That's the Family Conciliation Services that are being funded through this and the Women's Advocacy Programs and the Women's Resource Centres.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I'm confused. I understood that the resource centres fell under External Agencies.

HON. M. SMITH: Perhaps it would clarify if I go through, in some detail, the dollars that come under other than the External Agencies so the member would understand some of the functions.

There are 10 staff in this area. There's the director of the Family Dispute Services, and that person has the responsibility for both the development of the Family Violence programs, the Wife Abuse programs and the Family Conciliation Services in connection with the court.

There's a coordinator of the Family Violence program, in Wife Abuse, and that person is responsible for developing and liaising with all the volunteer committees, assessing the needs for shelters and so on, and meeting with all the groups involved in that.

There's a coordinator for evaluation and training in the area of Family Violence, because one of the real needs, we found, is the need to train both volunteers and staff in the dynamics of abuse and violence and how best to deal with it.

There's a trainer counsellor in the Family Violence area to support that type of training activity.

There's a counsellor trainer in the Women's Advocacy program. This is the service that is given at the Public Safety Building for the people who are going through the courts with regard to violence, giving them personal support, making sure that they get the legal services they need and, in general, just helping them through that very difficult process.

There's a legal advocate under the Women's Advocacy program to help with one of the problems identified earlier that many women get to the point of making a charge and then they don't have the support or the courage in some cases to carry through with the charge. It's a very traumatic and difficult experience. Having someone there as the support and someone who can advise them clearly on their legal rights and on the legal procedure, it's a very important service.

There's a program specialist in the Family Conciliation area - a family conciliation counsellor and two clerical support.

Now these family conciliators are the people who are working in the Family Court to help in mediation in all the family cases. This is an attempt - the husband and wife and the respective children - as to whether they achieve reconciliation or whether they go through with separation. It's an attempt to help them work out all the associated custody and maintenance matters and salvage for each partner some better understanding, insight, and hopefully - particularly when there are children involved - some more cooperative approach to the future. So the type of services delivered by the group in the departmental program are much more diversified than just supporting the external agencies and the Wife Abuse program.

I can understand, the way the information in the Supplementary report is set out, that it's difficult for members to get that amount of detail. We will undertake in next year's Supplementary to try and lay it out in a way that is of a little more assistance. This is the first year we have provided this Supplementary information and although we did our best to compile it in a useful way, I think we will be able to present it in a more comprehensible form next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 4.(e)(1) Family Dispute Services: Salaries—pass; 4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 4.(e)(3) External Agencies—pass.

Resolution 33: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$103,225,000 for Community Services, Child and Family Services, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

Item No. 5.(a)(1) Corrections, Administration: Salaries; 5.(a)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Last year, we had very thorough discussions on the Department of Corrections. It's my intention not to spend that much time on it this year and, hopefully, we'll be able to finish the Estimates today if at all possible. This would certainly be my intention.

Under this particular item, under Operating Costs, last year, we had quite an increase under Other

Expenditures. It was an increase of, I believe, something like about 260 percent and I see that Operating Expenses are the same this year.

I wonder if the Minister can identify what these costs were, this \$180,000.00? For instance, how much were hotel rooms, travelling, and so on?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I wonder if I could just ask the member if he could give me the line again that he's referring to. Other Expenditures appears in the four subsections. Is he referring to (IX) 5.(a)(2)?

MR. A. BROWN: 5.(a)(2).

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, the amounts are the same that we've allocated as last year: \$15,300 for Transportation; \$9,300 for Communication; \$11,500 for Supplies and Services; \$108,900 for Other Operating - it would be phones and utilities and such like and some small contracts with Native groups and capital \$35,000; totalling \$180,000.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 5.(a)(1) Corrections, Administration: Salaries—pass; 5.(a)(2) Other Expenditures—pass.

5.(b)(1) Adult Corrections: Salaries; 5.(b)(2) Other Expenditures; 5.(b)(3) External Agencies and Halfway Houses - the Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: In 1984, we had the Garson Report which was very critical of what was happening at Headingley, at the conditions at Headingley. There were 12 recommendations set forth in this particular report and the Minister at that time, Mr. Evans, accepted all of these recommendations except the one which said that an independent agency should direct the province's jails.

I wonder if the Minister can tell me, have these recommendations, have they been implemented.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, I think we went through that list last year and probably the year before that. I gave detailed accounts of the types of changes we had made and the directions we were moving. Basically, we've carried on with that general approach this past year.

MR. A. BROWN: In that case, Mr. Chairman, then there is, in this particular area where it provides care, rehabilitation programs for inmates of adult correctional institutions. What kind of rehabilitation programs are we carrying out? We know that there's next to no rehabilitation programs carried on at all.

What has been happening in this area? Has anything happened at all?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we have been working very hard to increase the rehabilitative programs. Again, I don't think it's at all accurate to say that there was nothing and that there's nothing now. In fact, there has been a development over time.

In the educational programs in the institutions, we have acquired quite a number of computers and have found that basic literacy, basic skill programs, can be taught via that medium and we found a great interest among the inmates.

Thursday, 21 May, 1987

There's also been a concerted effort to see what type of work activity could carry on within institutions and also what kind of community work could be done on day release. I'm prepared to give you some of the figures, the total hours of work done during the calendar year '86, but I would like to comment first on what has been going on in one of our northern outreach camps at Egg Lake.

Egg Lake is a facility for about 40 inmates on a lake not too far from The Pas. This particular structure, or set of structures, was very old, a bit of a firetrap, and we really thought we would have to demolish it and no longer operate that type of outreach camp where we were in fact quite successful in finding daily work for inmates.

However, by working with Government Services, we did find that we could use the lumber that was being developed at Bannock Point in the Whiteshell and ship it up to Egg Lake; and there, by virtue of finding a local builder who was very interested in working with inmates and who had the particular type of skills that enabled him to take virtually unskilled workers, and by a combination of demonstration and encouragement, used these materials from our own Bannock Point. In fact, they put together a new heating building using wood which can be shifted over to gas when needed; but, basically, most of the time it operates on wood which the inmates cut and then tend the furnace.

They also built a 40-capacity new dormitory. In the process, they learned the skills of concrete pouring; actually it was thought they couldn't do concrete pouring because of course they weren't skilled. That was the one part that was contracted out. It was found that didn't work and in fact had to be taken down and the person we had working with the inmates was able under his guidance to get better quality foundations poured.

I've been up to see the new dormitory and the inmates take a great pride in it. It's a sturdy building. It's made of very practical materials which will stand the hard wear, but it will give certainly a safer and more attractive environment for inmates. The pride they feel in having built it, I'm sure will not only help in their rehabilitation, but that same spirit will be passed on to later inmates.

The second stage of redevelopment is now going on. A recreation-kitchen-dining room section is being developed at right angles to the new dormitory area. So we hope by the end of this year to be able to demolish the old buildings and in fact have a functional prison there.

So that shows what a lot of ingenuity, good will and cooperation between departments can accomplish. Within the institutions, and again there are seven institutions throughout the province, there's been a total of over 350,000 hours of work gone into work within the institution and that is kitchen work, laundry, working on the grounds and so on.

Through Government Services, another almost 70,000 hours of work, doing brush clearing and so on, has been carried out; through the Department of Natural Resources, over 110,000 hours of work; and through the Highways Department over 45,000 hours of work. In addition, community projects totalling almost 27,000 hours of work have been developed.

The inmates have been working very hard on building playground equipment and then go out and install it in various day care or community centre sites. I have

received many letters during the year indicating the appreciation of these community groups for this particular contribution and paying tribute to the inmates themselves for the way in which they've carried out the assignments, but also for the staff who've worked with them in this very valuable type of activity.

With the development, of course, of the Milner Ridge location and the downsizing of Headingley so that there will be more usable space, we look for continued development in the educational, vocational, the overall rehabilitation program.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, it's great if we get some work out of these inmates and, if they go out and do work for the community, I think that is certainly much better than having them sitting around and doing nothing at all.

My question would be, what is the average length of a stay in Headingley at the present time, and how many of these persons would be illiterate?

HON. M. SMITH: Rather than give an average length of stay, it's probably more helpful if I break it into components. A third of the inmates are there for less than 30 days; another third up to 60 days; and the remaining third for considerably more. As you know, it's the two years less a day sentences with some time off for appropriate behaviour in the institution.

With regard to the literacy rate, we don't have a precise measure. The provincial measurements run as high as 20 percent and we get a cross-section of the provincial population, with some skewing to the less literate end. So it would be well over 20 percent. That's using Grade 9 as the standard. There are some other basic measures of literacy that would be much lower, basic inability to read and write. But that's where we found our basic computer programs that do have basic literacy skills. There are programs for them and there's quite an interest among inmates in using those.

We intend to keep working at that type of program, because it's so flexible in terms of how an inmate spends his time. If they can go and take advantage of it, particularly those who acquire a good motivation, they can make quite a lot of progress even during a relatively short stay. So we're working hard at developing that.

Another interesting development has been that we have some educational programs where the modules, in a sense, breaking down a course into manageable chunks. A person can start those modules at Headingley, for example, and then, on release, move into Red River and pick right up. In other words, they're transferable and they lead right into the programs that are developed there. Of course, Red River has been developing a little more flexibility, too, in terms of the modular division of the curriculum.

So that's often quite a rehabilitative line because it gets an inmate charted along a path that offers them something constructive to do on release.

MR. A. BROWN: So the Minister is saying that 60 percent of the inmates are out within 60 days. I don't believe that there is anybody that is being sentenced that ever stays the full two year period on this. Maybe they try to escape or something or other and get another extra charge laid against them. So there certainly would

be nobody staying there for any great length of time where you can really go into a comprehensive rehabilitation program. However, I see this as being a very necessary thing.

Certainly, one of your high problem areas is amongst those inmates that are illiterate, who find it very difficult to obtain work and consequently find themselves getting into trouble with the law and placed in jail.

When I was talking about how many were illiterate, I really meant how many of them do not know how to read or write. Once you know how to read or write, it's possible to train somebody to do, well fairly easily, to do something useful so that he can be placed into a community where, possibly, work could be found for him, job opportunities.

But when you are illiterate, when you don't know how to read or write, it's very difficult to find placements for persons such as this. Then, of course, it becomes very necessary to first of all teach people such as this how to learn how to read and write. This, of course, cannot be done over a period of 60 days.

So I was just wondering, has any thought ever been given, when you have inmates such as this, to continuing their rehabilitation program after such a time as when they have been released from Headingley.

HON. M. SMITH: I think, Mr. Chair, that the member is only reinforcing the wisdom of our choice of ADM in charge of Corrections because we, in fact, do have an educator who has made the educational programming one of his major interests.

The member may be interested to know that the ADM has just returned from delivering a Federal Government workshop on basic literacy and what can be done with education in the prison setting. And that's because of both his interest and expertise and because of some of the initiatives that he's been taking in our prisons.

Again I go back to the type of program that I think holds promise, and that is starting inmates on modular study programs that they can carry on when they leave. It is a bridge to a more constructive path.

We find generally that in terms of numbers of people who are completely illiterate, it's probably down around 5 percent. The figure I was using before was setting a much higher level of functional literacy, but very often people who, for whatever reason, family circumstance or learning disability or some mismatch with the school, who haven't acquired literacy skills by the time they are adult, very often the frustration that that generates does tend to lead them down the path of more anti-social and violent behaviour. So anything we can do for younger ones to prevent that or to offer a new path, a new way of expressing themselves and integrating into a community is well worthwhile.

It is an area, certainly, we hope to continue to work on. The Milner Ridge Centre, which will take a little while to get ready for full occupancy, should offer a much wider range of training opportunities, rehabilitation opportunities.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I understand that at Milner Ridge Centre, you're going to have the very short-term inmates staying over there. Once again it's going to make it that much more difficult to come up

with a rehabilitation program which is going to be meaningful.

While we're on Milner Ridge, I wonder was a cost analysis done to see if it was cheaper to expand the facilities at Headingley to reduce overcrowding, rather than the costs, both in capital spending and operating costs, associated with Milner Ridge?

HON. M. SMITH: The answer to the second question is yes. In answer to the first question, the people who will be at Milner Ridge will not be the shortest stay, they'll probably be more the middle-to-longer stay. All provincial prisons of course are relatively short stays but the Milner Ridge will accommodate the lower security requirement inmates that won't necessarily be the ones under 30 days.

It could well be the 30 to 60 or the 60 and over and again, very often with rehabilitation programs, you need a certain amount of time and continuity but it's often those first steps and experience of success in a skill or work that often can motivate someone to make a transition to carrying on that type of training when they leave. That is our hope, really - to try and have a bit of an adult re-entry program along with the necessary servicing time.

MR. A. BROWN: I wonder if the Minister can tell us what kind of an agreement was made between the Provincial Government and the Federal Government regarding Milner Ridge as far as cost-sharing is concerned. I believe that the initial cost for the province is very little, but is the province picking up the cost of running the operation from then on, or is there going to be cost-sharing from the Federal Government? Can the Minister tell me what kind of agreement was entered into with the Federal Government?

HON. M. SMITH: There is some increased cost in adapting the site. There's some changes that need to be done in the heating system. There is a certain amount of training and there will be some increased operating costs because the type of program offered will be somewhat different.

In negotiating with the Federal Government, they agreed to transfer the land as it is and the property basically for a dollar, although I only had 25 cents in my pocket on the day we made the exchange, and the Federal Minister of Health and Welfare agreed to accept that as a best effort contribution.

There was also, in recognition of the fact that there would be some increased costs accruing to the Provincial Government and that it was not a decision that we could quickly make, they did agree to sign a \$3.045 million dollar Exchange of Services Agreement. That is their share of the contribution and it represents a purchase in advance, as it were, of 21 spaces for federal prisoners. This would represent the capital cost of \$145,000 per space.

When and as they ask us to house federal prisoners, they would then assume the per diem costs for each prisoner.

There was also a firetruck and a few other assets from surplus national defence inventory that were useful to us and they were agreed to as well. So that was the basic agreement.

MR. A. BROWN: What about staffing? Is the staff that is presently operating out of Headingley, will they be asked to also go and look after Milner Ridge? I suppose additional staff would have to be hired, or is this going to be a separate staff out there totally, staff that is not going to be involved with Headingley?

HON. M. SMITH: There will be about 65 permanent jobs at Milner Ridge and some of those will represent a transfer from Headingley. Again, no one will be coerced into transferring, but there will be an availability of transfer for those who wish and who qualify. There will also be some local hiring.

The reduction in staffing at Headingley can occur gradually as we reduce the total numbers at Headingley.

MR. A. BROWN: The Minister made a statement a while back that, as a result of Milner Ridge happening this year, she would be unable to continue with the Remand Centre, which, of course, I would say ought to be the top priority in this particular Department of Corrections.

The overcrowding and the intolerable situation at the Remand Centre needs to be addressed.

What assurance can we get from this Minister that she is going to address that particular problem? We have now, ever since 1983, heard that this was going to happen. I know that the previous Minister, under the previous administration, was working on this. Where is the Minister with this program at the present time?

HON. M. SMITH: It's true that the Remand Centre was our No. 1 priority. It was at the behest of the Federal Government that we looked at the Milner Ridge. It was not our top priority. However, they had a certain timing problem and they were willing to assist us with the capital cost and a bit of the ongoing operating.

So we did believe that weighing all the costs and benefits, that it was to the advantage of the Province of Manitoba to go along with that agreement.

With regard to the Remand Centre, there's \$500,000 in this year's Government Services budget to complete the design and architectural drawings for the centre. As the member knows, there is a site that has been chosen right to the east of the new Law Courts. In fact, the underground tunnel was included in the original design of the Law Courts. Again, as is the practice, Capital decisions are made year-by-year in the Estimates preparation, but everything will be ready to move with the completion of the architectural and design drawings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since we're on the Remand Centre, can the Minister tell us if it is anticipated that we will find the Remand Centre in the Capital construction budget for '88-89?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, it's premature for me, as part of a Cabinet that goes through Estimates and sets a collegial budget, to make any such prediction or announcement. Naturally, I would like to see it there.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I'd like to return to the education area for our inmates for just a few minutes. The Minister,

Mr. Chairman, made reference to a number of hours of work performed both in the institution and outside the institution by our inmates. Are there, in fact, wages paid to the inmates for these hours of work, and what are they?

HON. M. SMITH: They are in fact paid more like an incentive-type payment. It's not equivalent to a full wage but, of course, they do receive board and room.

The wage or the daily payment ranges from \$1.90 to \$5.00; \$1.90 for work in the institution, up to \$5.00 for work performed outside the institution.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister tell me, Mr. Chairman, if similar wage rates are paid to those who are undertaking a further upgrading of their education?

HON. M. SMITH: There is no incentive payment for those doing education programs, but some individuals could be doing both. In other words, they would spend some part of the day perhaps working in the kitchen, and another part of the day on their educational program.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the Minister is aware of the fact that many of the inmates like to have the limited amount of funds that they get from these daily programs, because it does indeed provide them with the extras, some of which like cigarettes I would like to think they could do without, but unfortunately that seems to be one of the things which they require the most of. Tragically, by trying to enrol them then in an education program, we deny them that funding which they would get by working in the kitchen or working elsewhere.

Is there any consideration being given at this time to promoting additional education programs by paying the same kind of incentive programs for upgrading of skills in education as is paid for work done within and without of the institution?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, it is one of the issues that is being reviewed both federally and provincially. No jurisdiction is currently doing it. There are some questions as to whether it's appropriate or whether the motivation for education should be trying to get people to think ahead and work on their own behalf. But it is something under active consideration, and I'd be interested in hearing whether members think it's a good idea. Obviously the Member for River Heights does think it is.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister - well, I'll change the order of that question. I was surprised when the Minister said that the illiteracy rate was perhaps only 5 percent above the average rate. It's my understanding that at Stony Mountain the illiteracy rate using Grade 8 is as high as 55 percent of the inmates within that institution.

Can the Minister explain why it seems to be so much less at Headingley and other provincial corrections institutions?

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we don't have a precise measure. We do know that 20 percent of the Manitoban

population could be deemed illiterate by a Grade 9 functional level standard.

We have a cross-section with some skewing to the lower end, so we can anticipate that - and I think our experience bears it out - our numbers would be certainly higher than 20 percent. Now whether they would go up as high as 55, whether there's a certain skewing in a federal longer term, I don't know if it takes more illiteracy to get more in trouble with the law or less. I'm being facetious in a way, but we don't have precise measures.

Again, it's something that might, in the correctional institution in the future, be part of the in-take procedure, to try to identify what the literacy level is and try to get appropriate programming. I guess that would be the dream.

The fact that we haven't had very many programs in the past and that we are trying to experiment with introducing some, I think, is indicative of our agreement. If more could be done on these basic literacy issues when you do have a confined population, and the idleness is often one of the worst curses of that period in a correctional institution, it would be a good idea. I agree that we would like to get a more accurate fix on this particular issue and see what could be done.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Assistant Deputy Minister on his initiatives that he's taken in the field of education within our provincial corrections, because I think it's absolutely essential. I would certainly lend my support and that of my party to any initiative which would encourage the payment of inmates to take upgrading programs, simply because I know that the very nature of the fact that they're in the institution has often meant they haven't done much thinking about the long-term future, and therefore education is not a very high priority with them.

But I'd like to go into the area of Milner Ridge. Can the Minister tell me when it appears that Milner Ridge will be up and operating?

HON. M. SMITH: The Milner Ridge will not be fully operational until September '88. The bulk of the hiring and training will be occurring next year. This year, there will be Headingley inmates who will be moved out to Bannock Point, and then they will spend their days working on the upgrading and heating system changes that are required at Milner Ridge. It's again a bit of a slow buildup, but it's part of the overall tightness of resources in the correctional facilities.

We have had somewhat of an increase in numbers of inmates. We've had some issues that we've had to deal with with our correctional staff, so we aren't able to move as quickly as we would like. It's a matter of phasing the incremental costs because there will be some with the Milner Ridge opening.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, one of the purposes, as I understand it, to open Milner Ridge was to reduce the number of beds at Headingley and thereby allow the introduction of new programs at the Headingley institution.

How many beds will Milner Ridge have, and what new programs will or are anticipated to be put into place at Headingley as a result?

HON. M. SMITH: When it is fully operational, there should be about 150, so we expect a downscaling at Headingley of approximately that number. The site is on a section of land in quite a wooded area, so there'd be quite a lot of just ordinary upkeep jobs that can be done.

There is a garage. There are workshops and storage buildings and recreational and sports facilities. The workshops comprise trades, mechanical, carpentry and electrical, so some skill development can occur in that area. There is good classroom space and all for lifeskills-type programs, some academic and vocational. We also hope to develop community work and, of course, the basic maintenance of the facilities.

So there will be quite a wide range of opportunity. There'll be the usual external work project sites with highways, hydro line clearing and forestry work. So it's going to be not only the particular skills and work opportunities are there, but the very relationship of the staff to the inmates in that more normalized setting will undergo a significant change. It's much more like living in a small town and developing with the recreational opportunities and so on. I suppose schools of thought could vary and say, well, aren't you spoiling them by letting them have a good time?

One of the real problems you find with a lot of the inmate population, in addition to not having literacy skills or having employment related skills, many of them have very few ways of using their leisure time constructively and if they can acquire a little skill - there's a very small little, a couple of sheets of ice for curling and there's a small bowling alley - if they can acquire some of those leisure time skills and interests, it should be a direct assistance to them in charting a crime-free life when they depart.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: And I presume that the programs that she was referring to refer to Milner Ridge. Could we now deal, perhaps, with what new programs could be made available at Headingley as a result of the downsizing of that institution?

HON. M. SMITH: One of the big inhibitors to developing more activity within Headingley has been the fact that the recreational space is actually taken up with beds. With the downsizing of the inmate numbers, we will, in fact, recover some of the recreational space and program space. We can therefore operate many of the same programs that we would offer at Milner Ridge: lifeskills programs, various educational programs, and some of the small craft activities like toy repair. Currently, if that is to be done, the inmates have to be off-site and therefore it's a restricted number who have the off-site privileges. With the recovery of the space we will be able to offer a much wider number of inmates those kind of constructive activities.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister provide me with some detail on the External Agency grants which will be granted for 1987-88?

HON. M. SMITH: The John Howard Society, \$166,100; the Elizabeth Fry Society, \$62,700; the Native Clan Organization, \$68,200; Manitoba Society of Criminology, \$6,500; Open Circle, \$4,400.00. Ma Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata

Centre is not receiving a grant this year; \$45,300 for services at The Pas that the Native Clan was delivering - in other words, the summary organization of service delivery.

Halfway houses, \$187,700.00 There is the United Church Halfway House at \$47,500; the Native Clan Halfway House at \$108,600; X-Kalay, \$26,400; and the Salvation Army, \$4,200; and Other, \$1,000.00.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, am I, then, to congratulate the Minister for returning the funding to the Elizabeth Fry Society? If I am, then congratulations, Madam Minister, for returning the funding to the Elizabeth Fry Society, and a recognition of their very valuable work within the community.

If the Minister would like to have time to comment and congratulate herself, we will do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 5.(b)(1) Adult Corrections: Salaries—pass; 5.(b)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(b)(3) External Agencies and Halfway Houses—pass.

Item No. 5.(c)(1) Correctional Youth Centres: Salaries; 5.(c)(2) Other Expenditures - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: I see that there is a substantial increase in salaries over the year. Can the Minister explain?

HON. M. SMITH: In addition to the general salary increase, increments in salary adjustments of \$247,100, there was an adjustment in the staff turnover provision. Our actual experience of turnover is very low and in prior years we had used the government average for a staff turnover figure, a notional amount; in fact, our experience was that we had very little turnover, so we've added in \$183,900.00.

MR. A. BROWN: Can the Minister give me the rate of capacity of the Youth Centre, and the rate of capacity for the Agassiz Centre, and what the present populations are?

HON. M. SMITH: Our youth centres are full. We have been experiencing a lot of unease or difficulty with The Young Offenders Act, the intention of which was to have more of a community option for young offenders, rather than incarceration but, in fact, the way it has worked out in practice has often gone in the other direction. There's been quite a lot of discussion at federal-provincial conferences, one of which is coming up shortly, where we're going to review how that act is working out in practice and see whether there are some changes, whether it's a matter of judicial interpretation or whether it's a matter of the actual terminology in the act.

The Manitoba Youth Centre has a capacity of 150 and it is operating at about that level. In prior years, we had actually managed to get our Youth Centre population down below 100 by virtue of developing community options and, in a sense, not just filling a centre because it was there, although it is, in terms of bricks and mortar, one of the more attractive correctional centres.

As I say, our experience with the court, the fallout from the court system with the new act, is that we are getting great increases in youths.

Agassiz, we aim at keeping it around 90. It's currently around 96. It is running above our desired capacity. To a certain extent - well really, to a large extent - we don't have a choice in terms of the volume of young people that come to us through the court system. It's the judges that make that determination. We've developed open custody as well as secure custody. That is one of the options available to the judges as well as community alternatives.

We're quite pleased with that program although again, the numbers are higher than we anticipated so it is a concern to us and we're doing what we can, both with dialogue with the local judiciary and also with the appropriate federal department.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, I see an extremely high use of overtime, especially in the Adult Corrections. Again, I see overtime at the Youth Centres. Can the Minister tell me why, why do we have to have so much overtime? Overtime is expensive as anybody knows who has ever been involved with any business or whatever. You pay double. You pay a lot more money for overtime than you do for your regular wages. So why do we have to have so much overtime?

HON. M. SMITH: The total number of staff required is dependent on the number of persons we have in a centre at any particular time. We are not able to either control or completely accurately make that prediction. So we ensure that there is enough staff present depending on the number of inmates but we do put part of our planned numbers into the overtime side so that flexibility is there.

We, too, would like to get to the point of a little more predictability and a reduction in the overtime, but on the other hand we are committed to having adequate staffing, given the number of inmates. We do carry out regular discussions with the Attorney-General's Department and the judiciary to the extent that we are able to get an understanding of why those increased numbers are occurring, and whether there are either diversions or other things that could be done.

One of the factors that is affecting Manitoba is that both Federal and Provincial Governments - but Provincial Government particularly, has made a real thrust in the wife abuse and child abuse area. That means we are being somewhat more hawkish in terms of charging people who are guilty of these crimes. Of course, that has its carryover in that we do get an increase.

We have also been fairly aggressive, as has the Federal Government, on drinking-related crimes so that one of the fallouts of taking a good move in one direction is that we do get a build-up of numbers on the other end. But we do evaluate and try to influence that volume to the greatest extent we can, but it's not completely within Corrections' control.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for River Heights.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: I'm not sure whether it's under Correctional Youth Centres or under Community Corrections. Where would I find open custody homes?

HON. M. SMITH: There is a complex answer in that some of the dollars show up under Item (c) and some

under (d). The ones that are under (c), some are being held with an open custody arrangement but in a centre, so that they are not locked in. They can come and go but they are physically located in a centre. The ones that are actually in the community would show up under (d), the Separate Residence.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 5.(c)—pass; 5.(c)(1)—pass; 5.(c)(2)—pass.

5.(d)(1) - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have heard that we're experiencing some difficulty in Community Corrections. Can the Minister tell me how successful the programs are that she has implemented in this area?

HON. M. SMITH: I enjoy these questions, Mr. Chair, in the sense that my critic is suggesting we're having difficulty, but he's not suggesting where it is or what it is.

The Community Corrections Services are expanding. It's an area, a thrust, that we're very proud of the development and we also have hopes that it will have a double effect; one, give a more meaningful sentence or involvement with the law that it sort of results in a more constructive resolution for the individual and at the same time draws in many more community people who understand the nature of offenders against the law and also start to not only support them in staying on the right side of the law but hopefully start to assist with some of the preventive work in the communities.

We have a probational directorate that has 19.5 people working. We have a fine option community service order program with seven people. We have Winnipeg offices or units - nine of them, that have the probation officers and specialists - 76 persons. Then in the rural regions there are 57 for a total of 159. There has been a great deal of activity in this area in developing community committees as well, both for juveniles and for adults.

We have been working particularly hard also with the Native communities to see whether this is a fruitful direction for them to go, and we have quite a few involved.

During this past year, we have increased the number of Community Justice Committees from 15 to 29. So although I suppose there are always going to be difficulties in this area, our experience is that the development of community networks and justice committees, people who interest themselves in the crime and also in the individual offenders, and start to help them find their way through to a better lifestyle is definitely a cost-effective and valuable way to go.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister tell me how many open-custody homes we now have in Manitoba; what's the age range that they are attempting to deal with; and what kind of program do we have for those young people in these open-custody homes?

HON. M. SMITH: There are 44 open-custody homes in operation. The use are of the age range of 12 to 16. We do not, as a rule, put 17- and 18-year-olds into

the open-custody homes. The program is very much based on the individual need. It would have, from an educational component or a work experience component and life skill support in selected cases, there may be an alcohol-drug abuse program.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Yes, can the Minister tell me what the per diem is for those youngsters in this kind of custody?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: There's a fairly wide range based on the need of the individual. The range is from \$27 to \$55.00.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister tell me what kind of supervision is provided for these youngsters in this kind of accommodation?

HON. M. SMITH: The supervision is a 24-hour supervision. The relationship in the home would be similar to that with foster parents. The homes themselves are supervised by the probation worker in the area. The young person must have a pass when they leave the home, and again, if they are not able to function within these supervisory limits, then they would have to return to closed custody. So there is consequence for non-compliance. In fact, our experience with open custody has been very good.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Can the Minister tell me if the placement, as much as possible, is done to keep the young person within their community? So, for example, if it was a young offender in River Heights, then that young offender would end up in a River Heights' home, in order to be able to continue contacts with the community - hopefully, the positive ones - and the school environment.

HON. M. SMITH: That's certainly the intention. Again, we've had to build this program from scratch, so it's a question of being able to develop enough homes. We've had a great thrust this past year, in working in the North, because too often young people are brought down out of the North into a very different environment, and we feel that if we could develop more open custody alternatives in their own communities that that would be a much better way to deliver the service.

MRS. S. CARSTAIRS: Just one final question, Mr. Chairman.

At the bottom of page 80 in sub-appropriation 5.(d) in the Supplementary Estimates, it says that there was six SY's reduction abolished due to the completion of "Working Together." What was accomplished by this Working Together project, and how much did it cost?

HON. M. SMITH: This was a short-term grant, co-sponsored by Federal and Provincial Governments. It was a two-year initiative which is now terminated. The individuals who were responsible for developing the justice committees, which we've said now number 29, and there are another 15 that are under development; about 300 volunteers have been drawn into the existing

Thursday, 21 May, 1987

committees and another 150 to 200 into new committees.

There are also another 300 volunteers working in various other community corrections facilities. We have about 20 fee-for-service contracts, whereby Indian bands and other community groups are involved in delivering community correctional services. There are about 10 contracts with individual fee-for-service workers, most of them working in isolated communities.

The Working Together group have also been active in helping us to develop open-custody homes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 5.(d)(1) Community Corrections, Salaries—pass; 5.(d)(2) Other Expenditures—pass; 5.(d)(3) Program Development—pass.

Resolution No. 34: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty, a sum not exceeding \$36,500,500 for Community Services, Corrections, for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1988—pass.

We are now returning to Item No. 1.(a) relating to the Minister's Salary - the Member for Rhineland.

MR. A. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, we have reviewed the Estimates of the Minister's Department of Community Services and Corrections, and I must say, Mr. Chairman, that I am very disappointed in the Minister's reaction to the damning criticism as has been outlined by the Opposition and the various reports that have been tabled recently.

Mr. Chairman, the Child Abuse Report, the Ombudsman's Report, the Child Abuse Registry Report and the report dealing with the death of Daniel Felix all confirm the concerns that we have expressed for a number of years. The Minister is not giving the leadership and the direction which is required if her department is to operate effectively and efficiently.

Mr. Chairman, we, the Opposition, have expressed our concern regarding Community Social Services, especially concern about the Manitoba Developmental Centre: overcrowding, understaffing, lack of an updated physical facility. All of these concerns lead to an intolerable situation.

The Minister must review her desire to move all handicapped out of the institutions and place them in the community. The tragic events leading to the death of Mitch Gowler makes it imperative that an immediate review and change be made in policy. This is not being done, Mr. Chairman. The Minister hasn't even called for an inquest into the death - an absolute lack of responsibility, Mr. Chairman. The Minister does not learn from tragic experiences; neither does she heed the criticism that she has been subjected to by press, by reports, by Opposition and by persons from within the community.

In the area of Child and Family Services, child care, as a percentage of the total provincial Budget, has decreased from 2.03 percent in 1980-81 to 1.82 percent in 1986-87; yet administration has increased 120.76 percent during that same period of time.

In spite of this increase in administration, we see no improvement in the administration of this department, no uniform standards, no direction from the Minister - a waste of time and money because of lack of placement for children who require that service.

All of these things contribute, Mr. Chairman, to an absolutely inefficient system that is unable to provide for the needs of children. This is why the report on matters relating to the system dealing with child abuse in Winnipeg is so critical of the Minister and came up with 52 recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, all the Minister is required to do is give sound common-sense direction, provide uniform standards, provide proper training and job descriptions, and she will find that much would have been accomplished, but we will not get that kind of leadership from this Minister.

Mr. Chairman, every area in this Minister's department is in trouble and the problems are increasing rather than decreasing - increasing, Mr. Chairman, to the stage where proper placements of children cannot be made. Children are placed into situations that are dangerous to their lives.

Mr. Chairman, we have been very patient with this Minister, but her department, under her guidance, is deteriorating to the state where we cannot be tolerant anymore. The Premier should relieve this Minister of her responsibilities immediately so that a start in rectifying the damage done to this department can begin.

Mr. Chairman, I move, seconded by the Member for Kirkfield Park, that this Minister's Salary be reduced to \$1.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to our Rule 55.(1), such a motion must be in writing.

The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: Mr. Chair, we've had a really good go at Community Services. It rather reminds me of the old-fashioned spring cleaning that I used to carry out at home. We've shaken and beaten all the rugs, dusted the pictures, and vacuumed away the dust and cobwebs. And what do we see? What we see is a functioning, evolving, flexible house of social services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Minister, there is a motion on the floor. I have to put the motion and then we debate the motion.

MOTION presented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. M. SMITH: What we have is a functioning, evolving and flexible house of social services; simply put, a system that is in touch with and operating in touch with the community it serves. Social services' value and continued healthy existence are solidly based and assured.

Just as important, we have social services in Manitoba that acknowledge and are built for change. Ours is not a fixed, rigid system; nor is it based on the government doing everything from the top down. Instead, the system is evolving. It's constantly developing.

I think members opposite aren't happy when they see a thing change. They can't figure out what was wrong; why should we change it? We believe it should change. We think the role of government is to work with the community, with the community organizations,

not to impose solutions on them or control the services without reference to their wishes, to the demand or the need.

The result is that we have a social services system based on partnership with the community. Services are operated, planned and developed by the government, a wide range of community organizations and a large number of enthusiastic individual volunteers. It is not a simple system.

I'm very pleased to announce that the numerous organizations that are partners in our Manitoba social services system will receive over \$45 million in operating and support grants for the 1987-88 fiscal year. Included are social service organizations, Child and Family Services Agencies, child care institutions, community residences for mentally handicapped Manitobans, workshops, advocacy bodies, organizations assisting persons in correctional institutions, or those who have just been released, Native friendship centres, and other organizations.

I'd like to pay tribute to the high level of service and dedication to service that these organizations demonstrate. The healthy condition of our services and programs owes much to their work in the community, and we look forward to a continued cordial, cooperative relationship with them.

Our services are based on the fundamental operating principle that there should be a coherent range of services available to Manitobans. This spectrum will include an option for intervention where necessary, but will strive, wherever possible, for the least restrictive method of service operation.

As an example, under The Young Offenders Act, we make offenders accountable to the community for their actions, require them to accept responsibility for offences, but at the same time accepting responsibility is not undertaken solely through a stay in an institution. Our youth correctional services emphasize community-based and directed alternative measures to incarceration, fitting the resolution of the offence to the needs of the individual offender.

Another key principle is acting on our belief that services should assist and support people in functioning to their maximum capacity in the community. An important example is Welcome Home.

Welcome Home is a success. It's an example of how the community can accommodate people with different needs and enable them to live and work with a considerable degree of independence and dignity. Second, it's an illustration of what results when government and communities work together and lay the way for the services that are basic to Welcome Home.

Welcome Home is a program which downsizes institutions. It does not eliminate them as members opposite are want to suggest and to plant the rumour. It builds up the programs in the institutions and funds those who are at risk in the community.

The program is very well received throughout the province. I have several touching letters from families where sons and daughters are now living near home and are with their families at Christmas and throughout the year. In fact, Welcome Home, from the very start, has had three integral thrusts: the reduction of residents in institutions through their transfer to the community; the preparation and implementation of

community-support services geared to the individual needs of persons brought into the community; and for individuals in the community to remain there. All these have resulted and are being carried out as planned and promised and in the ways we had agreed to with interested community and parent organizations.

We are overcoming decades of overdependence on institutions and institution-oriented services in the development of Welcome Home. Institutional care will remain - and I repeat as I have for four years but I have not yet been heard by the Opposition - institutional care will remain as an option but it will be one of the range of services for the mentally handicapped that my department has developed and continues to develop in cooperation with the community.

The reorganization of Child and Family Services is another major illustration of the interdependence of government and community; also, how we have fulfilled our responsibility to show leadership and account for our actions to Manitobans. Starting with the demand from the Native community that we account to them for what had happened to their children and stop placing them for adoption outside Manitoba, we proceeded working with Manitobans to put into place a system of Child and Family Services Agencies that is more responsive to the community.

The agencies operate under legislation that prescribes a community orientation as well as accountability to the community. The reorganization has been . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: With due respect, I'd like to remind the Minister, because our new rule says time of adjournment is six, if six arrives and we are still in debate, we have to adjourn the committee so that we can be in the House. Only the House can grant leave to continue the debate.

HON. M. SMITH: The reorganization has been very beneficial to Manitoba. It has helped us become much more aware of the importance of our Child and Family Services system. The development of our new agencies has greatly increased the participation of the community in Child and Family Services through volunteering and specific service areas, through acting as foster parents, through serving on boards and committees.

The agencies accept the need to be accountable and both government and agencies working together are developing the areas in which each side will operate.

This development of rules and responsibilities has also aided in another area: the agencies acceptance of standards for services and procedures. We have been able to work with the agencies without disturbing their autonomy and they accept that we have a role to play in this vital area.

Our initiatives have ensured an injection of much needed resources into the Child and Family Services system and the direction we have taken has been backed by the community and by important studies like that done by Dr. Sigurdson and Professor Reid.

They also show us that we have only just started our work in a number of major areas and, Mr. Chair, if there is one message I can leave with the House, it is that Community Services and Child and Family Services, services to the disabled, are not in a mature and fully developed state. They are in a development state and we accept the recommendations for the future.

We are deeply concerned about the critical problems of family violence in general and child abuse in particular. My department has worked hard internally and with Manitobans to build up appropriate services, achieve a better response system and develop preventive measures.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time being six o'clock, committee rise.

Call in the Speaker.

IN SESSION

The Committee of Supply adopted certain resolutions, reported same and asked leave to sit again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, C. Santos: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. D. SCOTT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Thompson, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hour being 6:00 p.m., the House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10:00 p.m. (Friday)