



**First Session — Thirty-Fourth Legislature**  
of the  
**Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**

**DEBATES**  
and  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
**(HANSARD)**

37 Elizabeth II

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**MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**Thirty-Fourth Legislature**

**Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation**

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PARTY
<b>ALCOCK, Reg</b>	Osborne	LIBERAL
<b>ANGUS, John</b>	St. Norbert	LIBERAL
<b>ASHTON, Steve</b>	Thompson	NDP
<b>BURRELL, Parker</b>	Swan River	PC
<b>CARR, James</b>	Fort Rouge	LIBERAL
<b>CARSTAIRS, Sharon</b>	River Heights	LIBERAL
<b>CHARLES, Gwen</b>	Selkirk	LIBERAL
<b>CHEEMA, Gulzar</b>	Kildonan	LIBERAL
<b>CHORNOPYSKI, William</b>	Burrows	LIBERAL
<b>CONNERY, Edward Hon.</b>	Portage la Prairie	PC
<b>COWAN, Jay</b>	Churchill	NDP
<b>CUMMINGS, Glen, Hon.</b>	Ste. Rose du Lac	PC
<b>DERKACH, Leonard, Hon.</b>	Roblin-Russell	PC
<b>DOER, Gary</b>	Concordia	NDP
<b>DOWNEY, James Hon.</b>	Arthur	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Albert, Hon.</b>	Emerson	PC
<b>DRIEDGER, Herold, L.</b>	Niakwa	LIBERAL
<b>DUCHARME, Gerald, Hon.</b>	Riel	PC
<b>EDWARDS, Paul</b>	St. James	LIBERAL
<b>ENNS, Harry</b>	Lakeside	PC
<b>ERNST, Jim, Hon.</b>	Charleswood	PC
<b>EVANS, Laurie</b>	Fort Garry	LIBERAL
<b>EVANS, Leonard</b>	Brandon East	NDP
<b>FILMON, Gary, Hon.</b>	Tuxedo	PC
<b>FINDLAY, Glen Hon.</b>	Virden	PC
<b>GAUDRY, Neil</b>	St. Boniface	LIBERAL
<b>GILLESHAMMER, Harold</b>	Minnedosa	PC
<b>GRAY, Avis</b>	Ellice	LIBERAL
<b>HAMMOND, Gerrie</b>	Kirkfield Park	PC
<b>HARAPIAK, Harry</b>	The Pas	NDP
<b>HARPER, Elijah</b>	Rupertsland	NDP
<b>HELWER, Edward R.</b>	Gimli	PC
<b>HEMPHILL, Maureen</b>	Logan	NDP
<b>KOZAK, Richard, J.</b>	Transcona	LIBERAL
<b>LAMOUREUX, Kevin, M.</b>	Inkster	LIBERAL
<b>MALOWAY, Jim</b>	Elmwood	NDP
<b>MANDRAKE, Ed</b>	Assiniboia	LIBERAL
<b>MANNES, Clayton, Hon.</b>	Morris	PC
<b>McCRAE, James Hon.</b>	Brandon West	PC
<b>MINENKO, Mark</b>	Seven Oaks	LIBERAL
<b>MITCHELSON, Bonnie, Hon.</b>	River East	PC
<b>NEUFELD, Harold, Hon.</b>	Rossmere	PC
<b>OLESON, Charlotte Hon.</b>	Gladstone	PC
<b>ORCHARD, Donald Hon.</b>	Pembina	PC
<b>PANKRATZ, Helmut</b>	La Verendrye	PC
<b>PATTERSON, Allan</b>	Radisson	LIBERAL
<b>PENNER, Jack, Hon.</b>	Rhineland	PC
<b>PLOHMAN, John</b>	Dauphin	NDP
<b>PRAZNIK, Darren</b>	Lac du Bonnet	PC
<b>ROCAN, Denis, Hon.</b>	Turtle Mountain	PC
<b>ROCH, Gilles</b>	Springfield	LIBERAL
<b>ROSE, Bob</b>	St. Vital	LIBERAL
<b>STORIE, Jerry</b>	Flin Flon	NDP
<b>TAYLOR, Harold</b>	Wolseley	LIBERAL
<b>URUSKI, Bill</b>	Interlake	NDP
<b>WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy</b>	St. Johns	NDP
<b>YEO, Iva</b>	Sturgeon Creek	LIBERAL

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, October 3, 1988.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

## PRAYERS

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### McEwen Building Reopening

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** My question is for the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). The psychiatry wing at St. Boniface Hospital has been closed for renovation for the last few months and, when it closed, the number of beds for psychiatric patients in Manitoba was reduced to 46.

This had caused serious problems for other hospitals. For example, the shortage of psychiatry beds has resulted on a number of occasions at Health Sciences Centre where a suicidal patient had to stay in the Observation Unit for at least two days.

My question is for the Minister of Health. When will the McEwen Building reopen?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I want to thank my honourable friend for the question regarding the supply of acute care psychiatric beds in our community and teaching hospitals. Now, as all Manitobans know and certainly as all Members of this House know, the acute care psychiatric bed situation was extremely critical this summer with the closing of the McEwen Building.

A week ago Friday, I met with the heads of psychiatry from the teaching and community hospitals to discuss in general terms the summer's experience because we had gone through a summer of need with reduced bed numbers and hopefully some of the lessons learned, the initiatives taken during the summer, will prove beneficial over the long haul.

I want to take this opportunity to offer, on behalf of the Government and certainly the Legislature and indeed Manitobans, a sincere thank you to those psychiatrists and heads of psychiatry working in the teaching hospitals, the community services hospitals, for their very dedicated cooperation over the summer months to bring us through a very trying period of time.

\* (1335)

**Mr. Cheema:** My question has still not been answered. My supplementary, again to the same Minister, when the McEwen Building was under renovation, there were only two beds at St. Boniface Hospital for these patients. These beds are on a medical floor on an open area, and these beds cannot accommodate patients who are certified, who are suicidal, or those patients who are violent.

My question is this: is this situation acceptable to this Minister and, secondly, what was the conclusion of his discussion with the various head of departments last Friday?

**Mr. Orchard:** I think it is fair to say in answer to my honourable friend's question that the temporary circumstances that were used by both the teaching and the community hospitals to get us through a difficult period of time with the renovations of the McEwen Building were temporary, and certainly over the long run would not be the kind of delivery program that we would rely on. But clearly, circumstances were not such that we had too many options. That is why the cooperation of the psychiatrists, the head of psychiatry and the community hospital psychiatrists was so important to get us over that summer period.

With the renovations nearing completion, it is expected that very shortly the McEwen Building will be reopened and in service with its bed compliment available once again to providing acute care psychiatric beds.

## Permanent Closure

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** My supplementary again to the same Minister, in the last election campaign, this Government promised that there will be no bed closures, and that was the end of the story. Will the Minister tell us today if he is considering the permanent closure of these 46 beds at St. Boniface Hospital?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** No.

## Psychiatrists Shortage

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** With a new question to the same Minister, mental health in Manitoba is in a sorry state, and the Minister should be aware of that. Health Sciences Centre has been without a Chairman of Psychiatry for the last four years, but more of a concern to Manitoba is the fact that a patient who was violent, a patient who was schizophrenic was at St. Boniface in the emergency room for five days because of lack of beds. That incidence just occurred last week.

My question is to the Minister: will he tell us if Manitoba is still short of 38 psychiatrists?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** I am somewhat troubled by my honourable friend's questions. Certainly, with the closing of the McEwen Building, there were circumstances in terms of a number of examples where unusual treatment and unusual admittance circumstances had to be undertaken because we simply had 56 beds closed for renovations. That led to circumstances which I believe anyone in the community of the teaching hospitals would not have

considered to be optimum circumstances. However, as I said earlier on, the cooperation between the hospitals, between the heads of psychiatry got us through with considerable personal effort and sacrifice on their parts, and their staff's part to which we all owe them thanks.

Mr. Speaker, the circumstances were not ideal. The method of problem resolution was not the normal because they simply did not have their normal complement of acute care beds. We did with a lot of cooperation get through the summer months. Certainly, circumstances of that were unusual because of the closure ought not to be repeated with the opening of the renovated McEwen Building.

\* (1340)

### **Brandon Mental Health Centre Staffing**

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** My supplementary question again to the same Minister, can the Minister tell us how many psychiatrists are practising at the Brandon Mental Health Centre—that is the 300 bed facility?

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** The answer to the question I think my honourable friend already knows. We have no permanent psychiatrists at Brandon Mental Centre. A circumstance which has existed during the time that my honourable friends were in Government previous to that for periods of time whilst the Lyon Government was in office, previous to that while the Schreyer Government was in office, previous to that whilst the Weir Government was office, previous to that while—I presume we could even get back to the Campbell days of Government. The circumstance of permanent psychiatric recruitment to Brandon has been a difficulty challenging all Governments. We have had heads of psychiatry take residence in Brandon for periods of time, providing very valuable service.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Orchard:** It has not been a continuous circumstance that has been available to us.

### **Psychiatrists Shortage**

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** My final supplementary again to the same Minister—and I hope to get some answers here—will the Minister of Health tell us what he is doing to correct the intolerable situation? Maybe our Premier would like to answer this question?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** What is the question?

**Mr. Cheema:** I will repeat it for you.

The question is, Mr. Minister, what steps are you taking to correct this intolerable situation: lack of schedules and lack of the mental health manpower shortage in Manitoba—the 38 psychiatrists that are short? I do not have to repeat the question three times.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** The one thing we are not going to do is indicate to the psychiatric profession and the medical profession in general, as did my predecessor, that if they do not like it in Manitoba, they can leave. As a result, psychiatrists left this province because of the frustrations that had built up over inactivity in the renovating and delivering and revamping of the mental health system in the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, since assuming office some four to five months ago, mental health has taken a considerable focus of time within my office. I am hopeful that my honourable friend will at least give some credit when we get to the Estimate discussion on mental health, with some of the progress that is made in revamping the mental health system in the Province of Manitoba for the first time in many, many years.

### **Child and Family Services Program Reductions**

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** My question is to the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board and deals with the Department of Community Services, the Child and Family Services Branch of the department. In this Chamber and in the House, the Minister has stated time and time again that there are no program cuts in the Child and Family Services division, there will be no Government measures that will lead to layoffs, and all ongoing programs will be honoured.

In light of the fact that nothing came out of the meeting last Friday with the Minister with the agencies, and the agencies are completely bewildered in terms of what the Government policy will be in terms of Child and Family Services and where their programs stand, would the Minister responsible for the Treasury Board please confirm now that there will be measures that the Government has taken that will reduce services, reduce services to children and will reduce staffing of programs in these agencies?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, no, I will not confirm that. In fact, the situation is that since the former NDP Government set up the community-based, decentralized system of child welfare in Winnipeg, there have been chronic deficits run year after year by virtually all of these decentralized agencies. That is a serious problem and one that we as a Government have inherited and are trying to address in a form that is a positive form.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party should know because he had one of his staff sitting in on my talk to the Social Planning Council last Wednesday noon, I believe it was, in which I said to —(Interjection)—Thursday, yes. I said at that time we would not let those agencies get into difficulty for lack of funding, that we would do everything possible to ensure that they were able to deliver the services that were demanded upon them.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize though that it is not a short-term, quick-fix issue. The Leader of the New democratic Party may think so. If so, he is turning a

blind eye to fact that they had chronic deficit problems every year that they operated from the time that they were set up by the New Democratic Party in Government. We are trying to solve the problem for the longer term, not just cope with the situation based on the fact that they once again this fall are put in a crisis situation—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Filmon:** —because of the lack of funding provided by the former Government and the lack of administration and the overall way in which they were set up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, there is only one group of people who are turning a blind eye to the problems in the Child and Family Services agencies, and that is this Government, this Tory Government opposite, in terms of their action.

I would like to table a letter today that was sent to the Department of Community Services dealing with Child and Family Services in Winnipeg West. In fact, an area that is in the Premier's own constituency where they clearly outlined that (a) there is a reduction in the money—

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have a question?

**Mr. Doer:** —reduction in resources, reduction in services. My question to the First Minister -(Interjection)- I am coming to it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the Honourable Member kindly put his question now?

\* (1345)

**Mr. Doer:** Yes, in light of this letter, would the First Minister please agree to reinstate the funding for prevention programs and maintenance programs that were in those Budgets that is now being cut—the money is being cut? Would he meet with his Minister of Community Services and Corrections (Mrs. Oleson) and get this thing back on the road so the children will not have their staff cut contrary to the Minister's promise and services cut in terms of the Province of Manitoba, in terms of the Child and Family Services division?

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, every one of those agencies—the overall funding to child welfare in this province has been increased by our administration and our Budget. They have serious difficulties. The legacy of the NDP administration of many, many years has left them in very serious difficulties.

They have problems that are chronic, that are not just as a result of the last few months. They have problems to do with administration; they have problems to do with the manner in which those boards are set up, the ability to administer adequately and properly all of the things that they have been charged to do

and the way in which this decentralized operation was formed on an ad hoc basis by the previous administration. We are looking at the long term, Mr. Speaker. We are going to ensure that we deal with the problem so that we do not have a crisis every fall, every fall, every fall, the way it has been as a result of the way it was set up by this previous NDP administration.

### Prevention Programs

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Concordia, with a supplementary question.

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) is, in light of the fact that his Minister has said that there would be no cuts in staff, in light of the fact the Government has said there will be no reduction in preventative programs, in light of the fact that the First Minister said there would be no cut in money and this document clearly shows that there is, would the First Minister please meet with his Minister of Community Services and Corrections (Mrs. Oleson) as Minister responsible for the Treasury Board, and please deal with the issues facing children on a crisis basis who are at risk according to the experts that are in the field delivering the services to the children of this province?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, the Member full well knows that our Budget has provided a 9 percent increase for Community Services, 9.1 percent. The Member full well knows that his former Government had created a system that was so ineffective in the way in which they set up the administration. On an ad hoc basis, they tried desperately to decentralize without forming a proper administrative structure and they have caused serious long-term problems with the delivery of child welfare services in this province. We are going to set about systematically and very carefully to solve those problems, but they will not be done overnight. I tell you they will not be done by the way in which he is raising the problem as a political issue, rather than taking the responsibility which he clearly should for the ineffective actions of his administration.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, again the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) impugns motives—

**An Honourable Member:** Without a preamble, that is the rule.

**Mr. Doer:** Mr. Speaker, I think the First Minister doth protest too much on this very important issue. It is a very serious issue. The document that I am tabling that the First Minister, as responsible for Treasury Board, should be aware of in light of the activity of his office clearly demonstrates that—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Doer:** —the prevention budget is being cut.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Doer:** I would ask the First Minister and Minister responsible for the Treasury Board (Mr. Filmon) why is

his Government afraid to invest money in prevention at the child welfare level where we know that all studies show that a dollar spent on prevention is worth thousands of dollars later on in terms of care? Why is this Government cutting back prevention with volunteers in the community, hurting the children of this city?

**Mr. Filmon:** Mr. Speaker, we will be making that investment. We have indicated our commitment with a 9.1 percent increase in Community Services in Manitoba. The Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) is attempting to make a political issue of this when he knows full well when he was the president of the MGEA and the Government decided to unscramble the eggs, so to speak, and decentralize all these services without having a proper administrative base, without having this kind of accountability put in place, he said it was a recipe for disaster at that time. His words are being proven to be correct now and we are faced with solving the problem and we are committed to solving the problem.

\* (1350)

### Child and Family Services Act Revised Legislation

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the First Minister (Mr. Filmon). Abuse of children by third parties is prevalent in our society. Child abuse is not confined to the home. Children come into regular contact with adults and children and their parents and their siblings, and it is disturbing enough that we have these incidents that result in abuse, which are left unreported by children because, unfortunately, they fear the consequences. It is, however, unpardonable that when a child in distress does report an incident of abuse to a person in authority, such a person turns a deaf ear to that child. The Attorney-General's office apparently is powerless to deal with school officials who fail to report incidents of sexual abuse that are other than conducted by the parent or guardian.

My questions is will the First Minister (Mr. Filmon) introduce immediately legislation amending The Child and Family Services Act, in order to make it mandatory that teachers and other professionals report incidents of abuse by persons, other than parents or guardians, and that this legislation would include abuse performed by other children or by teachers?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** Mr. Speaker, I concur wholeheartedly with the Leader of the Opposition that this is a serious issue that should be acted upon. The Leader of the Opposition probably knows full well that we, on this side of the House, assumed because we were told by the previous administration that is exactly what the law required. She can imagine how surprised we were to find out that is not the case and that the law has a so-called loophole that does not allow us to ensure that those people are obliged to report child abuse cases.

So, Mr. Speaker, my Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) has asked his department for an opinion as to how we

can best fill that loophole immediately and act upon it in this Session. As soon as we have that report, we will be bringing it forward in the form of legislation.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I can assure the Minister and Attorney-General that we will support such legislation.

### Child Abuse Guidelines for Teachers

**Mrs. Sharon Carstairs (Leader of the Opposition):** My supplementary question is to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). Can the Minister tell the House what procedures or guidelines are in place or will he put in place immediately to ensure that all incidents of sexual assaults in the schools are dealt with expeditiously? For example, the immediate investigation of such an abuse and the counselling of the students who have faced that abuse?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** I would have to indicate, Mr. Speaker, that this department and the teachers in the province are aware of the procedures that are to be followed at times when a sexual abuse case has been reported to them, or when they become aware of that kind of a situation. When that kind of a situation occurs, when the abuse is reported, then that situation is handled through the appropriate authorities. I think that the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) knows full well the kinds of guidelines and the kinds of procedures that are in place to deal with these matters.

With regard to investigating matters by this department, if it is a situation where a teacher is found to be the guilty party, then it is up to my department to immediately move on the certificate of that teacher, and if sufficient evidence is in place that inappropriate behaviour has resulted, then this department has the responsibility of either suspending or revoking that teacher's certificate. We are proceeding according to the guidelines in each and every case that has come to my attention at this time.

**Mrs. Carstairs:** Mr. Speaker, with a supplementary to the Minister of Education. Will the Minister of Education agree today to contact all school divisions in the Province of Manitoba and to reinforce for them the importance of the immediate investigation of any complaint by a child within that school division and immediately guarantee that child counselling and support?

**Mr. Derkach:** I guess some of the newspaper reports that we have seen through the weekend would indicate that perhaps there is a need to write to the school divisions and again reiterate the kind of legislation that is in place and the fact that they must adhere to it. That is no problem. We have already made that decision that we should reiterate with school divisions the kind of legislation that is in place, so that they will follow it accordingly. To this time, in all the matters that are before us, it is evident that school divisions, to my knowledge, have followed the procedures correctly.

\* (1355)

## Child Abuse Investigation Private School

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** Recently we have heard of a tragic situation in one of our private schools involving assault and sexual abuse of at least three young female students by one of the male students. That in itself is a most unfortunate situation, but what made this entire case even more incredulous is the fact that school officials were aware of the assaults for almost a year and took no action to either inform the parents or assist the girls.

Will the Minister of Education plan to extend his proposed inquiry to include a similar situation involving an abusing teacher transferred from a public high school to the Winnipeg Development Centre, wherein the potentially disturbed teacher is working with disturbed children?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** I would like to inform the House and to inform the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) that there is a review or an investigation into the private school matter ongoing. I think I reported this to the House last week that there is a committee that has been set in place to investigate the details of the situation in the private school.

Mr. Speaker, if you talk about the newspaper article on the weekend and the procedures that were followed there, it is clear that perhaps the newspaper article was not accurate in the way that the information did come about. In fact, there are two situations there: one situation which occurred back in 1986 which had nothing to do with sexual abuse; and one which came to light and to the division's attention, as of the beginning of June of this year, which was dealt with in the appropriate matter. I have met with the officials of Community Services and my staff, and procedures were followed in accordance to the way that the legislation is laid out. So, to date, I think we have followed the guidelines accordingly.

## School Accountability

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** Believing that the Minister of Education truly meant his statement, that his responsibility is to ensure that all children in Manitoba receive the best education available, will the Honourable Minister now review criteria for accountability of independent schools to ensure greater protection to our vulnerable young citizens?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Yes, I think that is an important issue. Not only does it pertain to the independent schools but it also pertains to all our schools in the province. I think that we have to review the legislation as it is written now. I think we have to take a look at the loopholes that might exist. We have to correct those kinds of things that perhaps are allowing cases to slip through the cracks. Mr. Speaker, I have to indicate to you and to the House that this Government is very interested in making sure that there are no loopholes, that children in this province are protected. We will do everything we can to make

the public school system and the independent school system accountable.

**Mrs. Yeo:** We, on this side of the House, are pleased with that statement.

## Reporting Guidelines

**Mrs. Iva Yeo (Sturgeon Creek):** Will the Minister of Education tell the House of his intention to develop a blueprint that will detail the steps that teachers and administrators must follow in order that parents and the Child Protection Centre will be immediately informed should children in the schools be victims of abuse?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** This is a new area, I guess, of concern. It is not a new area but it certainly has come to light in recent times, whereby we have more evidence of children coming forth and indicating that they have been abused in one way or another. I think the legislation that was put in place, Mr. Speaker, was done with the best intentions, and I think when legislation like this is tried that we begin to realize where some of the loopholes are and where some of the inadequacies are. That is what we have to address at this time.

We have realized where there may be some shortcomings. I think that has been alluded to by the Premier when he indicated that there is a loophole that we have to correct immediately, and we will be reviewing the entire legislation to ensure that in fact the appropriate procedures are followed so that we, in the end, will protect all the children that attend our school system in this province.

\* (1400)

## PCBs Thompson Site

**Hon. Edward Connery (Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health):** Last Tuesday, the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) asked a question regarding PCBs stored at Thompson and I would read part of his question. He said, "I have recently received a call that there were six barrels of PCBs stored in a yard by a skip dump loading site at the T1 Head Loading Frame at Inco in Thompson." In actual fact there were 10 barrels. The reason that they were there—they were in a locked safe compound—was a transformer that was down and had to be drained and the oil was put into the barrels.

Mr. Speaker, the safety people out there realized that the barrels they were using were only 18 gauge and they wanted to have 16 gauge barrels, and so it was decided that the best thing to do was to hold the barrels in that safe locked compound until the new barrels came in and then they will transfer them to the new barrels and take them out to their site some 45 miles out of town.

## Child Abuse Information Withheld

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** My question is to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach). Mr. Speaker, on September 23, I raised the issue of whether charges were going to be laid against the administration of the school in question with respect to the child abuse, the sexual assault, I should say, which was occurring in that private school. My question to the Minister of Education is why could he not tell me at that time that, in fact, charges would not be laid; why could he not tell this House that in fact the Government had a plan to correct any of the problems that existed in the legislation; why did it take him some almost two weeks before we have a response to those questions?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** I was not holding any information back from the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) and he well knows that. I think any information I had at the time was laid before the House and before him.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, we have a two-person review committee that is in place—an investigation committee that is in place—that is investigating the details with regard to the alleged abuse case in the school, or the case that was reported in the private school.

Until that investigation is complete, and until I have the information from that investigation, I cannot stand before this House, or anywhere else, and make assumptions as to what, in fact, that investigation is going to reveal. I think it is only appropriate that we wait until that investigation is complete and, once that is in, I will be happy to report to the House, and to anyone else, what the findings of that report are.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, with a supplementary question.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) had a modicum of common sense, he would know that there is a problem when an abuse like this can appear and there is no legal recourse for the Minister of Education or the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae).

## Child Abuse Guidelines Private Schools

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, my follow-up question to the Minister of Education is—he is suggesting in his comment that somehow the Department of Education and this Minister has this situation under control amongst the other private schools who are not publicly funded, of which there are dozens and dozens—will the Minister now expand this inquiry that he indicates is ongoing with respect to this one incident and review the matter of the obligations, the public accountability of private schools in this province, which are not known to the Minister, which are not reviewed on a regular basis by the Department of Education and, contrary to the Minister's assertion, are not under his control, direct or indirect?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Mr. Speaker, this is far too serious a matter for me, as Minister of Education, and to this Government to be playing politics with. Although the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) would like to make this kind of a political, attractive issue for himself, I have to tell you that I just answered the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) with regard to the process and the steps that we are taking with regard to accountability both for the public and the private schools in this province. The Member for Flin Flon is anti independent schools and has made that evident since he started in this House and asking questions and making allegations. I do not find this to be politically attractive in the way that he is approaching this topic.

**Mr. Storie:** On a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, on a point of order.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) is clearly trying to impute motives, my motives, with respect to raising this issue. I would ask the Minister to withdraw them. They are unparliamentary, they are offensive to myself and they do not reflect the facts.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member does not have a point of order.

The Honourable Member for Flin Flon, with a final supplementary question.

**Mr. Storie:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach) says he cannot stand before this House and give assurances where none exist. He has been giving false assurances to the people of Manitoba. There are thousands of students attending private schools which are not following the regulations. My question to the Minister of Education is will the Minister tell this House whether he can provide evidence to support his contention that teachers in private schools, administrators, are familiar with the guidelines that the public schools have followed in every instance to avoid problems like the one we are referencing with respect to St. Charles Academy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

## POINT OF ORDER

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Government House Leader, on a point of order.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. In his question, the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie) referred to the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), stating that he has been giving false assurances. I think if the Honourable Member thinks about that particular expression, he will understand and realize that it probably is an unparliamentary expression. I would ask through you, Mr. Speaker, that the Honourable Member remove those words from the record and withdraw them.



**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Government House Leader. If the Honourable Member for Flin Flon would kindly rephrase his question and withdraw the words "false aspersions."

**Mr. McCrae:** False assurances.

**Mr. Speaker:** False assurances.

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, I am assuming your ruling implies that the words "false assurances" are in breach of the rules.

**Mr. Speaker:** Unparliamentary.

**Mr. Storie:** If that is in fact correct, Mr. Speaker, I accept your ruling, I would withdraw those remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Member for Flin Flon.

**Mr. Storie:** In the interest of parliamentary fairness, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister to withdraw his imputation that somehow my remarks were other than for the concern of the children, concern of all parents, to have some kind of accountability in both the public and private system.

My question, which has not been answered by the Minister of Education (Mr. Derkach), is can he give us the assurance that the teachers in private schools are aware of the current provincial guidelines? Can he show me one shred of evidence that would indicate that letters have been sent, that the guidelines have been sent to every private school in this province?

**Hon. Leonard Derkach (Minister of Education):** Mr. Speaker, when I assumed office as Minister of Education, it was my understanding that the letters with regard to the legislation on child abuse and the way that those situations must be reported had gone out to all schools in Manitoba in both the public school system and the private school system, those letters which should have gone out under that administration.

At the present time, we have an investigation of a situation in a private school going on. Once I have received the report of that investigation, then I will know precisely how to act on these situations. I have indicated to the Member for Sturgeon Creek (Mrs. Yeo) or the Leader of the Opposition (Mrs. Carstairs) that, in fact, we are going to send out another letter reiterating the legislation that is in place now. That letter will go to all schools in Manitoba, not just the public school system.

\* (1410)

### **Conflict of Interest Minister's Neutrality**

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** My question is to the Premier (Mr. Filmon). On Friday last week, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Connery) agreed with me that a critical role of the Labour Minister was to maintain neutrality

between both sides in the labour relationship insofar as was possible, and I trust that those comments, that the Premier also agrees with them, Mr. Speaker.

My question is, is it this Government's policy to tolerate the level of involvement in private companies in matters within this subject area of a Minister's portfolio by Ministers to the level revealed in this House on Friday?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** I am really surprised at the Member for St. James. One would think that he would be embarrassed at having raised an issue as the lead-off question in Question Period, an allegation of conflict of interest that proved to be totally false, that came down to the fact that the Minister indicated here in the House and publicly that he had absolutely no role or knowledge of the decision that was made by a corporation of which he is a director to release an employee.

Under those circumstances, he is now telling me, because he had no involvement whatsoever in that decision or in the ongoing operation of the company, that is too much involvement in a company, and he wants me to say that is too much involvement in the company. Well, I say, Mr. Speaker, he does not understand the situation, he does not understand the conflict of interest, and he is just out there attempting to raise an issue to get himself back in the public view again because he is hurting a little for publicity.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, in direct contradiction to what the Premier (Mr. Filmon) has just stated, if you will review Hansard, no conflict of interest was ever alleged. It was a conflict of roles. Also in contradiction to the—and I will refer to it again. In further contradiction to what the Premier says—

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. James, with a supplementary question.

**Mr. Edwards:** In further contradiction to what the Premier states, in fact we have a Labour Minister's (Mr. Connery) signature on termination cheques and a public concurrence with the firing, which the concurrence was made in this House on Friday by the Labour Minister.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question.

**Mr. Edwards:** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is who was Mr. Smook to turn to to enforce the labour relations statutes of this province with his complaint of mistreatment, when the Labour Minister was a director of the very company from which he was fired and was a director who had already concurred with his firing?

**Mr. Filmon:** We have an active member of the Liberal Party of Manitoba, having raised this issue with the Member for St. James (Mr. Edwards) and asking him

to raise it as a public issue for attention and, presumably, for the credit of the Liberal Party in Manitoba. That is what we have by his own admission in the Free Press article of Saturday.

He can turn to the same body, the neutral arm's length, third party adjudicative body that everybody else in this province turns to, and that is the Labour Board who will ensure that his rights are upheld under the laws of this province.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for St. James, with one final supplementary question.

**Mr. Edwards:** I am very surprised that the Labour Minister (Mr. Connery) is not the final word in this province on labour law. If that has been given over to the Labour Board, if that is what the Premier is saying, I find that shocking and in fact it is exactly what the Labour Minister is there for.

### Conflict of Interest Act Amendments

**Mr. Paul Edwards (St. James):** Mr. Speaker, my final question, the Premier (Mr. Filmon) stated in this House on May 26, 1986, his desire for strengthening conflict-of-interest laws specific to Cabinet Ministers. He may recall those statements. In the Speech from the Throne, only amendments dealing with after being a Cabinet Minister are referenced. My final question is will these spoken-of amendments, which as I say are referenced in the Speech from the Throne, will they include provisions for active Cabinet Ministers and not just Cabinet Ministers who have finished their term of office, and when can we expect these amendments?

**Hon. Gary Filmon (Premier):** In response to the John Nunziata of the Manitoba Legislature, may I just say that if he read the Act he would know clearly that Mr. Smook and every other employee who has a grievance against his employer or the manner in which he was dealt with or terminated or working conditions or anything can appeal to the Labour Board in Manitoba. That provision is there so that it is not a political process that you go to your MLA and you get the response that you want, or you go to the Minister of Labour and ask him to intervene because you think you were unfairly dealt with and, if he happens to know you or knows the political card that you keep, you get a different response.

There is a procedure in place. There are laws in place that are not the laws of one political party but are the laws of this province, that all of us take responsibility for in this Chamber. He, Mr. Smook or any other employee can be assured that those laws would be upheld by the due process that is in place in this Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

The time for Oral Questions has expired.

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could have leave to go back to tabling of reports.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister of Highways have leave to revert back to tabling of reports? (Agreed)

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND TABLING OF REPORTS

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Highways and Transportation):** Mr. Speaker, the reason I asked for leave to table the Supplementary Information for Government Services is because we will be doing the Estimates this afternoon. This is the second time that we have been going on short notice, and I had given these supplementary reports to the Members at the last time that we met but I had not tabled it and I would like to now table the supplementary information.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the Honourable Minister.

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, could I have leave to make a non-political statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member for Kildonan have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

### NON-POLITICAL STATEMENTS

**Mr. Gulzar Cheema (Kildonan):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday along with the Honourable Minister of Culture and Heritage (Mrs. Mitchelson) and the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), we participated in the Second Annual Walk for Dignity organized by the Schizophrenic Treatment and Research Centre of Manitoba. October 2 to October 9 marks the special week for mental illness awareness. Mental health disorders affects young and old, rich and poor, educated and uneducated. Society must play a concerted role to help the patients and their families and one must avoid the stigma attached to these disorders.

I would like to pay special tribute to Dr. Sheila Cantor who played a leading role to establish various programs for mental health care in Manitoba, and she will always have a special place in the hearts of those who suffer from these disorders.

I am sure all Members of this House will join with me in wishing Mrs. Francine Hollingsworth, the president of the board, and other board members good luck for such a noble cause. Thank you.

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** I would like leave to make a non-political statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member the The Pas have leave to make a non-political statement? (Agreed)

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Speaker, as a parent of an autistic son who falls under the category of schizophrenia, I too would like to say that I had the opportunity to march with the Schizophrenia Foundation on Sunday on their Second Annual Walk for Dignity. The purpose of their walk was to try and educate the public of some of the downfalls of mental illness and take away the stigma that is attached to mental illness and let families come forward and share that there is mental illness in their families so they can come forward for the treatment

as necessary. The foundation has now hired a new doctor, Dr. Chuck Piany, who is going to be replacing Dr. Sheila Cantor. They are going to be moving on to the dream that Dr. Sheila Cantor had to build a home and a farm where people who are afflicted with mental illness can have a place to live with dignity.

So I too want to congratulate them on the march and wish them the best of luck as they come forward with their effort to build this home and put this farm in place. Thank you.

**Hon. Bonnie Mitchelson (Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation):** May I have leave to make a non-political statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister have leave? (Agreed)

**Mrs. Mitchelson:** I want to indicate that it was a pleasure for me to share with my colleagues from the Liberal Party and the ND Party, to talk with the people after their walk, Walk for Dignity, the Schizophrenic Association yesterday.

I want to indicate that mental illness crosses all Party lines and all walks of life and all parts of the province. We as Members of the Legislature, I am sure, all want to join together and work towards a better system and a better place in Manitoba for those with mental illness and mental disease to live and to become independent productive members of society. So I want to say that we all, I am sure, want to join together in support of those especially with schizophrenic disorders. I, as a registered nurse, have worked with those people in the past, and do know that there are true concerns and true needs. I am sure we all want to join together and work towards making this a better place to live. Thank you.

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Churchill):** Having also participated in a walk-a-thon this weekend, I wonder if I might have leave for a non-political statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member for Churchill have leave? (Agreed)

**Mr. Cowan:** I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Canine Vision Club on their successful completion of their Fifth Annual Walk-a-Dog-a-Thon which was held at Birds Hill Park on Sunday.

This is a national event which is held all across Canada on the first Sunday in October. This year's event, as I said, was held at Birds Hill Park where it was a lovely day for a 10-kilometre walk to raise money for the Canine Vision Club. That money by the way goes to assist in the purchasing and the training of seeing-eye dogs and blind recipients of seeing-eye dogs. So it was a very worthy cause.

There were over 200 participants. I am proud to say that my pet and I, Anichimoose which is a Cree name, and I completed the 10-kilometre walk along with 200 other participants. A total of \$12,300 was raised. I think special congratulations ought to go to Mr. Randy Diduch who helped organize the event and also special

congratulations to the person who obtained the highest number and amount of personal contributions, Mrs. Cathy Diduch, and to the highest corporate sponsor, which was Air Canada, and to the highest dog club sponsor, which was Canine Instructional Academy. I know all Members of the House will join with me in offering our congratulations to them and ensuring that there are many more Members out there enjoying that 10-kilometre walk next year when the opportunity arises.

**An Honourable Member:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Might I have leave of the House for a non-political statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Minister of Health have leave? (Agreed)

\* (1420)

**Mr. Orchard:** It seems like this was a very active Sunday. I had the pleasure of attending, prior to Sunday's football game, with the Members of the Lions Club of northwest Ontario and Manitoba to formally proclaim October 2 to October 9 Eye Bank Awareness Week. The Lions and their members throughout northwest Ontario and Manitoba have been very much instrumental as a community service club in providing service to those less fortunate Manitobans with eyesight problems. The Corneal Transplant Program has been one in which the Lions Clubs have been instrumental in establishing the Eye Bank in the Province of Manitoba.

It was a pleasure to attend that formal proclamation signing with two individual Manitobans, one a young girl of some 15 years old and another woman, who both were recipients of corneal transplants and were given the gift of vision because of the concerns and the very intense and dedicated efforts that Lions across this province have done in soliciting community support for the Eye Bank and indeed for sponsoring Eye Bank Awareness Week, October 2 to October 9.

I think all Members of the House would like to join with me to congratulate the Lions of northwest Ontario and Manitoba for their continued dedicated efforts to bring the gift of sight to those unfortunate Manitobans and Canadians who do not enjoy the privilege of sight that we do.

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** May I have leave to make a non-political statement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member for St. Johns have leave? (Agreed)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** My non-political statement does not relate specifically to an event here in Manitoba this weekend, but to an international event that has captured our interest for a good period of time. Now that the 24th Summer Olympics held in Seoul, Korea, have come to a close, I think it is important that we all in this House take a moment to single out all of those athletes and their families, the volunteers, the trainers, the sports organizations who contributed to Manitoba's strong

showing at the summer Olympics and did us very proud indeed. So on behalf of everyone here in this House, we take a moment to thank all of the participants and congratulate them for a job well done.

**Mr. Speaker:** On behalf of all our Members, let me indeed say how proud we are of our Honourable Members who do partake in all these worthwhile organizations. Prior to Orders of the Day, I have a ruling for the House.

### SPEAKER'S RULING

**Mr. Speaker:** On September 29, I took under advisement a point of order raised by the Honourable Member for Churchill respecting the words ". . . the NDP are playing politics, they do not care about helping people . . ." spoken by the Honourable Minister of Health.

Before addressing the specifics of the point of order raised, I wish to point out to the Honourable Members to whom I have just referred that in speaking to the point of order they were both guilty of flagrant violations of our Rule 38(2) in that their remarks went far beyond the restrictions imposed by this Rule, which specifies that "the debate (on the point of order) must be strictly relevant to the point of order."

Under this Rule, debate should have been confined to identifying or explaining the breach of the Rules or normal manner of proceedings which was alleged to have occurred.

The extremely heated exchange which occurred after between these Honourable Members immediately prior to and following my decision to take the matter under advisement does little, in my opinion, to assist the House to conduct its business in an orderly and effective manner.

Additionally, I doubt that it could in any way enhance the television audience's perception of the manner in which we, as elected representatives, conduct ourselves and conduct the public business of the province.

The behaviour of these Members was unacceptable in the opinion of the Chair and, I believe, of most Honourable Members.

Turning now to the specifics of the point raised, imputation of bad or unworthy motives as a breach of order comes under the heading of unparliamentary language. The authorities advise us that many points have to be considered by the Speaker when determining whether particular words or phrases are unparliamentary, such as the tone, manner and intention of the person speaking, and in some cases, the degree of provocation.

This is a political forum in which Members are motivated by political objectives. It is a place in which competition and often confrontation is one of the norms. Strong and frequently opposing views are held by all Honourable Members. In the heat of the moment, provocative, but not necessarily unparliamentary words will be used from time to time. With respect, I believe that this goes with the territory and is to be expected.

May I suggest to all Honourable Members that by using caution in their choice of language they will make it much easier for all of us to carry out our assigned roles and for the House to get on with the business before it.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that the words spoken by the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) did not impute unworthy motives and therefore were not unparliamentary. The matter is therefore concluded as far as the Chair is concerned.

**Hon. Donald Orchard (Minister of Health):** Mr. Speaker, I accept your rightful chastisement of the heated exchange between myself and other Honourable Members in the House, and I have to admit that it occurs infrequently, but when it does, it is most disruptive of the House and indeed probably leads to less than acceptable public opinion of our conduct in this House. For that, Mr. Speaker, I apologize to you and to Members of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard).

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, being the other individual who was involved in that exchange, and I certainly concur with your ruling that this is a forum where sometimes a confrontation does take different approaches and different expressions, I also would like to apologize if you were in any way offended by that exchange which has happened previously, and given your own suggestion of the type of House in which we operate, will probably happen in the future. I am certain that if it does, all Members would be equally eager to apologize for any disruption which you have read into that incident.

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to thank both Honourable Members.

### ORDERS OF THE DAY ADDRESSES FOR PAPERS

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** I would ask the indulgence of Honourable Members and seek their leave to—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** Prior to moving into Orders of the Day, I have to move these papers, addresses, and move, seconded by the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), that an Address for Papers do issue claim for.

**Some Honourable Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That Address for Papers is under Orders of the Day, and I believe the Honourable Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) is attempting to get to Addresses for Papers.

\* (1430)

**Mr. McCrae:** I seek the indulgence of Honourable Members that they would grant leave to allow the Addresses for Papers, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) and in the name of the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), stand, to give me an opportunity to consult my colleagues to see about the efficacy and the possibility of making available the information requested.

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** This is highly unusual. Having been a House Leader for a number of Sessions, I know that it was always difficult to obtain a full assessment as to whether or not an Order for Return was one which we could agree to, but it was done within the time limit that was provided to us.

In this particular instance, because there was a weekend intervening, there should have been more than enough time to obtain advice from the Ministers who are responsible for replying to the Orders for Return as to whether or not that would be an acceptable Order for Return.

I cannot recall one occasion—perhaps my memory is failing me, but if so I will stand corrected, but I cannot recall any occasion during which time I was House Leader, certainly, where we had to ask for leave to extend that time period, and I would therefore be quite hesitant in this particular circumstance to do so, unless the Minister, the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae) can give—the Government House Leader in this role—us some compelling reason as to why that should be done, and when it is, we should expect an answer to those Orders for Return.

**Mr. McCrae:** I was not asking for any undue delay. It was a matter of a day or two to give me the opportunity to review further the Addresses for Papers.

In the first instance, there is a reference to a date of May 9th and referring to correspondence between this Government and the Saskatchewan Government, for example, since May 9th. I think to get a proper airing of the issue involved in the question, we might be very well be interested in the correspondence previous to May 9th as well. It causes some consternation for Honourable Members on this side that the person asking for this information should only be interested in information after May 9th, which coincidentally was the date of the appointment of the new Government. There may very well have been correspondence previous to that time and I would wonder why the Honourable Member would not want all Honourable Members to know about that correspondence as well.

With respect to the Address put down by the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway), it states as a preamble that there has been a refusal to undertake a certain prosecution. The Address for Papers assumes that, and that is quite a hypothetical situation.

These are things that need a little bit of consideration and that was the reason for the request. If the

Honourable Member is of a mind to refuse granting leave to put this over a day or two, let him do so.

**Mr. Cowan:** On the points raised by the Attorney-General (Mr. McCrae), the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) knows that it is within his power to ask for amendments to the Addresses for Papers, or the Orders for Return. If he is asking for an amendment on the first one, which would just strike the "since May 9, 1988," we would agree to that amendment at this time. That has been a practice that has been usually done by consultation previous to the Order for Return coming to the attention of the House in this formal manner. But if that is the concern with the Government House Leader on the first Order for Return, I am certain that we can agree at this point that wherever "since May 9, 1988" appears, that those words be struck from the Order for Return, and that would take care of that particular concern of his.

**Mr. McCrae:** I am advised that we should be referring to a condition here, rather than an amendment. If that is the case, then the Address in the name of the Honourable Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) is acceptable to the Government.

On the second one, if Honourable Members can accept that what we are dealing with in that Address for Papers is a hypothesis—well, it is strictly that. It is a very hypothetical situation. (a) refers to a copy of the correspondence in my department which I am using as my basis for refusing to prosecute, etc., and that is an understanding that the Honourable Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway) seems to have. It has never been made clear that that is the fact, and that is what troubles me with respect to that Address for Papers.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Speaker, just for clarification, is the Government House Leader (Mr. McCrae) saying that he does not want to accept the Order for Return, or does he want to have this held over one day, which we will be prepared to grant leave to do so? I am not certain as to what his concern is that can be dealt with in one's day time, but if he needs an additional day for discussions, then we would be prepared to hold this over one day.

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Speaker, it may be that a little time for consideration might be helpful, but I do raise this as a bit of a stumbling block. As far as I am concerned, I am not at the appropriate time upset or worried about sharing with Honourable Members all the information that I have. It is just that the Address for Papers makes an assumption that is not correct.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we have an order in which we usually do proceed with Orders for Return, and the Government House Leader can take one of three options, I believe. The Honourable Member for The Pas.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie),

THAT an Address for Papers do issue, praying for:  
(a) a copy of all correspondence between the

Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health and the Federal Minister of the Environment concerning the Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project since May 9, 1988; and

- (b) a copy of the correspondence between Environment Canada and the Minister concerning the Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project since May 9, 1988; and
- (c) a copy of the correspondence between the Minister and the Saskatchewan Government since May 9, 1988, concerning the Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project; and
- (d) a copy of all documents on which the Minister has based his conclusion that Manitoba does not need an environmental impact study on the Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project; and
- (e) a copy of all correspondence from the United States Corps of Engineers to the Minister concerning their study of the Rafferty-Alameda Dam Project.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Speaker, subject to the comments about information restricted only to information or correspondence after May 9, 1988, subject to those previous comments, this Address for Papers is satisfactory to the Government, and acceptable.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Speaker, I would like leave to move, on behalf of the Member for Elmwood (Mr. Maloway).

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Honourable Member have leave? (Agreed)

\* (1440)

**Mr. Harapiak:** I move, seconded by the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie),

THAT an Address for Papers do issue, praying for:

- (a) a copy of the correspondence in his Department which the Attorney-General is using as his basis for refusing to prosecute Bricks Warehouse Limited for breaking Section 3(2) of The Business Names Registration Act; and
- (b) a copy of the correspondence between Bricks Warehouse Limited and the Attorney-General since May 9, 1988; and
- (c) a copy of the correspondence between the Attorney-General and small businesses from Manitoba, requesting he uphold The Business Names Registration Act; and
- (d) a copy of the correspondence between the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and the Attorney-General concerning other small Manitoba businesses who have been ordered

by national firms to change their corporate names or face prosecution.

**MOTION presented.**

**Mr. McCrae:** Mr. Speaker, this Address for Papers, subject to my comments earlier, is acceptable to the Government.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**ORDER FOR RETURN NO. 2**

**Mr. Jerry Storie (Flin Flon):** Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I would like to introduce the motion on the Order Paper by the Member for Thompson (Mr. Ashton).

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Honourable Member does not need leave.

**Mr. Storie:** I move, seconded by the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak),

THAT an Order of the House do issue for return of the following information:

- (a) a copy of the studies that the Minister of Employment Services and Economic Security used to justify cutting the funding for the Community Unemployed Help Centre and the Workplace Innovation Centre; and
- (b) a copy of all correspondence and list of meetings between the Minister and the Workplace Innovation Centre, and the Community Unemployed Help Centre since May 9, 1988; and
- (c) a list of all new job training programs initiated by the Minister since May 9, 1988; and
- (d) a list of all job training programs terminated or cut back by the Minister since May 9, 1988; and
- (e) a list of all social agencies that the Minister is cutting funding to in fiscal year 1988-1989; and
- (f) a copy of correspondence from the Minister to the United Way detailing agencies that the Minister wants the United Way to fund, rather than her Department; and
- (g) a list of all new programs that the Minister will announce in the current fiscal year to combat the rising unemployment in Manitoba.

**MOTION presented.**

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** This Order for Return is acceptable to the Government.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**ORDER FOR RETURN NO. 3**

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill),

THAT an Order of the House do issue for return of the following information:

- (a) a copy of all correspondence between the Minister of Community Services and commercial child care operators and centres prior to the public announcement on September 6, 1988, that these institutions would be eligible to receive Government funded subsidies; and
- (b) a copy of studies that the Minister used to base her conclusion that tax dollars should be allocated to private centres; and
- (c) a copy of the Winnipeg city map that the Minister used to base her conclusion that residents of the city core would be better served by driving across town to the suburbs, rather than funding more public day care centres in the city core; and
- (d) a list of all requests from the non-profit child care community for provincial Government funding of additional spaces in existing centres and new spaces in unfunded non-profit centres; and
- (e) a copy of the studies that the Minister used to justify cutting funding to Child and Family Services Agencies; and
- (f) a list of all social agencies that will have their funding cut this year by the Minister.

**MOTION presented.**

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** This Order for Return is acceptable to the Government.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**ORDER FOR RETURN NO. 4**

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** On behalf of the Member for Rupertsland (Mr. Harper), I move, seconded by the Member for Logan (Ms. Hemphill),

THAT an Order for Return do issue for return of the following information:

- (a) a copy of the contract to Resource Initiatives Limited to conduct a review of the Native Affairs Secretariat; and
- (b) a copy of the work plan for this review; and
- (c) a list of those employed by Resource Initiatives Limited to conduct this review; and
- (d) a listing of any background materials which were provided to Resource Initiatives Limited in order to assist them in conducting this review; and

- (e) a copy of all tender documents associated with this review.

**MOTION presented.**

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** This Order for Return is acceptable to the Government.

**QUESTION put, MOTION carried.**

**Mr. McCrae:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme), that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

By agreement of the House Leaders, I would ask for leave that this afternoon the Estimates of the Department of Government Services come before the Committee in the Chamber; and, as usual, the Estimates of the Department of Community Services would be in Room 255.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is that agreed? (Agreed)

It is understood therefore, that the Government Services will be in the Chamber and Community Services will continue outside the Chamber. That is agreed? (Agreed)

**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 Minnedosa (Mr. Gilleshammer) in the Chair for the Department of Community Services; and the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks (Mr. Minenko) in the Chair for the Department of Government Services.

\* (1500)

**CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY  
SUPPLY—COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Mr. Chairman, Harold Gilleshammer:** I would like to call this committee to order. We will start with a statement from the Honourable Minister.

**Hon. Charlotte Oleson (Minister of Community Services):** In response to questions on residential care facility applications received and licensed for the past year, the following activity took place during January 1, 1987, and December 1, 1987, during year two and three of the Welcome Home project.

Applications and licensing statistics for residential care facilities by region, period January '87 to December '87, total provincial number of applications received: Winnipeg non-profit 15, profit 10, total 25; Westman non-profit three, profit one, total four; Interlake non-profit two, none in the profit sector, making a total of two; Parklands non-profit three, profit one, making a total of four; Eastman, make it a total of one in the non-profit sector; and Central, two in the non-profit sector, which made a total of two.

Number of licences issued: Winnipeg non-profit 14, profit nine, total 23; Westman non-profit three, none in the profit sector making a total of three; Interlake non-profit two, profit zero, making a total of two; Parklands non-profit three, profit one, making a total of four; Eastman non-profit one, profit zero, making a total of one; and in Central non-profit two, and none in the profit sector, making a total of two, making the provincial total of licences 25 in non-profit, 10 in profit, making a total of 35.

Also, applications and licences received and processed for the period April 1, 1988 to August 1988, number of applications received: in the non-profit Winnipeg three, profit two, a total of five; Westman none in either sector; Interlake none in either sector; Parklands none in either sector; Eastman one in non-profit, two in profit, making a total of three; and in Central non-profit one, profit zero, making a total of one; making a provincial total of five in the non-profit, four in profit, making a total of nine.

Number of licences issued by region: non-profit Winnipeg two, profit two, making a total of four; Westman zero in both sectors; Interlake zero; Parklands zero; Eastman zero in non-profit, one in profit, making a total of one; and in Central one in non-profit, zero in profit, making a total of one, making a provincial total of three in non-profit, three in profit and six in the total.

I also have information to table with regard to the Manitoba Developmental Centre. There were questions asked about that, and I will just distribute those or have them distributed to the critics.

**Mr. Chairman:** On Section 3. Community Social Services, (b) Operations: (1) Salaries \$10,641,000.00. Shall the item pass?

**Ms. Avis Gray (Ellice):** No. A number of weeks ago, when we began Estimates, I had given the Minister notice that I would be asking for the organizational charts for Community Services for the three Winnipeg regions. Does she have that information with her today?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, we have the information. If the Member would like to go ahead with other questions, we can have the table copied and distributed later, if that would be okay.

**Ms. Gray:** In this particular appropriation that we are dealing with, the Community Social Services Operations, there is an indication that there is funding for a transitional unit. Would the Minister explain to us the nature of that transitional unit?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Is the Member referring to the Manitoba Developmental Centre? We are not on that line.

**Ms. Gray:** I am referring to under Operations, it says full-year funding for transitional unit.

**Mrs. Oleson:** The transitional unit was designed to help people who were moving out of the institution and that, at the moment, is under review.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister indicate to us, are there any SYs that are attached to that unit?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are 18 attached to that but only 12 positions filled. The others are waiting pending the outcome of the review.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, these SYs, are they new SYs or where did the SYs come from? Are they reallocated from somewhere else?

**Mrs. Oleson:** These positions were reallocated from within MDC.

\* (1510)

**Ms. Gray:** The individuals attached to these SYs, do they actually work at the Manitoba Developmental Centre and could she explain a bit more as to what this unit is to do?

**Mrs. Oleson:** These people work out of MDC but in a special cottage, so they are not part of the actual building or physical plant of the MDC. They are in a special cottage. The budgeted staffing I could give you is one each coordinator, psychotherapist, occupational therapist, special educator, special therapist, behaviour psychologist, behaviour counsellor, recreation specialist, deaf program specialist and a nurse. Also eight paraprofessional staff who are program support workers. As I indicated before, those positions are not all filled at the moment.

**Ms. Gray:** Can the Minister tell us which clients these staff would work with?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Is the Member referring to individuals because we do not have that listing, of course?

**Ms. Gray:** No, I do not want to know the names of the clients. I want to know if these staff work with individuals who live in the Manitoba School? Do they work with individuals who are moving back to the institution? What is the nature of the client population these staff would work with?

**Mrs. Oleson:** This will include 24 residents of the institution, who are deemed as being most ready to leave the institution and live outside it. It is in order to help them cope with living outside the institution.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us why this unit is under review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is under review to see if that is the most effective way to help people live outside of an institution and within the community. It seems to me, as a new Minister looking at it, that it was something that perhaps should have been done before when there was movement out of the institution. But I want to be sure that this will adequately serve the people who are leaving. Some people have said to me, how can you teach a person, to orient them to live in a small community somewhere else by having them live in what is essentially, with 24 residents, really another institution.



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So these are just some of the things we are looking at.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, these individuals who are deemed to be most ready to move into the community, who go into this transitional unit, who makes the decision as to who these individuals will be who will go into the unit?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There is an assessment process that takes place as to whether or not they should or are able to leave the institution. Parents would be part of that decision as well.

Excuse me, I do have that organizational chart now if the Members want it.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated that an assessment is done and that parents are involved. Could she tell me, is it the person making the assessment who makes the final decision? Is there a committee at the school who makes a decision or where does the decision actually come from?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is an evaluation team and they make the final decision.

**Ms. Gray:** Then the Minister is indicating to us that the parents are consulted in all situations where these individuals, where there are parents, would be moving into the transitional unit?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, is there a particular time frame as to how long these individuals, a minimum time frame, would remain in the transitional unit before they might be moved into the community?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, not at the moment.

**Ms. Gray:** So it is conceivable that a person going into one of these cottages or transitional units could be there for two and three years?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It has only been in existence for a few months, but it is not likely, no, that it would be a two-year stay.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, are there some guidelines or a frame work with which this transitional unit was developed in regard to how long people would remain in the unit? Are there particular skills that these clients must have before they are ready to leave the unit? Could she elaborate on this?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The guidelines were not all that clear. That is one of the reasons I have asked for a review.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, have any clients who have been readmitted to the Manitoba Developmental Center, have they gone into this transitional unit?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us who is reviewing this unit and when we can expect a decision or the outcome of the review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Assistant Deputy Minister, with staff, is doing the review. Also, Mr. Chairman, I might add that it is within the next few weeks that review is to be completed.

**Ms. Gray:** A few more questions in regard to the Regional Operations.

There was some discussion last week about the whole respite care area and respite care workers. Could the Minister tell us how respite care workers are hired and is there any training that is provided for respite care workers within the regions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Regional staff do the hiring and there is a training program.

**Ms. Gray:** Who conducts the training program for respite care workers?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is done under regional staff. It is not a full-blown training program, but regional staff will do the training of the respite care workers.

**Ms. Gray:** Is there a particular staff person identified in each region to do that training or is up to the individual M.R. worker to provide that training?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Individual M.R. workers do the training. No, there is not anyone assigned. That is their only duty.

**Ms. Gray:** Have there been any concerns raised or identified about lack of training for respite care workers?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I indicated, I believe it was last time we met we discussed the whole area of training. I should indicate that this is part of the review that has been done on training. I am looking forward to suggestions of how we can better address the whole training area.

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister saying that the respite care workers will be part of the review that is being undertaken by the Assistant Deputy Minister—that particular training review? Is this the one she is referring to?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, that is correct.

**Ms. Gray:** This review that also involves respite care workers, and I understand community residences' workers as well, is there any formalized discussions going on with the Department of Health given that, as well, they would have staff who would provide training to residential care facilities within their purview, particularly with the post mentally ill?

\* (1520)

**Mrs. Oleson:** Health will be involved, but at the moment we are working with education in review, but health will be involved later.

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**Ms. Gray:** Does the Minister mean the Department of Education?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Would the Minister tell us how the Department of Education is part of this review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Department of Education delivers programs through the community colleges, so there would be some involvement there.

**Ms. Gray:** Would it not seem advisable that the Department of Health, particularly the Department of Health that deals with training and residential care facilities for the post-mentally ill be involved in initial stages, since I understand that there have been some more formalized training programs offered by the Department of Health for their staff in residential care facilities?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I had indicated to the Member before that Health would be involved, but I should also add that it is being addressed via the Manitoba Support Services payroll work which includes qualifications and required training for all support workers hired by Health or Community Services.

**Ms. Gray:** The respite care workers, are they still being paid by the Home Care payroll, homemaker payroll?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, I understand that is correct.

**Ms. Gray:** And the Minister may have answered this question before, but I cannot recall: Has that system been computerized yet?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I understand it is in the process of being computerized.

**Ms. Gray:** When this system is computerized for the paying of the respite care workers, will the mental retardation staff be at all involved as far as inputting any data into the computers?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** What specifically will their involvement be?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They will be putting in schedules, and they will also be identifying the level of worker required for each particular job.

**Ms. Gray:** Does the Minister mean that they will actually be inputting data into the computer they have scheduled?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** The Honourable Member for Arthur (Mr. Downey) has indicated that is progress, but I do have some concerns because -(Interjection)- no, I do not have concerns about progress, I have concerns about how you would define progress.

My concern is that, has there been any research done as to what length of time this added duty on M.R. workers will take?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I think when the system is fully operational, and the staff have had training in it, they will find that it will save them work and time rather than, as the Member seems to be indicating, that it would put extra work. The use of computers in this automated age is designed to make work more efficient, and really reduce work loads.

**Ms. Gray:** What specific work that the M.R. workers do now will be deleted, or will be saved with the computerization?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They may be doing the same work, but doing it in a different way, and the system will be simplified, but these things take time to work into the entire system. When it is working, they may very well be doing the same work but just in a slightly different way.

**Ms. Gray:** Did the M.R. workers before have to submit schedules anywhere along the way?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, they do.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us where these schedules were submitted and did the M.R. workers develop or make up these schedules?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They would have to make up the schedule, discuss it with the supervisor, respite worker rather, and submit it to payroll.

**Ms. Gray:** I was under the impression that in fact it was the respite care workers themselves who actually submitted the schedule of the amount of time in which they had provided a particular service, and that was verified by the M.R. worker and then sent on to payroll.

**Mrs. Oleson:** As employees, they would have some role to play in it but the Member should realize that this is trying to cut down on paperwork, this automated system. That is why automated systems are put into place.

**Ms. Gray:** When we had discussed the computerization beforehand and I had asked similar questions, including who would be responsible for in-putting data into the computer because I had a concern about field staff doing this, the Minister at that time had indicated that the clerical staff would do that. Is she now indicating that there has been a change in that?

**Mrs. Oleson:** As I recall, we were not talking specifically about respite when we were talking before.

**Ms. Gray:** I can go back to Hansard and check that out. My understanding was that we were talking about respite care and other types of data that would need to be in-putted at a regional level. Part of the Community Social Services operation, in one of the lines it indicates,

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"stand-by." Could the Minister explain what that line "stand-by" refers to?

**Mrs. Oleson:** This line indicates payment for staff who are on call after hours—well, on call or on stand-by.

**Ms. Gray:** Is this "stand-by" something that is throughout the province or is it specific to various regions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It would be in areas where there is a Child and Family Service Agency in the rural area where there would be nobody to get access to in off hours. In Winnipeg, in the regions, there are night duty staff, but not in the rural areas.

**Ms. Gray:** With regard to "stand-by" and after hours emergency, are all staff in all the Community Services programs required to be on stand-by?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is the staff and field workers from program areas, but in many cases it would be people who volunteer to be on stand-by.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister is indicating to me that it is staff who volunteer who are stand-by? They are not required to be on stand-by and put on a rotational list?

\* (1530)

**Mrs. Oleson:** It was an arrangement made in Child and Family Services areas in the regions to address a need for people in off hours.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us what specific program areas, what staff are on stand-by; i.e., are the Mental Retardation staff required to be on stand-by and are they rotated through as far as being required to be on stand-by? Are family counsellors on stand-by?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mostly it is Child and Family. There will be some Mental Retardation but it will depend a good deal on the region.

**Ms. Gray:** Was there not a system set up awhile ago whereby the Mental Retardation staff were going to be required to be on stand-by and this was something new, because before it was only family counselling staff who were on the after-hours roster in Winnipeg?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It was indicated to me that for the last three years all Mental Retardation staff are on some sort of a rotation for stand-by in Winnipeg.

**Ms. Gray:** Just to clarify, this is something that is not voluntary, correct? It is a job responsibility of each staff?

**Mrs. Oleson:** With the Mental Retardation, yes, it is something that is part of their job.

**Ms. Gray:** In regard to the regional operations, here throughout the province we have a number of staff who

work at a field level and middle management level. Because this is field operations and oftentimes a lot of the staff in the social services are female, the question of job sharing has come up. There seems to have been an indication a few years ago that the Civil Service Commission had a particular emphasis on promoting job sharing, and I am wondering if the Minister could tell me, what is her department's policy in regard to job sharing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** If it is appropriate and if it meets the needs of the employees, then the department encourages that.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us, how is job sharing promoted or encouraged throughout her department and particularly in the regional areas where in fact a lot of the field staff are?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is up to the individual regions and, in the regions, it is up to the individual employees to ask for this. If you have an employee who has been with you a long time, you certainly do not want to lose them. You would certainly entertain a suggestion from them that they would prefer to go on a job sharing so that you would still have the use of their expertise, but on a part-time basis.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated that the job sharing is left up to individual employees. Is she saying then that in fact there is not any type of particular encouragement or promotion that comes from the top level down in regard to what is available for job sharing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** People are aware of it, it is available. There is no special program to promote it.

**Ms. Gray:** Does the Minister have information as to how many job shares there are in the regional Operations?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We do not have that information right to hand, but we could get it for the Member.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us what her position would be on job sharing for middle manager and senior manager positions, i.e., regional directors or middle managers?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It would depend on the particular duties. It might be more difficult at that level to have people job sharing, but we would have to look at the circumstances.

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister aware of any studies that have been done as to the benefits or the negatives of job sharing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, I do not know of any specific studies, but it is not something that is brand new so there may have been some done on it. It is a concept that I certainly agree with. At certain times and under certain circumstances, job sharing is definitely the way to go.

**Ms. Gray:** For information, the Minister might want to consult with the Civil Service Commission or her

colleague, the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard). I understand there have been some internal reviews and studies done on job sharing of staff as to the benefits or the negatives attached to that.

A few more further questions in regard to Operations, it is indicated in the Estimates that four SYs were reinstated from '87 to '88. Could the Minister explain that?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It was four staff years that were not funded under Child and Family Services previously.

**Ms. Gray:** It is indicated that these SYs were reinstated. Where are these SYs right now?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The positions were never vacated, but they had been abolished a year or so ago and now they are reinstated is what I understand.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister is saying the positions were abolished but the people have been there? Who are these four people or what jobs are they doing?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There were four positions that were abolished. They were vacant and they are now reinstated. They had been vacant all along, but now they are reinstated.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister has indicated these positions were in Child and Family Services. Are these positions in the rural regions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** In the discussion of regional Operations, I have a few questions on how the regions relate to day programs and workshops. Is there anyone who is identified within a region who has a liaison function with workshops?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It varies with the regions but, generally, it is the voc. rehab person that is involved.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us what the responsibilities are of this V.R. counsellor in relation to their liaison function with the day programs?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They would be involved in looking at programs and program consultation and also assisting workshops.

\* (1540)

**Ms. Gray:** How do these V.R. counsellors assist workshops? I understand that when clients are placed in workshops that these clients would have their own individual VRS or M.R. counsellors, so there must be some relationship with these individual workers as well. I am wondering what the specific role is of this particular individual who has been given the job of being the official liaison, if I could use that term, with the workshops.

**Mrs. Oleson:** They would be in charge of coordinating referrals and also of providing consultation with regard

to programs. They also could be performing a dual role in that they themselves had clients in the system as well.

**Ms. Gray:** Would these staff also sit on the admission and discharge committees of the various workshops?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** What would the relationship be of these staff who are the liaison and the regional implementation committees?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They would be involved in the flow of information. I understand that it would vary from region to region. They would be involved in providing information and receiving information so that information was flowing back and forth as is necessary.

**Ms. Gray:** These regional implementation committees, do they have their own admission and discharge subcommittees that deal with referrals to day programs?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I understand some do and some do not.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us—do the majority of regions have these admission and discharge subcommittees?

**Mrs. Oleson:** We believe that they do, but we will have to find out more specifics on that and get back to the Member.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us what exactly is the role of the regional implementation committee in regard to referrals going into day workshops?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have indicated earlier that the future of the regional committees is under review.

**Ms. Gray:** Given that many things are under review in this department— and I will reiterate for the record what the Minister has said because I agree with her and well they should be—what do the workshops do in the interim? What relationships are these workshops supposed to have with these regional implementation committees, or are, in fact, these committees actually functioning at the moment?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The workshops would be part of the regional implementation committee. They would be working with the committee in having input.

**Ms. Gray:** Have these regional implementation committees been consulted in regard to these 15 new spaces that are being allocated as to where they might see them best being used?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is the region that manages the system. They may have some input but they do not manage the system.

**Ms. Gray:** Do these committees have any terms of reference under which they operate?

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**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, they do have and we could provide that to the Member.

**Ms. Gray:** Are these terms of reference individual or is it a general terms of reference under which all the committees in the province operate?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They have not changed. They are general.

**Ms. Gray:** Moving to a different line of questioning, under Operations, and I had asked a couple of questions the other day on freedom of information and the Minister had indicated that the regions were set up and established to deal with this new Act that is now being proclaimed. I noticed in the information that the Minister had tabled the other day that Mr. D. Williams is now a freedom of information coordinator and had been involved with one of the regions in, I understand also, the capacity freedom of information. Could the Minister tell us—this particular job that Mr. Williams was doing in the regions—is this job no longer needed, the freedom of information?

**Mrs. Oleson:** He is not in the regions, that particular person. He is a divisional coordinator for the Assistant Deputy Minister.

**Ms. Gray:** Is there any interregional coordination particularly in Winnipeg for the freedom of information?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Who is responsible for that coordination?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Assistant Deputy Minister is the access officer and therefore is responsible for it.

**Ms. Gray:** Who within the region is responsible for the interregional coordination?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The regional directors, with the assistance of the Assistant Deputy Minister.

**Ms. Gray:** Was this Mr. Williams before, when he was in the region, not responsible for some of this coordination across the three regions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, he was before and still is. Nothing has changed.

**Ms. Gray:** So, therefore, the Minister is saying that Mr. Williams is as well responsible for interregional coordination for the three Winnipeg regions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, in Winnipeg.

\* (1550)

**Ms. Gray:** A further question on freedom of information. Given that individuals applying for information, which may come from files, etc., that some of this information may be in more than one region or because people move from region to region it may take a while to even track down the files, could the Minister just simply tell us what the process is if an individual calls up a

particular district office and says that they wish to apply or would like information from their community services file? What is the process within the region to ensure that the time frames are met with respect to freedom of information?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I think it would probably be a good idea if I tabled the manual and the Access Guide for the Member and then she would be able to trace the system through to be sure that she is satisfied with how it works.

**Ms. Gray:** Is this Access Guide specific to the Department of Community Services?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is across Government.

**Ms. Gray:** Would this Access Guide give specific information as to who a community person might contact if they wanted to call a particular region and access information?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The person who wants information needs to contact the region and their needs will be answered through the channels that are outlined in the Access Guide.

**Ms. Gray:** Is there a particular position in each region by which an individual would contact or does that vary from region to region?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There are no new staff involved. Someone in each area is named as an access officer and that person will act in that capacity.

**Ms. Gray:** Who does that access officer report to?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The regional director. There are two in each region and they report to the regional director who, in turn, report to the Assistant Deputy Minister.

**Ms. Gray:** To clarify, the Minister has indicated there are two access officers in each region?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mr. Chairman, I may have left the impression before there was one. There are two designated people and then they report to the regional director who, in turn, reports to the Assistant Deputy Minister.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Ms. Gray:** No. With these access officers, could this access officer be a secretary? Are they field workers or are they always supervisors or does it really vary from region to region?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Most of them are administrative officers or intake staff.

**Ms. Gray:** The organizational charts that the Minister has handed out, it looks like hot off the press, September 23. In Winnipeg North Region, just to get a bit more clarification, is Mr. Ben Lewis still providing community services assistance to that region?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** For clarification, what exactly is his job?

**Mrs. Oleson:** He is assisting the regional director in a variety of jobs.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister elaborate on what "assisting the regional director" means?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mr. Chairman, he is involved in program activities but, maybe to make it simpler for the Member, we could table later, or give her a discription of his job and what he does.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister is indicating that there is a temporary job description that has been developed for him in this temporary assignment?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I understand a list of duties have been developed for him, yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Yes, I would appreciate the tabling of that information.

I just have one more line of questioning on the operations, and that is in regard to services for the mentally handicapped in relation to services which may overlap in the home care field. What we oftentimes find now that our mentally handicapped individuals in the community are aging, and in fact now that the mentally handicapped's parents are aging, is that we have a situation in regions where parents may be eligible for home care and are receiving home care, because in some of the activities of daily living they are no longer able to look after themselves. What happens is that in some cases we have an immensely handicapped adult who, for years and years has been looked after solely by these aging parents, and now we have a situation where they are unable to totally look after the adult mentally handicapped person in their home.

Where there seems to be difficulty or confusion in policy is that the mentally handicapped client may also require some assistance in getting up in the morning, assistance with daily hygiene, assistance with meals, but of course the home care worker who may be in that client situation will not assist the mentally handicapped person because it is not within their policy jurisdiction. I am wondering if the Minister is aware of some of these jurisdictional disputes that have arisen, such as I have mentioned.

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, I realize that is a problem and has been a problem for a period of time. That is why I am quite anxious to work with the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and see how we can resolve, perhaps, the job descriptions, or how that service is handled because it is something I have been aware of and am looking at.

**Ms. Gray:** Have any situations come to this Minister's attention in regard to these jurisdictional difficulties?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Not specifically with regard to names and addresses of persons, if that is what the Member

is meaning, but, no, it has come to my attention that this is a problem. It has also come to my attention, as a Member from my own constituency, that there are sometimes problems with the delivery of home care. That is why the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard) and I are looking at the regions and looking at how the delivery of these services take place to be sure that there are no people who are even in the same household as someone who is receiving home care and being ignored. So that is something we are very aware of and are working on.

**Ms. Gray:** I am glad to hear that the Minister is working on this particular issue with her colleague, the Minister of Health. Could the Minister tell us, while this review is going on, in the interim, what specific direction has she given her staff so that these clients can be serviced to the best of the ability of her department in the region?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have not given any specific directives as to how it is to be dealt with, but I have asked for information on the specific problems and how we could best address the whole issue because, as I said before, I know it is a problem.

**Ms. Gray:** What do clients do in the meantime when they may not be receiving services because Home Care will not provide services for the mentally handicapped adult in the home, only for the aged and infirm parent or parents?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It should be raised with the regional director who is responsible for coordinating these programs.

**Ms. Gray:** Does the regional director have the authority to make decisions which would be of a provincial program nature?

**Mrs. Oleson:** If it is outside his jurisdiction he could raise it with the executive director who has authority and reports to both departments.

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister saying that their executive director of Regional Operations then could overturn a program policy decision in Home Care in regard to providing services for a client?

**Mrs. Oleson:** He could raise the issue and make sure that the proper program policy is developed. Where he may not have the authority to overturn it, he could certainly bring it to the attention of people who can change the policy.

**Ms. Gray:** Who has the responsibility then to change policies such as that which are causing difficulty?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Assistant Deputy Ministers.

**Ms. Gray:** Are there ongoing discussions at this moment with the directorate of Home Care in regard to their policy regarding providing services to clients who may be mentally handicapped?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, but all these matters have to be looked at too in the light of proper resources being provided. So it is an ongoing evaluation.

**Ms. Gray:** What is the Minister's position on Community Services, specifically services to the mentally handicapped in their department developing their own set of services such as home support workers, homemakers, orderlies, to provide service to the mentally handicapped, aging clients in the community? Does she feel that her department should be providing their own services to these clients, or does she feel that responsibility should lie with the Department of Health and the Home Care Program?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It would depend on the circumstances, and as I said, it is being looked at with a view to resolving it, but it is not something that has been resolved and I could not give a definitive answer on how it will be resolved. It is always good to have initiative and people are willing to help themselves, but I think from what the Member is referring to, I think it needs a good coordination between the two departments which does not seem to have been the case.

**Ms. Gray:** Actually, I appreciate the Minister's comments, but I am asking the same question. Given that the Minister is responsible for the Department of Community Services, I would think would have some thoughts as to in which direction these discussions should go. There is a fairly large question here as to who is going to actually provide service, the Department of Health and Home Care Program, which of course would require more—or they would say they would require more dollars in their budgets to provide service for these group-clients, or does the Minister feel that her department in Community Services should be moving toward developing their own set of support staff and their own set of programs to assist these handicapped clients who are aging and do require home support in the community?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is one of the reasons we are holding the review, is to find out how best to serve the needs of people, and we certainly do not want any duplication of services. But then while you are saying that, then as the Member has raised earlier, there may be people who are not receiving service. So what we want is a coordinated approach to it. It would be rather expensive to set up two services parallel to one another. That is the purpose of the review, to see how best we can provide the services and, since review is not completed and the recommendations are not made, then no conclusions can be drawn as to how exactly the service will be provided. But that is the purpose of the review, because there certainly is a need to coordinate services.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us who is involved in this particular review, and what the time frame is of having the review completed?

\* (1600)

**Mrs. Oleson:** As far as the Winnipeg regions review, that is due fairly shortly, but if the Member is referring to programs, there has been no time line set on that because that still needs some study. What we first want to do is look at the recommendations of the Winnipeg regions and work from there.

**Ms. Gray:** The review of the Winnipeg regions has nothing to do with this jurisdictional dispute because the same jurisdictional dispute occurred in the regions where there was one, three, or whether it is six, or seven.

The Minister has indicated that there is a review going on, I believe is what she said in regard to, specifically, jurisdictional problems in regard to providing home care, and I use that word not in regard to program but care in the home services for the mentally handicapped. I am asking, who is a part of this review, and is there a time frame established as to when this review will be completed?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The assistant Deputy Ministers have been asked to come back to me clearly stating problems of interjurisdictional problems, and that is part of, not definitely the only part, but is part of the whole review process, to see the jurisdictional disputes, the organization, because they all tie in together eventually.

**Ms. Gray:** Which Assistant Deputy Ministers is the Minister referring to?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Of Child Welfare and Community Social Services.

**Ms. Gray:** To clarify, the Minister said that these two ADMs are reporting to her. Is there anyone else involved in this review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They will be of course asking their staff to have input on this, but they are the two who will be reporting to me.

**Ms. Gray:** Is there not a interdepartmental review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** At the staff level, yes, but this which you are just referring to with the two ADMs is not a formal review as such, but there is also a review, interdepartmental, yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Which departments are involved in this review?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Health and Community Services.

**Ms. Gray:** Earlier on in Estimates, in asking these very similar, same questions, same issue on jurisdictional disputes, the Minister had indicated the Department of Seniors would be involved in this jurisdictional dispute. Now she has indicated that her two ADMs will be reporting to her, and there does not seem to be any indication that in fact ADMs from the Department of Health are going to be involved, which I find very strange since one of the main policy areas that has to looked at is the policy in regard to the Continuing Care Program which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health.

Now, could the Minister clarify this interdepartmental committee? Is it now just the two departments or is it as she had formerly indicated, the three departments, Health, Community Services and the Seniors' Directorate?

**Mrs. Oleson:** When it comes to seniors, the department of Seniors will be involved, but they would not be involved when we are dealing with interjurisdictional disputes with regard to the children's department, so there are different aspects of this. The Seniors' department, of course, will be involved in anything to do with seniors.

**Ms. Gray:** Then to clarify, the Minister is indicating that these jurisdictional disputes and the example I gave today about the aging parents under home care and the adult mentally handicapped living at home, the Seniors' Directorate will be involved in reviewing these issues?

**Mrs. Oleson:** When it comes to seniors' issues, the Directorate of Seniors will be involved with the committee of the Deputy Ministers that are doing this review, senior staff.

**Ms. Gray:** Is there a time frame on this type of review? Has it actually started, this review, with regard to the three departments?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have asked for them to identify how long it will take and I have not had time to get too involved in it because of the Estimate process, so there is not a definite time frame established but it will be later on.

**Ms. Gray:** Has the review started?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The coordinating committee is in place at the Deputy Minister level, so preliminary work has been done of establishing a committee. But since the Deputy Minister, my Deputy, is tied up also in Estimates, it takes some of the time from actually getting right down to the nitty-gritty of this. But the process has been established and is beginning.

**Ms. Gray:** Who represents or who is part of this coordinating committee?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is co-chaired by the two Deputy Ministers and also on the committee are the ADMs from Community Services and Health.

**Ms. Gray:** Who represents the Seniors' Directorate?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That will be established later but I would imagine it would be the director. We have not got so far as to get to the seniors' items on this. As I say, we are in the preliminary stages and that will be established later.

**Ms. Gray:** Has this committee met and have they established terms of reference as to what are all the issues and the areas that they will be looking at?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, they have, but they have not met in the last few weeks because of the Estimates process.

**Ms. Gray:** I am wondering why this committee would go ahead and meet without having a representative from the Seniors' Directorate which apparently,

according to reports in the House and in Estimates, seems to be getting involved in a lot of these issues regarding the aging. Why would not the Seniors' Directorate personnel be involved from the onset?

\* (1610)

**Mrs. Oleson:** They will be involved but, as I said, we are in preliminary stages. There are other aspects of this besides the seniors' aspect. So there will be other matters dealt with, the child family area, the children's issues, will not affect the Seniors' Directorate, so there can be work done separately without involving the Seniors' Directorate in all aspects of the whole review, but they will be involved at a later time.

**Ms. Gray:** Are any of the directorates going to be represented on this interdepartmental committee?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, as they are required.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass? Item 3.(b)(2), Other Expenditures, \$1,467,300—shall the item pass?

**Ms. Gray:** Would the Minister tell us under the line, Transitional Unit, where it is indicated \$50,000 under Operating Expenditures, is that for mileage, etc., for the 18 staff or the 12 staff in this Transitional Unit?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I can give the Member a breakdown. Transportation is \$20,000, telephones \$2,400, hotels \$2,800, meals \$5,000, publications \$1,000, allowances \$9,500, and client incentives \$9,300, making a total of \$50,000.00.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass? (Agreed)

Item 3.(c) Manitoba Developmental Centre: Provides institutional care for the mentally handicapped. (1) Salaries, \$17,653,500—shall the item pass?

**Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (St. Johns):** Under this line, in relation to the information tabled by the Minister this afternoon on admissions and discharges at the Manitoba Developmental Centre, given that the information indicates a clear trend towards increased admissions, is the Minister still standing by her statement that there has been no change in policy with respect to institutional admissions?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There has been no change in policy. The numbers can fluctuate. This is not a huge fluctuation but they do fluctuate. People come in for a short time—I think we discussed this last time we met. Some people will be admitted to stabilize them, some will be admitted for reasons of respite, some are first admissions—there are various reasons—but it is not a huge trend and it does not reflect a change in policy.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** My quick analysis of the statistics certainly give me cause for concern and lead me to such questioning around the change in, if not policy, at least a change in practice. If one looks simply at the four months, assuming that it would have taken the Minister a little time to adjust in terms of her



becoming Minister, comparing those four months of '88, May to August, with the same four months in May to August of '87, we are looking at a rate that is four times as high in terms of admissions. It seems to me that there is a sharp upturn in terms of the admissions, but at the same time no corresponding pattern with respect to discharges.

Could the Minister explain this dramatic increase in admissions for the first four months that these statistics show when she was Minister of this department?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Member should notice that the number for April 1, '87, and the number for April 1, '88; the number for '88 is lower than the '87 number. The Member should also realize that the people who have been discharged from MDC are the ones that are easier to discharge, easier to place. Some of the more difficult cases are left within the institution and they are more difficult to discharge. That is something that has to be taken into consideration when you consider how many people have been discharged from the institution. Some of them, it would be very difficult for them to live outside the institution.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** The information I have does not have statistics for April of '87, so I am not sure what point she is actually making with respect to comparing April '87 to April '88. I would assume we are looking at, still no matter which way you analyze these numbers, quite a significant trend towards increased admissions and a slowing down of discharges.

I do not believe I have received an answer for why there has been a change in the whole question of admissions to the Manitoba Developmental Centre. I appreciate the comments the Minister has made about different time periods required in terms of stay at MDC, and so on, but that does not account for this kind of shifting in admissions, this change in the pattern. If she could perhaps explain again, or give some explanation for this change in admission policy.

**Mrs. Oleson:** There has been, and I repeat, no change in admission policy. The table that I am looking at, the information that I am looking at, which I circulated to the Member, lists, at the very top, 1st of April, 1987, 616 people in population, and now in April 1988, population 579, which is less than 616.

There has been no change in policy. We believe that the work we are attempting to do with strengthening services in the communities will, in the long run, prevent readmissions to MDC. Some readmissions have taken place because of difficulties in the community that have happened and people have to, mostly for a short term, go back for many reasons. There are some with a stabilization of medication, there can be several reasons, but there has been no change in policy of admission or discharge from MDC. The numbers that the Member is trying to indicate are huge are really not huge numbers. The population remains fewer than at the 1st of April in 1987.

(The Acting Chairman, Mrs. Gerrie Hammond, in the Chair.)

\* (1620)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I think the numbers speak for themselves. If one compares all of April 1987 to March of 1988, to the first five months of statistics for the fiscal year '88, the increase is actually higher for those five months than the total admissions for the whole year previously.

If you look at discharges, the numbers are clearly in marked contrast. I do not think I am reading these numbers wrong. The numbers show a clear shift in admissions, unless I am not reading this chart correctly, but I assume I am. It is a straightforward tabulation.

Could the Minister explain why then, if there has been no change in policy, the admissions for the first five months of '87-88 fiscal year are four times as high as for the same period, fiscal year '87-88—or is that '86-87—sorry, and why the similar discrepancy in terms of progress with respect to discharges?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Thank you, you surprise me. I cannot see where the Member is finding such a huge trend in these high percentages, because if you are looking at between May and August, for instance, of 1987, there were 22 discharges. If you are looking at April to August in 1988 there were 18. Now, 22 to 18 does not indicate to me a huge trend. I think one thing we should be aware of in this whole thing is numbers. Yes, we are looking at numbers here. Attached to each one of those numbers is a person, and it is the people we are looking at and their needs. To just strictly look at numbers can be very misleading; we are looking at people

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Let me try this once more. To follow the Minister's last comment comparing simply May to August of '87 with May to August of 1988, the admission rate is four times as high for the latter period. The discharge rate is half as many. Now, if those numbers do not speak for themselves, in terms of a change in either trends or practices of policies, then I am not sure what does. Could the Minister account for those major, major shifts and changes?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I think we better look at this over a longer period of time. I do not see here any great major shifts that the Member is referring to. When you take small numbers and increase or decrease by another small number sometimes it gets a distorted picture in percentages, and I think that is maybe what is happening to the Member. It does not to me indicate a trend to put people into institutions. As I repeat, as I said last time we met and discussed this subject and I said at least twice today, there has been no change in policy with regard to admissions and discharges from MDC.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** On Tuesday, September 27, when this item was first discussed, request for information was also made with respect to the involvement of Dr. Glen Lowther with respect to readmissions to institutional care. Since the Minister has one part of the information requested, does she now have information pertaining to Glen Lowther?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Member was asking about Dr. Lowther. His role has not changed from last year to

what his role is this year. Perhaps the Member could indicate just exactly what information she wants. Surely she does not want a client-by-client summary to do with the input of Dr. Lowther; his function has not changed.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** On Tuesday, September 27, the Minister indicated that she would undertake to get the information I requested which was numbers, and I assume this is the sum total of information available pertaining to admissions back to institutional care. As a follow-up question to that was information about Dr. Lowther's role in each of the cases, not on the basis of names or information on any case, but on a statistical basis about what role he had with respect to those admissions, and whether it was involving his authority under the Act or as a medical consultant or both. The Minister said she would undertake to get that information for me.

**Mrs. Oleson:** We could find and get the information for the Member with regard to Dr. Lowther's involvement with these cases if they were at variance with the Act. I am wondering for how long does she want this information. Is it from April '88 to August? I do not recall from her question the other day. Is it from April to August of '88, or is it from April '87? How long a list of information does the Member want? Because we have presented her with the statistical information on the population, the admissions and discharges from MDC, but with regard to Dr. Lowther, does the Member want information, as I say, from April '88 to August '88, or does she want it back to '87?

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** My request on Tuesday, September 27, was for not a long period of time. It was for a few months. I would be quite happy with information pertaining to the time period of April 1, '88, to the most recent available data. I would assume, as we move further along into Estimates, the September statistics might be available as well.

**Mrs. Oleson:** We could undertake to get the information for the Member from April 1, '88, if that is what she wants. I believe the last part of her question was would it be available for September also. Yes, we could do that. There is only a difference of one. For instance, there were 19 admissions and 18 discharges from April '88 to August '88, so there is not a huge number but we could get that information for the Member. But we would have to review all the files, so it would take some time.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I would appreciate that information. Also on Tuesday, September 27, in response to a question from the Member for Osborne (Mr. Alcock), the Minister indicated that there was no such thing as a restraining order preventing a department from moving someone back from the community into the institution. That was in reference to a specific case. Is she aware of the discussions before the Court of Queen's Bench that have taken place to prevent that restraining order from happening?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There were discussions but there was no action taken, so there is no point here. There was no restraining order placed.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister aware that the case was before the Court of Queen's Bench because of an initial decision on the part of the department to commit someone to institutional care, and that, by virtue of the challenge to that, it did go before the court. At that hearing Mr. Piche, representing the department, indicated that at that time no action would be taken under section 32 of The Mental Health Act but that they were considering—presumably you and your department—alternatives to a section 32 order.

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, the Member is right, there was a discussion. We are looking after the needs of the individual. There was no restraining order needed because the action that it would have restrained did not take place.

\* (1630)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Although the Minister leaves the impression that the issue is resolved, it appears to be ongoing in terms of this particular individual case, actions continued from her department, with respect to ways to deal with this individual. It would appear to be on a basis that is some distance from due process in terms of this person's—and I am hesitating to get into the specifics of the case. Since this is certainly not the intent of this line of questioning but simply to find out from the Minister changes with respect to the department's policies and her own policies with respect to committing people under The Mental Health Act and whether or not she is concerned about this ongoing case, the ongoing practice, this apparent change in policy and how she intends on pursuing this particular matter.

**Mrs. Oleson:** With regard to the case that the Member is referring to, there was no action to restrain. The parents had proposed certain actions with regard to readmission; then they changed their minds. Mr. Piche was instructing the court that we were examining options and how best to meet the needs of that particular individual. I think I indicated before that this is a very difficult case which, of course, we cannot discuss the specifics of in a forum such as is. There is no clear quick answer to that individual's problems. We are examining how we can best help him and address his needs and the needs of the community. So there has been no change in policy. We are still looking at the needs of the individual person and the needs of the community. I do not know how many more times I will have to say to the Member that there has been no change in policy.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Madam Chairperson, I think it will be useful to get the detailed information that the Minister has agreed to provide for us to have that discussion. It certainly will be very important for us to determine the involvement of Dr. Glen Lowther, pursuant to admissions and readmissions to institutional care and to be able to determine this Government's approach with respect to Section 32 of The Mental Health Act. I assume once that information is forthcoming, we will return to this item. I certainly intend on pursuing this matter no matter what line we are under once we get the information from the Minister.

Monday, October 3, 1988

**Mrs. Oleson:** Before you leave that subject, I just wanted to make it clear that I had not indicated that I would give specifics of this particular case if that is what the Member was referring to. What the Member is referring to and what I referred to, I am taking it, is the information on Dr. Lowther. I did not ever undertake to give specifics of the case that we had been discussing earlier in context of the restraining order. I could not do that.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** I appreciate that and certainly have not asked for details pertaining to the particular case. The Minister's comment does make the point that this concern, this issue, is ongoing. It has not been resolved. It is simply not done away with by virtue of the Minister saying there has been no restraining order. The fact of the matter is, we are dealing with a case where there has been action taken on the part of the department to try and commit someone to institutional care because of a particular incident that this matter is now before the courts because the two sides, the two parties obviously, are in disagreement around the approach, around one's due process, around what legal rights, Charter of Rights, are available to an individual in the circumstance.

So, suffice it to say for the record, that we do not want to get into an individual case. We are very interested in pursuing the nature, the policy issues, the practices of the department behind this particular case because it impacts on Charter of Rights issues; it impacts on human rights matters of the mentally retarded. It impacts on whether or not this Government is prepared to stand behind an antiquated section of an antiquated Act, The Mental Health Act. It impacts on whether or not there has been serious change, shift in practice, either by a policy directive from the Minister or by simply more directives being taken by individuals within her own department.

So all of those issues are involved in this line of questioning and we would like very much to return to those policy and implementation issues once the information has been provided to us.

**Mrs. Oleson:** I just wanted to repeat that there has been no policy change and also to indicate that the needs of the particular individual that the Member is discussing are very complex. There are differing opinions even in the professional community of how the case should be dealt with.

We have to weigh the needs of the individual person; we have to weigh the needs of the community. We have to take into consideration the wishes and opinions of the parents. In this case that was done, but it is not a simple yes-no issue. It is very complex and, as I said before, even the professional opinions differ with regard to the case. But as I would repeat to the Member, there has been no policy change with regard to admissions and discharges from the Manitoba Developmental Centre. We feel, and I am sure the previous Government felt, that the needs of the individual and the needs of the community must be uppermost in our minds. This is an individual we are dealing with and that person has the right to be helped by us in the best way that would suit that particular individual.

**The Acting Chairman, Mrs. Gerrie Hammond:** Shall the item pass? The Member for St. Johns.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** We look forward to returning to this particular discussion. If I could ask a question relating to the management reporting relationship with respect to the Manitoba Developmental Centre, it is basically now managed directly by the department. Has there been any consideration to a change in management practice, or reporting practice, or accountability practice with respect to the Manitoba Developmental Centre?

**Mrs. Oleson:** No, there have been no changes to date.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Has there been any discussion with respect to the establishment of a board of directors?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is something that is being considered in several ways, how we could best address that issue. There have been requests put forward to this department, to the Premier, that would be the best route to go, to have a board of directors. That is being looked at.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Given that, in response to the first question on this matter, the Minister said there have been no changes made or in the works but indicated that a board of directors is being considered. Is that not a change? Would a board of directors not be a change in management practices, reporting practices, vis-a-vis the Government and the Manitoba Developmental Centre?

\* (1640)

**Mrs. Oleson:** I indicated in my previous answer that nothing had changed at this time. It is still being operated in the same way as it was before. I also indicated to the Member's second question that we are considering the alternative of having a board. Both answers are right. The first answer was that nothing has changed there now and the second that we are considering a board. Both answers are correct.

(Mr. Chairman in the Chair.)

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Mr. Chairperson, could the Minister indicate the reasons behind consideration of this possible change?

**Mrs. Oleson:** There have been requests from the community, from parents of individuals who live in MDC. It would make it more a part of the community, it is felt by some people, if there was a Board of Directors. I am not saying at this time what we are definitely going to do. I am telling the Member that we are considering this option and it has been requested of us.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** So the Minister is saying it has been requested only of parents in the area?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I am sorry. I said that it had been requested by the community, and some of those people,

of course, in the community are parents of individuals in MDC. There are a number of people who have requested this. They feel it would be more a part of the community, it would be more open to scrutiny if there was a Board of Directors and, as I said before, we are examining that option.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Could the Minister provide us with a time frame for consideration of this particular change?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is under active review and, no, I could not really give you a timetable of exactly when the decision will be made. It is something that we are looking at.

I also should indicate, too, that in my answer to the previous question about who had requested, there is an auxiliary to MDC and they have suggested that a board might be one of the ways that we could operate that facility.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is there a concern on the part of the Minister or her Government about the current administration of MDC?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Our concern is to continue to run a well-managed facility. People have suggested to us that they would prefer it to be run by a board; some people are suggesting a board similar to hospital boards, that type of thing. We are taking it under active consideration and no decision has been made.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the change being considered in the context of—the Minister mentioned the change is being considered particularly because the community had been requesting perhaps some consideration of a change with respect to administration or management practices. Is there a concern on the part of the Minister or her Government to put some distance between the Government and the day-to-day administration of MDC?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Not necessarily. By studying it, we are responding to a request from the community. We want to be sensitive to the wishes of the community and, as I said before, we have not made any decisions. There are alternatives being looked at and, in due course, a decision will be made either to stay as we are or make whatever changes are decided upon. That will not be done tomorrow, and it certainly will not be done without considerable consideration and looking at the options to make sure that we move in the right direction.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Is the Minister concerned at all about the fact that she appears to be considering community interests and moving towards, or at least considering, decentralization in this area and on other fronts like Child and Family Services, actively pursuing a return to a centralization model that does not necessarily base itself on what is best for the community or by the community?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The Member is incorrect on both counts. We are looking at ways to best deliver service to the Child and Family Services, if she wants to refer to that,

or to the mentally handicapped. We consider all options on how to best deliver the service, keeping in view the needs of the people we are serving. Also, of course, we have to consider the taxpayers who are paying the bill.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** It would certainly help us if we could determine what the policy of this Government and this Minister was with respect to delivery of services and whether or not there was any inclination to support community-based over centralized delivery, whether there was some indication of support for deinstitutionalized care versus institutionalized care but I am afraid, to date, we have not been able to get any clear sense of that. I guess we will have to continue asking questions until we start to get a sense of where this Government is coming from on fundamental questions pertaining to delivery of social services.

A final on a related matter line of questioning. Is it correct that a transition team at MDC is still in place with respect to the whole Welcome Home initiative?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, the Transitional Unit is what the Member, I am sure, refers to. That is still in place.

**Mr. Chairman:** On item (c)(1), shall the item pass?

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** It is the line of questioning. I did not say "a question."

Could the Minister explain why the Transitional Unit is still in place?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It was set up to help people who are going out of the institution in the first place and that is ongoing. It was set up by the previous Government. I had indicated in questioning earlier that it was under review, but at the moment it is still in place.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** The Minister gave me some history on that item but did not answer the question which was why it still needed to be there, why the Transitional Unit is still in place.

**Mrs. Oleson:** I indicated to the Member that it was set up to help people who are leaving the institution and going into the community. That is still the reason it is there. I also indicated it was under review as to whether it is needed at the moment. It seems to be that maybe it should have been set up before the Welcome Home project, but those are all things that are needed to be considered. As far as why it is there, it is there for the same purpose as it was set up by the NDP Government.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** If we could determine from this data that the Minister has provided that there was some trend towards ongoing deinstitutionalization, then I think perhaps the question may not have been forthcoming, but again there is no indication from all of the questioning in this area of the Government's position about deinstitutionalization, about Welcome Home. The Minister at no time has indicated support or negative feelings about Welcome Home or deinstitutionalization, and it is very hard to get a reading about which way

this Government is planning to take this area on a policy basis.

So, my question goes back, I guess, to where I started from on Tuesday, September 27, and that is, is there a policy or a framework under which this Government, this Minister, is operating with respect to care for the mentally retarded of Manitoba?

\* (1650)

**Mrs. Oleson:** In previous meetings that we have held in the Estimates of this department we have discussed this issue, and I have indicated to the Member that our Government is certainly in favour of people going and living in the community and out of an institution if that is suitable for that particular person.

We do not hang our hat on ideology with regard to what people should do. We want to give them some choice in these matters, give the parents some choice. I have indicated that certainly a more homelike setting in a smaller setting for mentally handicapped people is certainly desirable. I have also indicated that we feel that at this time we should evaluate and take a look at what is in place in the communities to help these individuals to lead a better life in the community.

There are some shortcomings in that the Welcome Home project, where it had admirable goals of moving people into the community, moved rather rapidly and left people out in the community without the services that they need, so these things have to be looked at.

I am quite amenable to people moving out of MDC if they so wish to, if they are able to, if there is a place for them to go. Some people may wish to stay there, and that certainly is their prerogative. I am more interested in people living where they would prefer to live. I am more interested in people than in numbers coming and going to and from an institution. I think we have to treat people more as individuals than a list of statistics.

I have indicated on many occasions in this Estimates process our interest in having people live in the community if they can and they desire to. I do not know how much more I can say with regard to the policy of people being admitted and discharged with regard to MDC. There has been no change in policy. People leave, people are admitted to MDC for varying reasons, some of them their parents wish them to live there, some of them are new admissions, some of them, as I indicated before, go in to be stabilized with regard to their medication and some people are leaving. So I do not think that the Member can really be honest with herself when she says we do not have any policy and we do not have any direction. We have to think of the needs of individuals and that is one of the most important aspects of this.

**Ms. Wasylycia-Leis:** Well, I think all of us are concerned about this area and raising questions and talking about it because we are concerned about people and the lives of individuals, families and communities.

I think it is also quite clear that one cannot simply stand back and say whatever goes, goes; whatever

happens, happens. Governments have a responsibility to provide some direction, to provide an indication of the framework from which they are operating, to provide some policy advice, to provide some philosophical overview. Again, I do not have a terribly clear sense about this Government's approach to the question of care for the mentally retarded. The Minister has said that she feels it is desirable, I think she just said it is desirable for the mentally retarded to be close to family, I think she said, or in the community. If that is the case, and that is some indication of some little bit of a policy direction, could she indicate what measures she has put in place since becoming Minister to move further in the direction of community based care?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I have indicated to the Member several times that we need to look at the facilities, the opportunities there in the community for mentally handicapped who are returning to their home community, or other communities, to their families. It is important to be sure that we put in place as many as we can. Of course there is always a shortage because of dollars, but we need to have facilities like workshops and day programs, and it would be a mistake if we were to continually push people out into the community if there was nothing there for them. So that is what I have undertaken to do since I have taken office, to evaluate the system and what there is there for people in the community so that we can address that issue.

There are many issues to be addressed in this whole area, and in the whole department, so for the Member to insist that we have some magical thing to put in place in a few short months or weeks is not really realistic because the problem did not happen in a few short weeks. The problems of the department and the delivery of service—it takes some time and I do not believe in moving too hastily to try to rectify a problem, because sometimes if you move in too much haste, you compound or change the problem.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall the item pass?

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us in the statistics for discharges, does discharges include deaths?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, it does. I understand it does.

**Ms. Gray:** Could the Minister tell us is the discharge planning process that was instituted under Welcome Home, is it still the same planning process that is being used now at MDC?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Is the Minister indicating then that where individuals may be deemed capable of moving into the community, that a 24-hour plan is completed with the number of individuals, including the client?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, that is still the case.

**Ms. Gray:** Is this 24-hour plan—does it replace the individual program plan?

**Mrs. Oleson:** That is what it is, an individual program plan.

**Ms. Gray:** I am referring to individual program plan as the mental retardation program defines what an IPP is, which is done four times a year. My understanding was that 24-hour planning used to be a tool that was used, but in fact was discontinued because of some concerns that there was too much emphasis put on the strengths of an individual, which is fine, but that there was not enough emphasis put on the fact that there were also needs of an individual that needed to be met, and that that information was not forthcoming in the planning process, so that when the client moved out into the community there were gaps in information.

**Mrs. Oleson:** That planning is still in place.

**Ms. Gray:** Is there an objective third party who chairs these planning processes, or is someone from the school who does that?

**Mrs. Oleson:** The case worker at MDC chairs this committee.

**Ms. Gray:** Are parents automatically included in this planning process?

**Mrs. Oleson:** They are invited to take part, yes.

**Ms. Gray:** Who makes the final decision about whether a client will move out into the community?

**Mrs. Oleson:** It is a team decision.

**Ms. Gray:** Is that team decision by consensus or by majority?

**Mrs. Oleson:** I understand it is by consensus.

**Ms. Gray:** If a parent has an objection to a client moving into the community, then does that objection stand and the client remains at MDC?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes.

**Ms. Gray:** What is the role of advocacy groups or individual advocates who may know of residents in MDC and would like these residents to move out into the community? Can an advocate from a community initiate a discharge planning process for a resident?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Mr. Chairman, yes, they can make suggestions and request that person be moved out but it would still be up to the committee.

**Ms. Gray:** If an individual advocate or advocate group requested that a client be moved out and initiated that request, would then, in all cases at least, a discharge planning process be initiated by staff at the centre?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, it would.

**Ms. Gray:** The Minister indicated in her comments earlier today that there could also be new admissions to MDC. Does she have information as to if any clients who have never before been in MDC, have been newly

admitted to the centre since these statistics in April '87?

**Mrs. Oleson:** Yes, I understand that has been the case and we could get those statistics for the Member.

**Ms. Gray:** Under the sell—

**Mrs. Oleson:** Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, for what period does the Member want this information?

**Ms. Gray:** From April 1, 1987, to August '88, as these statistics indicate.

**Mrs. Oleson:** Okay.

**Ms. Gray:** Mr. Chairperson, the number 200-plus has always been tossed around as to the number of people who were discharged or moved into the community from institutions, and I understand it is not only the MDC. Could the Minister verify if 200 individuals were moved into the community as part of the Welcome Home Program?

**Mrs. Oleson:** 225 seems to be the number that is generally accepted but we could bring a verification of that number to the Member.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hour is now 5 p.m. I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. The committee will return at 8 p.m. this evening.

\* (1450)

## SUPPLY—GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**Mr. Chairman, Mark Minenko:** I call this section of the Committee of Supply to order. We are continuing to consider the Estimates of the Department of Government Services. I am advised that we are presently on item 2.(c) Workshop/Renovations.

**Hon. Albert Driedger (Minister of Government Services):** Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the critic and the acting critic for the NDP Party, the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), for being accommodating on a short-term notice again. I think we had some questions that we had taken as notice from the Member for—(Interjection)—oh, we had dealt with it, okay, fine.

I would like to indicate at this time as well that I had the opportunity, together with the critic, the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose), to go and visit the Manitoba Developmental Centre at Portage, together with our deputy, to look at the situation there. We also had extended an invitation to the Member of the Opposition, but at that time he could not make it. I would just like to indicate at this time that it was a very enlightening experience and it was beneficial for both ourselves in terms of seeing what was happening there. I would like to just indicate that at this time.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I think we can possibly continue. I believe you indicated we were on 2.(c), Workshop/Renovations.

**Mr. Bob Rose (St. Vital):** Mr. Chairman, in this section, I note that some of the work is done in-house by the department. Could the Minister give us a brief outline of how much of that is done at the present time, and what their philosophy would be for the near future, seeing as they are a new Government, as to whether it would be an expansion of outside work or whether it will remain static?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that there is no fast rule as to what we do. The more major projects, with them we go outside. There are certain projects, depending on the time, how urgent the matter is, where we go in-house to do these kinds of things, but in the normal course of action and if it is a major project, then we go outside of the department in terms of getting this work done.

Of the total construction projects undertaken by the department, approximately 20 percent are delivered by the workshop. Of these projects, approximately 40 percent will be subcontracted to private contractors. It depends a little bit on the situation in terms of exactly the kind of project that it is. I think the department gives provision of service in response to approximately 1,200 annual requests from client departments, so that shows you the immensity of it. Many of these projects are smaller projects and can be dealt with very efficiently within our workshop area. When it gets to be bigger, then we use a broader scope and in many cases we use contractors outside.

**Mr. Rose:** Realizing the difference between the philosophy of the present administration and the past administration, I wonder if you could give us some idea, in the short and long run, whether that breakdown of 40 percent subcontracted to private contractors is expected to remain the same or perhaps more of the work will be given to the private sector, or less?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** To the Member, I would like to indicate that it depends on the cost factor. We are doing comparisons right now on some of these projects. If it is going to be more beneficial once we do the costing to go to outside programs, we will go to outside contractors. It depends where we can get the best financial benefit from whichever way we look at it, and I think our staff is very keen in terms of taking and doing an assessment to see which would be the most beneficial. That is the route basically we are going to go.

We are not going to necessarily have an ideology where we go out and go strictly to outside contractors if it is going to cost us more money. On many of these projects, it is my perception at least that it would not be beneficial to go to outside contractors because of the small projects that we have and so many that we have. It is sort of a judgment call, I suppose, but the basic line is the economics of it. If it is beneficial one way or the other way, that is the route that we would be going.

**Mr. Rose:** I guess, to zero in on what I am getting at from a philosophical standpoint of private versus work done by the Civil Service, if in the near future a

substantially large job came along and you found that the costs were practically the same if it were done by a private contractor or could be done by the workshop and it meant hiring additional people in the workshop to do the work, what would the philosophy in a feature on that sort of—I am sorry that it is hypothetical, but that is the fastest way that I could get at the question.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I think I have an idea where the Member is coming from. He is trying to get me to indicate that specifically we will lean more towards the private sector. Given equal circumstances, certainly, we would do that.

The other thing I would like to just indicate, depending on the size of the project, I do not think that we have a complement of staff right now who are capable of handling certain projects up to a certain level. Once we exceed that level, depending on the project, then certainly we would be going to the outside. I certainly do not think that we would necessarily take and hire additional staff to handle a specific project, other than the staff that we have now who know full well what they can handle up to what point. As I indicated before, after that it will be the economics of it, but I have no aversion to going to the private sector especially if it makes economical sense.

Our first responsibility is to do the job as cheaply as possible and that is what staff is working towards, whether it is through the private sector or within house. That is that grey area where judgment calls get made at a certain point, depending on the size of the project.

**Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas):** Although I did not ask the question, I am pleased with the answers that come from the Minister in that particular area, because there are many who believe that there would be much more tendering done under this administration.

One of the big projects that this particular department has undertaken is the renovation and modernization of the Legislative Building itself. How is that work progressing?

\* (1500)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Member well knows that there was a long-range plan developed of which he was an important part in terms of setting up the continuous work within this building. I think for this year we have finances, the money available, to do a Minister's and a Deputy Minister's office, which is sort of in keeping with the long-term plan. There has also been, as the Member would be well aware, when you have a change of Government, there is additional funding that has to be spent in terms of doing some adjustments and changes. As far as the long-term plan is concerned, I believe we are on course and we will continue to work in that direction.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Just some criticism in reading the notes, the minutes of the previous day's session dealing with Government Services, there was some criticism of the new steps or new accessibility for the handicapped. I am wondering. Is there a problem with the new access to the Legislative Building?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would have to indicate that I think it is a very positive step that we have the accessibility, the work that has been done in terms of making this building accessible by the physically handicapped. I had the privilege, though not having been involved in the actual construction portion of it, to be at the opening. There have been some comments made by individuals that it was not necessarily up to their expectations, though I think it is serving the purpose and it certainly was designed to try and accommodate the concerns. The one thing is that the departmental staff are working very closely with the League for the Physically Handicapped in terms of the projects and exactly what has to be done, so consultation takes place.

When a project is finished, it does not necessarily mean that everybody is going to be 100 percent happy with it. I feel comfortable with the fact that the project has gone along relatively well. It is operational. How do you make accommodations for some of these things?

For example, if we wanted to make the gallery accessible to people with wheelchairs, with a building like this, it would be extremely costly. There have been adjustments made where they can come into the Chambers here and I think there is a spot designated for that. I think generally the department has tried, through consultation and through various efforts, to try and accommodate as much as they can in terms of access for the physically handicapped.

**Mr. Harapiak:** I am not sure if this would be the right place to address it or not, but the report that was done for the department by Ikey dealing with handicapped accessibility for the entire province, have there been meetings set up to meet with members of the handicapped community to make sure they have their input before there is any work started in doing some of the work that is required?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** It is my understanding, based on the Ikey recommendations, that staff is waiting for or are in the process of setting up a meeting with the Decade for the Disabled in terms of looking at the recommendations. That is going on and also discussions are going on with the type of equipment, etc., that should be used. I would like to indicate maybe to the Member at this time, we have a series of projects that are designated for buildings where we will do the renovations.

Mr. Chairman, if I could take the opportunity at this time, I would like to indicate that the buildings that are in the design process—The Pas Provincial Building, the Red River Community College, Morden Court House, Virden Provincial Building, Portage la Prairie Court House and Swan River Provincial Building—these are the ones that are in the design process.

Design and construction for '88-89 is the Brandon Provincial Building; 189 Evanson, which is the old Grace Hospital complex; the Woodsworth Building; Brandon Court House; the Robert Fletcher Building; and Assiniboine Community College.

The budgetary expenditure for this year is estimated at \$350,000.00.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Chairman, I recognize that it is up to the Government to set their own set of priorities. We know that in the Department of Highways, the priorities were changed completely.

I am sad to hear that the priorities in this area have changed as well. I was under the impression that the design was done for The Pas Provincial Building. That is a building that is required by members of that community. That is the only building that those people in the handicapped community can get their services in the Town of The Pas. So I regret that you would choose to play politics with a building that is required by the people in that community.

In most other communities, there is an option of where the people can get their services. This is one that funds were designated for the construction this year for the elevator in that building to make it accessible to it. I am disappointed to hear that there is going to be some design work carried out, because I think there are studies previously done in showing that it was required. I am sure that the design work was there to proceed with the construction of this particular project.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I will disregard the remarks from the Member about what happened in Highways. We will have an opportunity to deal with that when we get to that.

I would like to indicate to him that there was no priorities changed in terms of this program. What happened is the The Pas Provincial Building is still a priority and was a priority before; we did not change that. It is my understanding that the working drawings were not totally completed in time to undertake the project for this year before the winter. I can indicate to the Member that we did not change anything. We will comply with that and work towards that objective as fast as we can. I have no hang-ups certainly in this particular area. We might play politics when it comes to highways to some degree but that it is a different story. Certainly, when it comes to providing accessibility for the disabled, there are no politics being played and I want to assure him of that.

**Mr. Harapiak:** This department was moving towards eliminating a lot of storage that other departments were having stored and not utilizing it. There was a great cost to the Department of Government Services. Has that move been made to make it totally cost recoverable for the storage that is taking place?

\* (1510)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that we have initiated the activity towards charge back to the various departments, but for total cost recovery, we are not at that stage at this time. We are working towards that. We have initiated the activity in the early stages of charge backs, which was, I think, in the mill beforehand.

So, basically, I would just like to indicate to the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), who was the Minister, for a while, of Government Services, that in this department very little has changed. The basic



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objective has been there, it has been functioning relatively well, and he need not be too concerned about too much politics being played in here. Staff is working very diligently towards providing an efficient service forward and they are doing that. And I am not impeding them, either.

**Mr. Harapiak:** The Minister mentions that I was the previous Minister, and I just want to share with him that I think you have excellent staff in this department who work, do not get politically involved, and I would hope that they would continue along that way and they would continue to give the services as they are required. They are a very efficient department. So I would hope they would not become vulnerable to some of that political tinkering that may go on from time to time.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** It never happens.

**Mr. Chairman:** Shall item 2.(c)(1), Salaries and Wages, pass? The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

**Mr. Rose:** If I might, I have one question. The Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) alluded to the handicapped entrance facilities to the building here and I just had one question of the Minister. That is, in the event there would be a power failure in this building, would that section of the building be well-lit enough for exit from the building for anybody in a wheelchair, and would the exit be well-lit and a sign so there would be no problem on exit?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I thank the Member for that question. I think it is a very appropriate question. I am told that section is under the Emergency Power Plant, so that area is going to be accessible as well as well-lit up.

**Mr. Rose:** Does that include the ramp itself outside of the premises?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** We think so, but we will take that as notice and get the information back to the individual. I would expect that if we have been doing it at one end, it would probably be done at the other end, but I have not got a definitive answer.

**Mr. Harapiak:** One more question before we get off this Workshop/Renovations because I know this is the area that looked after the greenhouse when it was being built and I am wondering if everything has been completed in the greenhouse. Was it operating in order to raise all the necessary plants for all the Government buildings and is it fully functional for next year?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I do not know whether the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) wants me to keep stroking him all the time about his past achievements, but I would like to indicate that the project has been completed, it is working well. I think the majority of the plants have all been produced here, maybe with the odd exception—I am not even sure—but yes, everything is working well and we are very pleased with the way it has been operating.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it the will of this section to pass item 2.(c)(1) Salaries and Wages; item 2.(c)(2) Other Expenditures; item 2.(c)(3) Workshop Projects? (Agreed)

Item 2.(d) Leased Properties: (1) Salaries—the Honourable Member for the Pas.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Chairman, I did not get a chance to read through all of the previous days' readings of Hansard, but I notice that there was a dramatic decrease in the amount of vacant space from 3.3 to 1.1, and I am wondering what I missed that this new Minister has found that made that decrease possible.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that the basic change which made the most dramatic difference was the Law Courts Building. When it was completed, we moved back in there and that sprung some of the space loose. That would be the most dramatic one; that is the big one.

**Mr. Harapiak:** There was no change in policy or anything that said there was something different that the department is doing now to bring that down then?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Nothing more than to try and be as efficient as we can, but certainly no change in policy or anything dramatic that would affect the leasing process.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Have we had an opportunity to get a good reading on the cost and the cost comparison between leased properties and properties that are owned by the Government? Is there much of an increase in leased properties in the last little while? The leases that are coming due, are they staying fairly stable or has there been a large increase in properties, in the cost of those rents?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** First of all, I would like to indicate to the Member that he probably realizes the ratio of leased versus owned, and I think there is an ongoing study being done in terms of finding out which is the most economical. We can debate whether it should be 50-50, leased versus owned, we could debate whether it should be more owned than leased, but this depends a little bit on the market and the availability of space.

In terms of the increase for leased property, the average is, I am told, about 5 percent at this stage of the game. When you talk about the average, the Member is well aware—I think all Members are aware—that that could fluctuate because you have some where you have a renewal that is dramatically higher and others that are maybe a little lower, but the average has been around 5 percent.

**Mr. Harapiak:** I just wanted to indicate that the property at 800 Portage, although it is not a leased property, that maybe this might be an appropriate time to make a comment about 800 Portage.

I know there were some suggestions being made that we should be calling that building the Municipal Building to sort of tie in our commitment to rural Manitoba, and I think that would have been an appropriate way to do it by calling it the Municipal Building, seeing as the Department of Municipal Affairs would be housed in that particular building. I guess it is maybe the previous Minister of Municipal Affairs—I believe he was the

Minister of Municipal Affairs at one time, Mr. Weir, when he was in Government—I guess that building, the Government chose to give it the name of the Walter Weir Building, but I thought that we missed a golden opportunity to try and tie in a link with rural Manitoba, because quite often in this province there is an opinion out in rural Manitoba that we suffer from perimeter vision and we do not see beyond the perimeter. I think that this would have been an appropriate way of showing rural Manitoba, of which I represent a rural constituency, and the Minister does as well, I think it would have been an appropriate time to sort of tie in and call that a municipal building. It is unfortunate that they chose the name they did, although he was a Premier of Manitoba and I recognize he made a great contribution, so I guess maybe I should not be arguing against it, but I thought it was a missed opportunity.

\* (1520)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I suppose that is one of the advantages when you have a change of Government. You can have different ideas somewhere along the line. I think it is most appropriate when we consider that the various departments who could have a building that would be called the Finance Building, one that will be called the Agricultural Building.

I think a name has much more schmaltz to it and I think that the selection is actually quite worthy when you consider that Walter Weir, who did the total assessment thing for the province—unfortunately it is still not totally implemented, but I think he made a worthy contribution to the municipal end of it. I think people relate to that to some degree, as well as having been a past Premier as most appropriate. I sort of think I like it.

**Mr. Harapiak:** There was some discussion of a project going on at Fort Osborne Barracks. Has there been any further discussions going on with private sector to try and accommodate the needs that were required by Government by building a new building in the Fort Osborne Barracks?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to indicate that the Fort Osborne complex, I believe as it is known, is probably one of the more valuable properties that the Government has, and probably one of the more underutilized in terms of benefits from it. I want to indicate to the Members at the present time that we are looking at the possibility of doing a proposal call on the property, keeping in mind then that it is a very complex thing, but keeping in mind the fact that we have historical buildings down there. Any development that we are going to be looking forward to or asking for a proposal call, what we will do is be in consultation first of all with the city, with the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation, the Minister herself. I just wrote that memo today indicating that there would be dialogue between our department and her department when we get to the point where we will be asking for a proposal call. Certainly, we will keep the historical meanings of various buildings in mind when we look at development of that.

I think, as I indicated before, it is important that we may consider getting more utilization out of that

particular property that we have and some of the buildings when you consider the fact that a lot of money has to be spent to just basically maintain these buildings. I think that somewhere along the line we have to make a decision as to what we are going to do with it. We are looking at various options at this stage of the game, and once we have some ideas specifically what we are going to do, I will be indicating to Members of the House what course of action we are taking.

**Mr. Harapiak:** I realize that when you are looking at some of the older buildings that if you only look at it in dollars and cents, it would make sense to go and build a brand new building. I think that we have to take into consideration some of the history of Manitoba and I think some of those buildings in that complex have a lot of historical value, too. So before there is any decision made to tear down all the buildings that are there now, I would hope that there is a good ground consultation with the Department of Culture, Heritage and Recreation to make sure that there is no decisions made that we may be sorry for.

I think that one of the areas where there was a lot of thought given to, and I think that the Government made a right move, was in restoring the A.A. Heaps Building. That was one that was not a Government building, but it was a building that was in the private sector and then became Government property. I think in that instance we received a lot of credit for proceeding with renovating a building that had historical value, that we should not overlook some of our own buildings when we are going into that project.

I would also like to ask if there is any thought being given to calling for a proposal which would take in more than the requirements that are there now. There are, I believe, four departments that are being housed in that area. Would the proposal call to go beyond that, to maybe move beyond our percentage that we are right now of leased versus owned properties?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that we have had various meetings already with the people regarding the heritage aspect of it. I just indicated to the Member that today I signed a memo where our staff and the Heritage staff are going to be working in conjunction when the time comes for that.

I would just like to indicate to the Member that at the present time I heed his words of advice in terms of making sure that when we ask for a proposal call or whatever we go with again that we take heed of the heritage aspect of it. I want to indicate to him, most certainly, it will be because we are working in close conjunction; so we will not do anything radical. I cannot give him any details about exactly what will be involved in the proposal call. We are just starting to work with the total project and I have no details that I could disclose, that would be fair to disclose, even at this stage of the game because it is all in the discussion stages.

**Mr. Chairman:** There being no further debate on this issue, is it agreed to pass 2.(d)(1) Salaries; 2.(d)(2) Other Expenditures? (Agreed)

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Item 2.(e)(1) Employee Housing: Salaries—the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

**Mr. Rose:** On the understanding that Government Services is not high profile nor controversial—we have agreed on that before—and that it is generally acting on behalf of another Minister, I do not want to waste this forum on a learning process. I think there are other more appropriate times as alluded to the Minister in regard to our visit out to Portage which was most helpful and I think, in my view, would cut down the Estimates time and give us a hands-on experience here.

In that regard, I want to at this time express how pleased I was with the Minister and his staff who gave us a very thorough briefing in a very short period of time. I am very impressed by the facilities.

Incidentally, I am sure that in other departments, and I will allude to them later, we could expect the same type of cooperation which will be beneficial both to the Opposition and to the Government.

I would like from the Minister, if I could, a brief overview of the spaces and, as a layman, what we do there and what sort of usage we get out of them and what sort of charges may be made to people—not a long-expanded explanation. Briefly, if he could explain to me what he found, when they took power, that they thought needed corrections and what changes are being made in that section.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that the Employee Housing provides field supervision, maintenance, and upgrading services for Government employee housing units throughout Manitoba. That could be with the various departments. Our responsibility is to basically make sure that they are operational, that they are maintained properly.

We have at the present time where we operate and maintain approximately 117 housing units in 47 communities throughout Manitoba or through the province. The responsibility of Government Services is to make sure that they are liveable, that they are kept up to date. The total number of units currently under control of the program is 115 units. Assigned to departmental employees is 93 units; vacant housing currently is 3 units; being used for bunkhouse or program facilities is 14 units; and being leased to the private sector pending need of Government departments is 5 units. So that makes up the 115 in units.

Health has some of them—14 for Health, 11 for Highways and Transportation. Those are the buildings that we have in the various districts where the services are provided. Natural Resources has 64 units, which is more a department that is out in the field providing services. Community Services has 2; Government Services has 1; Crown corporations has 1. So that makes up the departmental units or the ones that are charged to the various departments—93. I am not quite sure whether the Member wanted to know the cost factor involved or maybe he could clarify his question, that end of it?

**Mr. Rose:** I guess what I wanted was a brief idea whether this accommodation has worked into the

contract or salary of the employees, some or all of them, or whether there is a nominal charge or any charge under some circumstances?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am told that this varies a little bit depending on the location, where it is at and how it has been tied into the contract process. For example, if you have an isolated situation where service is required, it would probably have a bearing on it. So there is no cut and dry formula on this. What happened is that last year, I think there was an increase of 3 percent, a total increase across the board. Individual rent rates may be adjusted by user departments in accordance with the 1987-88 agreement to reflect isolated location, size and suitability and multipurpose usages. That is the criteria that is used in establishing the various rates within the departments.

\* (1530)

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it the will of this section of the committee to pass item 2.(e)(1) Salaries; item 2.(e)(2) Other Expenditures? (Agreed)

Item 2.(f) Security and Parking: (1) Salaries—the Member for St. Vital.

**Mr. Rose:** I just have one brief question in this section. Contracted security services—and it names five places where it is contracted out—I would assume that the rest is handled in-house by the Government. Is it anticipated that in new facilities, perhaps at the Walter Weir Building, will it be contracted out or done in-house? What is the general trend in that direction as far as the department is concerned? Do not be afraid, I am a free enterpriser, too.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** First of all, I would like to indicate that we have a new Director of Security. He is on stream now. I will be making arrangements, hopefully within the next week or so, to have him meet with the various caucuses so that everybody becomes aware who our Director of Security is.

In regard to the Member's question as to what our situation is, in terms of privatization for security purposes, we have five locations where we have the private sector dealing with security. I do not know whether it was necessarily a change. We are looking at, in some cases, where we have electronic security so there are changes in that direction. At the present time, we are not necessarily looking at making any major changes in that, in terms of privatization versus the staff that we have available.

**Mr. Harapiak:** This is an area that has been particularly troublesome to many Ministers and that is the whole area of parking. I think that there is probably not another issue that many people would like to have resolved because of the fact it affects so darn many people who come to this building. I think it is a building that is a centre of attraction for tourism for the Province of Manitoba. When people come to visit this site, there is a lack of parking facilities. I know it is an issue and for a long period of time there were discussions going on about how we could bring into place more parking facilities.

Has there been any decision made on how we could increase the number of parking spots that are available, not only for the employees of the building here, but also for parking for the people who are utilizing the Law Courts Building, the Woodsworth Building and the other provincial facilities we may have? I know that in the Walter Weir Building there was a formula that is acceptable to the building industry as to how many parking spots should be available. We are a long way short in some of the other facilities, so has there been any plan developed to meet those parking needs that have been there for many years?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I fully agree with the Member that the parking situation around this building has been a major problem. I always felt, when I was sitting in Opposition, that it was the Government that was at fault and handling things poorly. Now I have the responsibility as the Minister responsible for it, but seriously it is a problem. We are not looking at expanded parking at the present time. We are looking at maybe the utilization as such.

The Member is fully aware that if we talk of providing the kind of parking that would be acceptable or provide the kind of room that we need, we are looking at big financial costs involved in terms of either going to tiered parking somewhere within the general area or whether we go to underground parking. I think there have been many options looked at, I am sure, as the Member knows as well. We are looking at various aspects of it, but at the present time we have no specific—and I want to repeat that—plans in terms of how we are going to address that. There are things that will sort of play a role in it like when we look at possibly the Remand Centre being constructed, whether parking could be available to some degree in some of those locations. If the Member has some specific suggestions, I am certainly prepared to listen to them as well.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Chairman, one of the suggestions that I would like to make to the Minister is that he start consulting with the people who are represented by a union. I know that there are discussions going on at the staff level but I think that the Minister also has to get involved and meet with these people and consult. I think that the people who are involved in this are prepared to come forward and make suggestions as long as it will alleviate some of the problems that their membership is faced with in the whole area of parking. I think that the Minister has to start consulting with these people.

They talk about an open Government. The Minister of Environment (Mr. Connery) has failed to consult with the people who are involved in the environmental field and he has not utilized some of the expertise that exists out there. I think there is some expertise in the MGEA who are representing these employees, who can come up with some very worthwhile suggestions as to how you can provide some additional parking. I think that there should be some consultation also on the charging for parking.

People are prepared. They recognize that most other employees in the City of Winnipeg are paying for parking, so they are prepared to enter into discussions

on it; but I think there has to be discussions at the Minister's level in order for them to move to some accommodations for the parking facilities that are required.

Is the Minister going to start meeting with these people who can help make his job much easier?

\* (1540)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the Member that I have absolutely no problem in terms of consulting with the Manitoba Government Employees Association. In fact, I had the occasion at a joint council meeting, of which I am a member, the other day, to meet people from the MGEA and I gave them the assurance that there would be consultation taking place. We are working towards that aspect of it. Certainly, they should be involved. I believe, under the previous administration, there was consultation taking place regarding the parking issue and I will indicate that it will continue to do that. It is not our intention to move ahead without talking to the people affected. I want to give the Member that assurance that we will be talking with the MGEA in terms of the steps that we are taking.

**Mr. Harapiak:** I guess a person should not be concerned for personal involvement in this, but I am wondering, since I am affected directly with Assiniboine Avenue closing because the quickest way for me to get to work was to come down St. Mary's and then go up Assiniboine and come in the back entry, and now that is prohibited because of it being a one-way street. Is that going to be a permanent set-up, or are we still involved in a study of how we can handle the traffic in a more appropriate way? When will we have some results of the study that is supposed to be going on which involved the traffic flow in each direction on different occasions?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I have had the occasion over a period of time now to raise the issue of the Assiniboine closing. The Member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Carr) has raised it at various times and I have had discussion with him about the aspect, the purpose why, first of all, the closing took place. Maybe I will just put it on the record.

The purpose of the closing was to try and gather data as to the traffic patterns around the building basically involving Assiniboine Avenue. The reason why we needed that or felt we wanted that information was because we are looking at developing the park to the south of the building here to involve the Louis Riel Park, which I believe is almost segregated from the balance of the building and the grounds, and we are looking at the possibility of amalgamating that into a total program.

The first step was in consultation with the people from the City of Winnipeg. They did the count in terms of the impact it had traffic-wise. We had a series of objections that were raised at the time when we had it closed totally, and accusations were made that this was done to create extra parking. Accusations were

made that we were trying to move some problems off the grounds. That was not the case. We were trying to gather information. At a predetermined time, we changed from having it closed because concerns were raised about the accessibility of fire trucks, ambulances, certain services, including the business community. Certain individuals raised concerns about the impact it was having on them. At the beginning of September, we changed the pattern and allowed it to be a one-way from west to east. That also creates a few little problems at the present time, but the car counting, traffic counts are taking place.

I used to come in that way and, for myself, it is a little bit of an inconvenience. I have to deke around where I could sneak in the back real easy. If it was for personal reasons, it was easier the way it was before. However, we will be conducting the traffic count once the city has completed it. I have given the assurance that once we know exactly what we are going to do and we have this information, we will come forward with a proposal that Members of this Legislature, as well as the members in the area, will be involved in and see whether we can come up with something that is going to be acceptable.

Working together with the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Ducharme) on this, and the long-range plan really, we look at possibly the Minister of Urban Affairs doing some riverbank development and to try and get some Forks money maybe into there, and maybe build a dock where the boats can come and tie up and people utilize the Legislative grounds and enjoy them—and the thing is, in the wintertime, for the skating which seems to be a very popular skating area, we are trying to sort of make the whole area a little bit more accessible and people comfortable in terms of using it.

**Mr. Cowan:** I have some questions involving parking, and I apologize if some of this ground has already been covered, but I just want to assure myself that I have heard correctly some of the announcements or at least interpreted correctly some of the announcements that appear to have taken place over the last little while.

My first question to the Minister is with respect to a decision to charge for parking for civil servants who are currently now utilizing free parking spaces. Has that decision been made to the extent where it is firm?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that the decision to proceed with paid parking has been made. The details of it have not been worked out in total. The reason why we announced it at this stage of the game was so that there would be no misconception. It is the intention to proceed with paid parking on Government property, let us put it that way—I want to make sure I say that right.

Unfortunately, I cannot be more specific in terms of detail. We are working on those and we will be bringing those forward. The reason why the details are not completed is because I have made that commitment, and staff has made that commitment, that we will be consulting with the various departments, first of all, and the MGEA in terms of where we are going to go with it.

**Mr. Cowan:** The Minister indicates that a decision has been made. Maybe I can just probe a bit to determine the extent of that decision. There is a decision that has been made to charge for parking on the Legislative grounds. Is that accurate?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to clarify that. It is not just at the Legislative grounds. It is for paid parking on Government property in the city area.

**Mr. Cowan:** Will that requirement for paid parking also extend to rural and northern areas?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Certainly not at the present time. We are going to try and implement it in the city area first; then we will be looking at the process whether we want to expand that to the rural and northern areas.

**Mr. Cowan:** I would ask the Minister then, when it is they intend to make the decision respecting rural areas with regard to paid parking?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** At the present time, at least, I consider that quite remote for the simple reason that in the rural areas and the northern areas, parking is not that kind of problem. You have all kinds of room to park. For example, Government employees that work for Natural Resources or for the Highways Department or other departments, for that matter, in most cases you have ample room on the yards, etc. It has not been the kind of problem of concern up to this point. I am not—how should I put this—very excited about proceeding with that next step at this stage of the game.

**Mr. Cowan:** I have to agree with the Minister. I would not be very excited about starting that step either. However, what I am trying to determine by this line of questioning is what is the reason behind the decision that has already been taken to implement a paid parking policy? It appears to me, from the answer given by the Minister to my question, that he is concerned about the lack of parking spaces and that he is of the opinion that by charging for parking spaces he will deal with that particular problem. Is that the case?

\* (1550)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** The Member asks why. The first reason, and the biggest reason, I suppose, would be cost recovery in terms of the maintenance on the various parking lots. It costs an awful lot of money, especially in the wintertime, to keep everything clean.

This issue has been in the mill already for approximately eight years and has never been moved forward with. I suppose I have a personal feeling that I think it is justified in doing it for the simple reason—I want to give a little scenario. My son was working part time at the restaurant here downtown. He drove in from the country, an hour's drive everyday. He was getting minimum wage—\$6 an hour, he worked part time six hours a day, and he ended up paying \$6.50 a day just for parking. That does not necessarily justify what I am doing. I am just indicating that almost everybody else is paying for their parking, especially in the city area.

It is a real concern to everybody in terms of getting parking space. Somebody has to accept the responsibility for maintenance costs, the recovery cost, and I think that is the main purpose why we are moving in that direction. The other thing is, as the Member well knows, some of our Government building space we rent, we rent certain parking spaces with that, parking spaces in an enclosed area, and some of our costs run anywhere from \$75 to \$100 a month that is paid on behalf of the department for these spots.

I think it is only reasonable to start looking at doing some recovery of these. Naturally, the various departments are paying for it, but it is still taxpayers' money that is being used in those cases. So I think by addressing this, to some degree, in terms of the paid parking, I think it will also give us a better handle in terms of who is utilizing the parking spaces around the buildings—all of the buildings. I feel it is a step in the right direction.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairperson, I am somewhat confused by the Minister's answers. Perhaps I will seek some more clarification. When I asked the question with respect to parking in the rural and northern areas—and let the record be clear, I am not suggesting that we should be implementing a paid parking policy in those areas—but when I asked the question of the Minister for clarification of the general overall policy, he said to me that the reason it is not being implemented in the rural and northern areas is they do not have the same problem that we have in the city. The problem in the city, of course, as he indicated, is with the number of parking spaces and trying to accommodate all the people who want to park.

Now when I asked him the question with respect to clarification, as to why he is implementing the policy, he says it is for cost recovery and maintenance. He references exactly, or specifically, cost recovery on snow removal. There are snow removal problems and snow removal costs in the rural areas and there are snow removal costs in the northern areas. If he is familiar with the building in Thompson, the Provincial Government Building in Thompson, there is a large parking area there. It has to be cleared, just as the parking areas down here.—(Interjection)—No, I am not after that. The Liberal critic shares some of the confusion that I share because what is happening is—(Interjection)—You know, if there has been anyone who has been confused consistently since he assumed his seat in this House, it is the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) who is now chirping from his seat—you will find that it is not in the book—and trying to distort the record as to what I was suggesting.

I put very clearly on the record, if he would care to listen,—(Interjection)—The Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) says we are stonewalling the Legislature. When you have a Minister who stands up and gives two different reasons—(Interjection)—I just wish that Hansard could pick up the rantings of the Member for St. Vital from his seat and the difficulty is I cannot spend enough time to put his nonsense on the record. So I am going to continue on with my questioning. Well, I probably could spend enough time to put his nonsense on the record, but what would happen then we would be eating

up even more time, and we would be eating it up in the most unproductive way by putting on the record what is illogical and nonsensical mutterings from the Member for St. Vital.

I would ask him to listen carefully to what I say. Perhaps he would understand a bit better what the difficulty is. I said very clearly, so that his distortions do not stay on the record unchallenged, that I was not suggesting that there be parking charges for northern or rural areas. What I was trying to get at was the reason why the Minister is implementing parking charges at this time.

In the first instance, he says it was because of the problems with respect to not enough parking. Then he says it was for cost recovery and maintenance, but he said that they were not going to go into the rural areas. I am suggesting that in the rural areas and northern areas you have, on a per capita basis, approximately—give or take a bit—the same cost recovery on maintenance that you would in the city.

You would also have the same cost recovery on parking spaces in many of the rented areas in the rural areas as well, because when Government Services rents on behalf of the departments or the departments themselves—however the system works at present—rent, they also rent parking spaces in many of the rural areas and many of the northern areas. It is not a cost recovery matter that is isolated to the city itself.

I would ask the Minister then, if the primary purpose or the main purpose—I use his words exactly—is for cost recovery and maintenance, why it is he is assuming that there are only maintenance costs to be recovered in the City of Winnipeg and not elsewhere?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that the paid parking program is basically modelled on successful existing employee parking programs found in public and private sectors across North America. It is not something that is unique. It is being done in other areas and I think it only makes sense to do that.

The Member is concerned about what we are going to be doing with the rural and northern areas. I would like to indicate that the first concern has to be whether we can basically implement the program properly and make it work in the City of Winnipeg. I do not know whether we can administratively or technically apply the same kind of program throughout the rural area, but most certainly, if we have a working system going here and we find that it is working well, we will probably be looking at some of the major centres outside of the rural area once we see whether we have the program functioning properly.

It is not that they are going to be totally exempt forever and ever. We are saying we want to try and implement the program here. If it works well and we find that we can technically and administratively apply the program outside of the City of Winnipeg, we will be looking at the major centres there as well.

**Mr. Cowan:** Now we have another contradiction perhaps. I may stand corrected, but I thought I heard

the Minister stand on his feet just about five minutes ago and say he was not keen on implementing the paid parking policy in the rural areas. I certainly assumed from that statement that they were not going to be implementing it in the rural areas. As a matter of fact, he confirmed that by his latter statement. Now he is saying that he is going to use what is being done in Winnipeg as a test to determine whether or not it can be done outside of Winnipeg in the rural areas. Just so I am certain on this, because the record is confusing to date, does the Minister have a strategy to implement paid parking not only in the City of Winnipeg but paid parking on Government property outside of the City of Winnipeg in rural areas, specifically?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I do not know how I can confuse the Member that fast about an issue like this. I indicated there were no definite plans. We want to try and implement it in Winnipeg. If everything works well, I never indicated we would or would not implement it in the rural area, and I indicated that I was not keen at this time to consider that. I have my hands full, as far as I am concerned, in trying to implement it in the City of Winnipeg. Once we have dealt with that, we will look at the options that we have available. I did not indicate we would or would not. I cannot see where the confusion is. If the Member feels that I should say, yes, we will definitely do it or we will not definitely do it, I will not make that commitment at this stage of the game because I cannot.

\* (1600)

**Mr. Cowan:** The Minister says if everything works well, they will consider it. He also says that the reason for implementing this policy is basically cost recovery. The main purpose, to use his words, is cost recovery on maintenance.

I would then ask the Minister that if everything works well administratively and they find that they can implement a paid parking policy in the City of Winnipeg, will he then—let me rephrase the question to make it easy for him—what would prevent him from then implementing the same sort of paid parking policy in rural areas? I think it is an important question that deserves an answer, because the Minister cannot just take half of a strategic plan and say we are only going to implement it in the city, but the need for it is the same in the rural area, and if it works well in the city, it would work well in the rural areas, and because I believe of some concern he has about the rural areas, being a rural representative, he does not want to stand in the House today and say what is fair for the City of Winnipeg, if it is fair, is fair for the rest of the province. So I would ask him this question. If everything works well and if his main purpose is cost recovery, what would prevent him from extending this paid parking system throughout the entire province?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I do not know if there is anything that would prevent that. We would have to see exactly what the implications are of doing it in the rural area and that is why I raised it before, whether it is technically and administratively feasible to implement this in the rural areas. There are many questions that would have

to be addressed at that stage of the game. I am not going to make the indication right now to him that yes, if everything works well, we will instantly proceed on the rural areas. We are going to have a look at that. I know that is wide open and I will leave it at wide open, because we are first going to deal with it at the city level, and then, if we get the system working well, if we can see our way clear, we will look at the bigger centres on an issue-by-issue basis at that time.

**Mr. Cowan:** I make the points, Mr. Chairperson, not because I want to see this new parking policy implemented in the rural and northern areas, but I make the point because I want those civil servants and those others who use Government parking in the rural and northern areas to understand full well what is going to happen over a period of time.

The Minister tried, very much so, to leave an impression earlier on in today's discussions that this would not apply to rural and northern areas. The Hansard is very clear on that specific point. He said he was not keen about it, or words to that effect, and he left the very clear impression that it would not apply. When tested a bit and when asked as to why this is being put in place, and what purpose the change is intended to serve and how will we carry on further, the Minister has left a very open door for the extension of this policy into rural and northern areas.

I understand his sensitivity as a rural Member in making, at this point in time, a definitive, categorical statement that this policy will be extended to rural areas if it works in the City of Winnipeg. I understand why he is cautious and he does not want to do that for fear of the feedback that will come from his own constituency and many other rural and northern constituencies, but I do not think it is fair to even, without malice or forethought or in a deceitful way, fool them.

I think that he has to be very clear that this is where this is going to run if it works in the City of Winnipeg, because the reasons he has given for implementing the policy are as real reasons for implementing the policy outside the City of Winnipeg as they are for inside the City of Winnipeg. So let those other civil servants be cautious, as well, as to what is happening here.

When he enters into the consultations, I think he should be quite up front with the joint council and the other organizations with whom he is going to consult and say, yes, if this works here, we are going to see paid parking policies in other areas of the province over a period of time just because there is no logical reason not to do so if it works in the City of Winnipeg. As a matter of fact, it would be illogical not to do so. I am certain that he does not want to be known as an illogical, although perhaps a parochial motivated Minister. He wants to be known as a logical, reasonable Minister. So that is what we see happening down the road in that there should be fair warning of that given.

He has also said that the decision has been made now to initiate paid parking. He says that a consultation process has to be undertaken. Can he indicate how long it is he believes that consultation process will take?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** First of all, I take a little bit of offence when the Member says that I was making deceitful remarks.

**Mr. Cowan:** No, no. I said it was not deceitful.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** The Member was implying that possibly I was moving in that direction. I have never been that type of an individual. If I had wanted to be deceitful, the opportunities have been many here. I have been very forthright in terms of what I have indicated.

I also indicated that the Government has been struggling with paid parking for eight years. It was a decision that we proceed with that and I have tried to explain that as most logically as I can. I have indicated to him that I have no solid position in terms of what happens after we do it in the city end of it. So I am not trying to mislead anybody or lead anybody down the garden path in terms of what we are trying to do with the thing. Now that I have explained that, I forgot what the question was.

**Mr. Cowan:** I will be lucky if I can remember it, Mr. Chairperson. I believe the question in fact was can the Minister indicate how long the consultation is going to take with respect to meeting with the different groups?

While I am on my feet, I might as well add another couple of factors into the equation. With whom is the Minister anticipating meeting over the next little while? When this decision is taken, will it be as a result of a consensus or will it be as a result of the Minister having listened to a number of people and then taking the decision if there is not a consensus onto himself or onto Government, which may be contrary to the wishes of those with whom he has consulted?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** It pains me a little bit when the Member indicates that I would do something that was totally against everybody's wishes, but obviously the fact is he wanted to know about the time frame. We will be consulting within the next three to four months possibly. We are hoping to have the implementation of the program maybe by early January or in January some time, providing that all these things can be put together. There will be consultation with the various departments. There will be consultation with MGEA, and based on all the information when we have that, we have proposals that we want to have feedback from them and we will be looking at the various aspects of it. Ultimately, if a decision has to be made, how it will be done, the Minister will make that decision.

**Mr. Cowan:** The Minister has said that if necessary, although he would not like it to be the case, if he has to hear everyone out and then finds that he does not agree with them or his Cabinet and his Government does not agree with those people with whom he has consulted, he will make a decision that is contrary to the advice that was being given to him during the course of those consultations. Nothing unusual about that for this Government, Mr. Chairperson, so I am not going to belabour the point, but I do want the point on the record.

I understand from what he said, and he can nod his head if I am incorrect, that he will be consulting with the MGEA and the departments. He added no other names of groups or individuals with whom he would

be consulting, so I would assume that would be the extent of the consultation.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I think it would only be normal to consult with those people who are going to be affected. If he wants me to broaden that and say the Civil Service Commission or the Manitoba Government Employees Association or the departmental people who are involved, I do not know who else it would involve in something like that.

I find the Member, and I have known him for as long as he has been in this House, he has a way of turning things around to the point where I am wondering what I have said. I thought I made it abundantly clear what the intention was, how we are going to do this. He says by the time that we will have consulted, and if I do not agree with what the people say, I will do it contrary to their wishes and implement the program.

I indicated that we will consult and we will try and work things out. I have to indicate that ultimately somebody has to make a decision. That could be in conjunction with what we have been able to work out. He twisted it around like, after it is all over, we will have a big match and I will do it contrary to what everybody wants. That is not the point. Consultation is talking about it to see whether we can resolve and listen to that thing.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate that in the years that I have been sitting in Opposition here this Member and this Government have done many, many things that I thought were very autocratic, arrogant, in terms of the way they made the decisions. I did not agree either, and they said it was their responsibility as Government to make that decision and they did that. I never went and put on the record that it was going to be a confrontation situation, but I had my opportunity in this House to indicate when I did not agree with it.

He can do that too, but he is always trying to play on words, in terms of saying I am going to listen to these guys, and regardless of what they say, I am going to do it the way I want to. That to me is not consultation. That is maybe how they consulted; maybe that is why they got into trouble. When we consult, that means we listen, we try to get all the information together and try to deal with it in a fair and sensible manner.

**Mr. Rose:** I guess I can understand the Member for Churchill's (Mr. Cowan) feelings. I would probably experience if I had to—

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please. Would the Hansard recorder turn on the Honourable Member for St. Vital's microphone.

**Mr. Rose:** I am sorry that my Leader was usurped by somebody who is a real character in Canada. I have one last question, Mr. Chairman, if I could ask it and that is—and I can understand you. They are seeing in me some of the same frustrations because I come from a business background that they saw in Larry Desjardins and Jim Walding. I know that you do not like it when a Member for St. Vital stands up because you are pretty



sensitive to St. Vital, because you know it was your Waterloo but you had better get over that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I stand here to hopefully ask, as a rookie MLA, some logical questions. They will not always be logical and they will all be sensible. But they are well-intentioned and their intent is to carry on and improve the business of this House. We have written this in committee after committee in this House, stonewalling by this Government and always they want to stonewall. They bring up the small issues and play and play and play on them, instead of playing on the real issues, the economic issues that are important to the people of this province.

If they had been around earlier, they would have known that we had gone through the parking at an earlier time, and a lot of the questions that they got answers to were already answered previously. So, therefore, maybe you can understand a bit more my frustration. There is Hansard on these things and you should have read them.

\* (1610)

**An Honourable Member:** Why are you frustrated? It is okay. We do not mind, go ahead, get it out.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please.

**Mr. Rose:** I am not frustrated at all.

**An Honourable Member:** You just said you were frustrated.

**Mr. Rose:** No, I say that you are trying to see the frustrations that your former colleagues had.

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, please; order, please. I would ask all Honourable Members to allow the Honourable Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) to continue with his participation in this debate.

**Mr. Rose:** I recognize that there are more important departments and not these picayune matters that we should be looking at Health, Education, what have you. So I will put my question. I would like to say that after years—I think we are talking about eight years of neglect on parking—as a previous member of the Winnipeg Parking Authority, I know just what a dog's breakfast we do have around these facilities here.

I would like to see that at least, hopefully, and as the Minister well knows this side disagrees on some of these plans behind the Legislative Building. But I do know that some of his moves at least display some courage, some boldness and some innovation. He can probe and probe and maybe make some changes back here which we have already persuaded them to make it one-way heading east. I know from talking to many employees that they appreciate the changes that are here, and that they do not have to come an hour and an hour-and-a-quarter earlier to work to do nothing that they used to do under the previous administration.

So if nothing else, I welcome that. My question to the Minister is that undoubtedly charging a fee for

parking, and I am sure that your department will, and hopefully they will be sensitive in the way they treat this. But I imagine that part of that is to discourage people from bringing their cars downtown because they crowd and inconvenience the people on Kennedy and Edmonton and all over this area in particular. I hope that will discourage people, that they will do what we all try to do as responsible administrators and taxpayers, and that is to have more use of our buses that come right into this vicinity and certainly utilize the space to best advantage. If they cannot do that—I see hundreds of cars coming in here with one person in them. Why do we not have programs like we have down in—I know they do not like me using the word "United States"—it brings up visions of burning flags to them—but that we start car pooling and this is something they have done. I think that by the imposition of some reasonable parking fee for the people that it will encourage the bus use. The people will probably find out, like many of my friends do, that it is far more convenient than bringing a car. They will find that by car pooling, it is not only cheaper but they have a comrade to go back and forth to work. So I welcome those moves.

I was just wondering if the Minister has any figures—and it may be unfair even to ask this question, but I am known to ask the odd unfair question—as to what impact this will have on total parking in here. What percentage of people will car pool and start using the bus because they find that a better way to go than using the new parking fees?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I wish I could be definitive in terms of the impact it will have. I would suspect just from my observation that by putting on a fee, and the Member raised the issue of having a reasonable fee, first of all, I would envision a three-tier fee structure: one which is basically just a straight parking area; the other is a serviced parking lot; and the third, it would envision in my mind—and we are working on the various fees and the Members will have a change to have a look at these fees once we come forward with them—one would be in the enclosed buildings. I made reference to this before where we have rented space and we have rented parking space along with the office space, certain parking slots that are in an enclosed building, in some cases, I believe even heated parking spaces. So you would have to have a three-tier level in terms of charging for what is reasonable. The intention is not to make money on this program. The intention is to try and recover costs.

Once we implement this, I think it will sort itself out in terms of whether all of these people who are parking on the Legislative grounds right now, I would envision that there probably would be more pooling, I would expect possibly. If you start putting in a fee, some people might not want to bring their cars. When you have free parking like we have now, it lends itself to everybody driving. So that suggestion of the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) that the pooling aspect of it could take effect, I think would probably do.

There might be others also who might have different places where they would want to park. It is my understanding and my feeling, having come to the

Legislature sometimes around seven in the morning, that a fair amount of people who park here actually are working in the city. Now I do not know whether they work at the Government buildings or not, but a lot of people park here and walk into the city. Once we have the program in place, whether that will address some of it, I do not know.

But I think we are starting to move in the right direction to address the aspect of it. It is being done in many other jurisdictions. It is not like it is a brain child, something new that we have come forward with. It is being done all over the place. I feel comfortable implementing the program.

**Mr. Rose:** A question arises out of that to the Minister. As is done in other jurisdictions, and realizing that this is a problem that has been thrust upon you and you are trying to work your way out of it, so I will be a little patient, but do you anticipate or are you going to study any incentives to the employees? There will be many put out with something that they have been getting free and I can realize that. Do you anticipate that your department or the Government may have some incentives to, let us say, reward or assist people who show some common sense? I realize that not all people can take the bus or car pool but would you anticipate that the Government might be able to implement some incentive programs to encourage, No. 1, car pooling or alternate methods like bus or, in the summertime, a bicycle, for instance, rather than bringing their cars for those who have regularly brought them in the last six and a half years?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I listened with interest to the comments made by the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose) and indicate that there could be a lot of possibilities. I want to put "could," for example, the pooling aspect of it. It could have something to do with the allocation of space because we have only so much space to allocate. So these are things we will certainly look at and see whether that maybe should be a criterion.

I am open to suggestions. Certainly, as we get into this thing, any advice that any Member can bring forward or the employees can bring forward will certainly be looked at. The only thing that we are forcing anybody to do is probably pay but certainly, in terms of implementing the program, we are open to suggestions to try and do it in a reasonable and fair and equitable way.

**Mr. Rose:** I might say that it is probably in my discussions that some employees, and I cannot speak for the employees, but some would perhaps rather pay a reasonable fee than have to come an hour, an hour and a quarter early in the morning, and then have the risk of not having a parking space, and then having to pay a fine during the day and what have you, that they would welcome a change or that they would see the common sense in pooling or using buses or other methods.

What would the Minister acknowledge to be that they may be anticipating as the minimum and maximum on a three or four stages per month parking for employees?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I do not have specifics that I would want to indicate right now but my Deputy Minister, when I was gone the last few days after the announcement was made, had indicated that we are looking possibly at the average between \$35 and \$40 average, monthly. Now when you take the various categories, some would be higher and some would be lower. That statement was made by staff based on sort of the general fees in conjunction with what is being charged. We would not be charging more than the average individual is paying for parking in the city. That is why I indicated, reasonable type of rates.

\* (1620)

**Mr. Cowan:** The Minister in his earlier answers said that what we are doing is modelled on successful programs in other jurisdictions. Would he be able to table analyses of what happens in other jurisdictions that would substantiate what it is he is suggesting take place here in Manitoba? The reason I asked him to do that is because, when he is asked to identify the benefits of this change in policy, he uses these sorts of words, "I suspect, I envision, I anticipate, I expect." He does not come forward with a definitive non-categorical statement with respect to what the benefits will be or will not be. So if he cannot, based on the knowledge that is available to him at present, come up with more definitive statements, then I would ask if he could come up with the analysis of the models upon which they are basing their decision-making now.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Primarily, the model used is the same one that is being used by the University of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, the federal Government, Great-West Life Building. Staff has been working, and the Member full well knows it. He has been involved in this thing. He has looked at the whole process himself over a period of time when he was chairman of the Treasury. He asked me to table documentation on what it is based on. Staff tells me they have this information. We do not have it right here, but obviously this Member has looked at all that information. It has been presented to him. He has coped with it.

I am not trying to be difficult. I hope that he is not trying to be difficult because I am trying to be very reasonable here. He had looked at all this material many times while he was the chairman of Treasury; he knows what it is all about. I do not know why he has got a problem. I am indicating that we are working on the details of it. We have rough drafts of what we plan to do. We will be coming forward and discussing it.

I do not see where the Member has some difficulty. If he wants me to table specifically certain copies, we will try and comply with that. Mr. Chairman, I want to repeat again. He has seen all this information, he knows where it is all from, and there is nothing new really that has been changed except that we are implementing the program.

**Mr. Cowan:** Which confirms my longstanding suspicion, Mr. Chairperson; there is nothing new in this Government. Never have I seen a Government or a group of Ministers so hesitant to grasp the mantle of

Government and so reticent to strongly defend what it is they seek to do.

If there are materials available, then I would ask the Minister to table the analysis which shows that the expectations, which he has read into the record, of the positive results of these changes have in fact been acknowledged in other instances where paid parking has been implemented either recently or over a longer period of time. I assume from his answer that he would consider tabling them. What I would like is a more definitive answer. Will he table those analyses and, if so, by when would he provide them to the members of this committee so that we can review them while entering into this debate? It would probably not be on this particular line but it may be during the Minister's Salary if that was forthcoming.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to indicate one thing. The Member says that there is not much difference from this Government to their Government. The difference is we are dang well implementing the program. That is the difference. They sat on it for eight years and now he is being sensitive about it.

He is nitty-picking about this paid parking business. I have explained to him exactly what the purpose is and why we are doing it and our approach. I am being very forthright with it and he is having great difficulty with it. Obviously, because he was the Minister responsible for the Treasury that did not allow it to happen under their jurisdiction, now he is trying to pick holes in something that is very sensible.

Mr. Chairman, he is asking whether I can table certain documentation that shows the analogy. Staff has worked with the University of Manitoba and with the City of Winnipeg. We have their documentation where we have molded our program from. I do not know; we would have to check and see. I have no difficulty. If they give their permission that we can table this stuff so it is public information, fine, then I will do that, but we have to check because we have information there that basically staff has received and worked with from organizations that have implemented the program.

I wish the Member would wait until we come forward with a total program. If he looks at it and says, hey, there are holes in this thing a mile wide, fine, then he can be critical; but we have used other molds or successful situations that we have tried to mold our program from. Once we have the details, the Member can compare all he wants. I will try and see whether we can get some specific information from other jurisdictions and see whether that can be tabled.

**Mr. Cowan:** The Member who has sat in this House for as long as I have knows full well that it is the job of the Opposition to ask questions to ensure themselves that, No. 1, the Government is taking an action which they can support; or, if they find themselves contrary to the proposed action, they can oppose. That is the job of Opposition and he knows that full well, having been in Opposition—(Interjection)—Just about the same amount of time as I have been in Opposition in this House. I think he was probably in Opposition, well,

from '77 to '81—would that be the case? Four years and now a half year.

**Mr. Rose:** You are allowed to beat his record; I can tell you that.

**Mr. Cowan:** Well, the Member for Ste. Rose chirps from his seat again. He just cannot—(Interjection)—Sorry—St. Vital—chirps from his seat.

**An Honourable Member:** I know you do not like St. Vital because it brings back bad memories.

**Mr. Cowan:** You know, I just have to put on the record the comment about the poll because it is interesting that the pollster for the Liberal Party here in the province is Angus Reid. He is the one upon which they base all their calculations and they plan their strategy. They are very fond of walking around with great big poll books from Angus Reid—big red lettering done by the firm of Angus Reid. Yet he stands up and talks about a poll from Gallup and conveniently ignores the poll from Angus Reid, which put them at third place just a couple of days ago, where they belong quite frankly. That is no reflection on the Chair. The fact is that their own pollster says they are running third right now. They take his advice and everything else, I do not know why they would not take his advice on that.

With respect to getting back onto the relevant topic of discussion, and I appreciate your patience both with the Member for St. Vital (Mr. Rose), when he first brought this matter up, and myself when I answered it. The point I am trying to make with the Minister is, when we asked him to find out how well he had thought out the implementation of this, what did he base his decision on? He has given us some contradictory reasons for the decision. So that makes one a bit worried in respect to whether or not they have this issue fully under control. Then he stands up in defence of it and says it is modelled on successful programs in other jurisdictions.

I think it is fair for any Member of the Opposition who cares to know more about why it is they are doing what they are doing, and how they intend to do it, to say okay. Then give us some explanation of what those other successful programs have accomplished, how they were implemented, what were some of the disadvantages or the faults in the program, and how you intend to build upon the successes and the strengths of those other programs, and at the same time deal with any of the failings or the weaknesses of those other programs.

I think he should be able to table the analysis unless they are doing everything by word of mouth. There should be an analysis that went to Treasury Board on this. There should be an analysis that went to Cabinet. There should be analysis that went to the Minister. I am not asking for Cabinet papers. I am not asking for Treasury Board submissions. I am not asking for personal correspondence with the Minister. What I am asking for is an analysis of what he terms to be successful programs in other jurisdictions. Then when I have that material, I will be quite frank with you, Mr.

Chairperson, I will read the material to determine what I believe, from my analysis, to be the strengths and the weaknesses of it. I will then ask the question of the Minister, how are you dealing with the weakness and how are you doing with the strengths? Because I think there are some weaknesses in his approach right now.

I think one of the weaknesses in his approach is they have already decided to implement this without the appropriate level of consultation. I do not know how it got announced or why it got announced at a particular time, but I do know there has been some negative response to it and that is to be expected. One would assume that there is going to be negative response to anything that takes money out of someone's pocket. Let there be no doubt about what is happening in this particular instance. They are going to take out of the pockets of people, who have now used the Government parking as free parking, \$30 to \$35 per month—I hope I got the figures right—is that close?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I used varied approximations.

**Mr. Cowan:** Approximation of \$30 a month, let us use the lower. If it is \$30 a month, it is \$360 a year; \$360 is a fairly significant sum of money. It is going to be more in some instances, perhaps less in others if we worked off the three-tiered system.

So those people who are going to have that money taken from their pockets are going to want to be consulted. They are going to want to be consulted in a very real fashion. You do not make the decision and then stand in the House and say, no matter what the consultation is, the Government is going to make the decision in the end even if the representations are contrary to what the Government intends to do or decides to do at the end, and then hold out any hope for a very meaningful consultation process. I am trying to be helpful to the Minister because this has been around for a long time. He says it has been around for eight years and I have to take him at his word. Then he says we sat on it. Eight years we were not here, so we were not Government. Eight years ago they were Government, and I think it has been around for that long if not longer and they sat on it—if he wants to use that terminology—previously.

One of the reasons that it has been a troublesome issue is because it does change the status quo and in changing the status quo it takes money out of the pockets of individuals. That is why he is particularly concerned about the rural aspect of it because eventually this program will take money out of the rural employees' and the northern employees' pockets as well.

\* (1630)

I am not going to belabour the matter any further except to offer a couple of suggestions. But I do have some criticisms of the way in which they have undertaken the process so far and I understand why the Liberal Opposition do not share those particular concerns about consultation because they are not particularly good listeners and they are not particularly good consultants.

The fact is it is an important part of the process and I believe that he has in some way, by the way in which his announcement was made, antagonized the process, if not antagonized the process and the participants. So I wish him luck in those consultations and I hope he can reach a consensus, but I just provide him with some helpful advice. He is going to have to learn to listen a bit better in order to do that. He is assuming that he will reach a consensus, but if he does not he indicates very clearly that he will take the action which he believes is the right action to take, and every Government must do. I am not begrudging him that responsibility. As a matter of fact, it is probably one of the more difficult responsibilities that Governments have to take and I wish him well in exercising that particular responsibility.

But I just note that when he opened up his comments here earlier, he said he used to think that all the parking was the Government's fault and he has changed his mind a bit on that. That shows that when new evidence comes to people's attention and when new facts come to people's attention, they can change their opinion and circumstances and change their opinion of other groups and organizations like the previous administration.

I see that over a period of time they are, in their answers at least in this House although they do not state it explicitly, they are implicitly recognizing that the previous administration did do a number of things quite well and that not everything that they thought was the fault of the previous administration was in fact the fault of the previous administration, because if it was, it is now their fault and they are not willing to assume that blame because it is not justified in either instance.

I have a couple of suggestions to him. One is that the consultation commence immediately and that it be meaningful real consultation, that it be a listening and a learning process and that it be done through the joint council where you have the departments and the MGA involved and I think those are probably the key actors in respect to this decision, although there may be others. I would leave that up to the Minister to determine. There may be suggestion for others to become involved. Of course, it will have to go to LAMC because it will involve MLAs, at least I assume it will involve MLAs and I look to the Minister for a nod of the head to indicate that that would be the case, that MLAs would be paying, the Ministers would be paying the same parking fees. Everybody would be paying the same parking fees.

So then it will have to go to LAMC, and I can tell you that when it gets to LAMC, we will—if the process is well-thought out, at least on behalf of my caucus, the process is well-thought out and it is an equitable and a fair process and it does provide for a realistic and responsible implementation, we will support them in that, because we do believe that what is good for the MLAs and what is good for the general employees is good for the MLAs and the Ministers. So we will be prepared to pay our share as well. But when the Minister says everybody will pay, I just have to note that he has already indicated, everybody will pay here in the city,

but not everybody will pay elsewhere, and I think that is one of the faults in this strategic thinking along this line.

My second bit of advice to him is I think he should take a very serious look at where this goes so that he does not leave false expectations out there that this is not going to go beyond the City of Winnipeg.

The other bit of advice I have, and I know that your Deputy Minister has had some experience in this area, is that you may look at expanding the availability of parking by way of a parking co-op, and there was some discussion of—I should not have done that because I think the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak) was going to mention that, but perhaps I will just take a moment and let him. As an aside, Mr. Chairperson, actually we shared responsibility for this area in the previous administration because when he was looking at the problem from the perspective of the Minister of Government Services, a group of employees and some of my staff from the Department of Co-op Development said, if you are going to charge for paying of parking, why not look at a co-op? That went a little bit of distance in the planning process, but not very far because there was no real determination at that time to charge for parking, so the impetus, or the motivation to form the co-op to provide a service for those in need, at a reasonable non-profit cost, was not really there.

But if the Minister has taken onto the Government now the firm decision that they are going to charge for parking, then I would hope that he would immediately sit down with the Minister responsible for co-ops—and you will note I very purposely do not say the Department of Cooperative Development because that has been disbanded, eliminated and cast aside by this Government, but that is another set of Estimates within which we will address that—but that he sit down with the Minister of Cooperative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs and that they sit down with the staff organizations, MGEA most particularly, and ask them if they are interested in pursuing the model of a parking co-op. I think it would be innovative if the analysis is such that it would be worthwhile financially. It can provide to expanded parking space for Government employees in a reasonable fashion.

I would ask the Minister then, therefore based on that last recommendation and bit of advice to him, is he prepared to undertake those discussions and, if so, is he prepared to promote the concept if it is found to be feasible?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I have been sitting here very patiently trying to sort out the chaff from the real kernels and I think there was some of both. I tend to certainly take the comments that the Member has made into consideration when we look at the various options as we are developing this program.

**Mr. Cowan:** Mr. Chairperson, I—

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** No kernels in that statement, I will tell you. You did not have to look very hard to separate those kernels.

**Mr. Cowan:** As my Leader says, the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), one does not have to look very

hard for the kernels in that last statement and he is absolutely correct.

Mr. Chairperson, I have been accused, unjustifiably so, in this House of sometimes not giving very straightforward and complete answers to a number of questions and I did not think that to be the case at that time, but I certainly think that to be the case with the answer that we just received from the Minister. He has shown that, even although we have been in this House the same number of years he has certainly mastered the art of the non-answer much better than any on our side did, perhaps because we did not have to use it quite so frequently as does he.

Is he prepared to support the concept of a parking co-op for staff if that is found to be feasible and of a cost-benefit?

\* (1640)

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, if there is the desire and the interest shown, we would certainly be prepared to consider that aspect of it.

**Mr. Cowan:** Is he prepared, therefore, to suggest to the Minister of Cooperative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs that he consult with his staff and ask them to reinstate the discussions, at least at a preliminary level, that were taking place previously on this issue?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I will make reference of it to the Minister responsible for the co-op movement.

**Mr. Cowan:** One other detailed question on the matter of parking.

Do the individuals that supply their own cars for their jobs, in other words they are required to use their own car as a requirement of their employment, bring it downtown, will they have to pay for parking as well?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, we are working on the various aspects of it. If I look at some of the basic materials of things that have to be dealt with in terms of the various implications of it, once I have more details on it in terms of our program, I am prepared to bring that to the Member and let him know exactly where we are with those things.

**Mr. Harapiak:** I have a few more questions. The Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan) stole my question on the co-op parking. That is one of the areas that I was keenly interested in. There seemed to be quite a bit of interest from the employees as well.

I just wanted to make a comment on the Member for St. Vital's (Mr. Rose) comments to us, chastising us for going back on an area that had been previously covered. I have had an opportunity to go back and read his comments on parking and I also went back and read his earlier comments where they said they would have covered the entire area of the Estimates and then they would go line by line. That is what we are involved in now. We are going line by line, and the Member often boasts of his experience in the business

world. One thing that he could not have learned in the business world is some patience. I guess that is one of the things that he is going to have to learn if he is going to continue to be a Member in this House. He has to understand that there are different viewpoints in this Legislature and we all have an opportunity to express those different viewpoints. Maybe if he stays here a few more years he will learn some of that patience that is required to be a Member of the Legislature.

In the Minister's statement he was saying that there are some people who may be parking downtown. There are some people who may be parking in Government spaces that may not be employed by the Government. I was under the impression that there were decals on cars that would prohibit such a practice taking place. Is that not so?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I made reference to the possibility of people parking here who were not Government employees. The way it is we have no specific control over it at the present time. People can be parking in the visitors' spots and working maybe—I want to be careful that I do not necessarily use names—but we have had instances where people come and park here and go across to the Law Courts Building, etc., etc., and these are the kind of things that this will address. There is always that room for people to park on the buildings here that do not have a Government sticker. The fact is many of them have. I think if the Member would go out there and check around the cars he would find a lot of them that do not have Government stickers. I am not saying that they do not work for Government. I am just saying I think it would address that concern as well.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Chairman, when the Minister was giving the answers to the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), he said that everybody is going to be paying parking. Will that apply to the members of the media?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, first I am asked by the Members whether I will consult, whether we will take and whether we will talk with the people in terms of how we are going to implement the program. Now they want all the specifics. Once we have consulted, then we will come forward with a program outlining exactly what we will be doing and we will talk about these things.

We indicated that we are looking at implementing paid parking within a period of time—three, four, six months. We have indicated that we will be consulting. We will try and work out a program. We will try and listen to Members in this House. We will try and listen to the employees involved. We will try and consult with everybody. Here we are seeing specifics about who will be paying or who will not be paying—the Member for Churchill (Mr. Cowan), asked before whether that should be applied to MLAs or to everybody. I indicated, everybody. Then he says then it has to come to LAMC; so we will be consulting with LAMC.

I am trying to fair and open about this thing. We will consult when we come forward with it. We will try and indicate and allay all their concerns and tell them what

we basically have in mind. We are working on the program at the present time. If we had it all in place, we would have it implemented right now.

**Mr. Harapiak:** I know that there is still going to be consultation, but surely if you are saying that the Ministers are going to be paying for the parking and the Members, the MLAs, surely, you must know if the media will be paying for the parking as well. Will they be paying for those parking spots?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** If I had all the details, I would table it and then we could debate the details. If we had all the details and had not tabled it and had not consulted, then we would have the program implemented right now. We have indicated that we have raised the flag. We are going to bring in paid parking. And we will. Now I am getting all kinds of flack and advice before we have any specifics.

**Mr. Chairman:** If any Honourable Members have questions of the Minister, perhaps they would rise and be recognized and put their question on record.

**Mr. Rose:** I have one last question and I hope that I am not out of order here. Noting that particularly in Security that a lot of those people have contact with the general public and indeed there are a lot of tourists and visitors that come here, just brought to mind one that I had wanted to ask previously. Knowing that in Community Services they had indicated programs and seminars for cross-cultural matters, do you implement that in this department of the Government?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I am told by staff that there is cross-cultural training taking place to try and help staff to know how to deal with the handicapped, with the cultural people. There is a training program going on in terms of trying to make sure that our staff has an understanding how to cope with these things.

**Mr. Rose:** In these seminars or discussions, what types of subjects are there that you take under consideration, just in a broad range, some of the major ones the Minister might have in hand?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** This last week there was a seminar on management of environmental situations where staff could be involved in. We also had a seminar regarding the second language training, English as a Second Language, so there are various components that are being held along these lines.

**Mr. Rose:** These discussions, I would be interested if you could briefly tell us how you come to the items that are being discussed, whether there is a committee or whether there are already some sort of guidelines. How do you come about what particular subjects you would discuss at these particular cross-cultural seminars?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that staff has been consulting with the Civil Service Commission, as well as the Department of Education, in terms of the items that should be

concentrated on plus the priorities that they sort of bring forward. So there is discussion in terms of the items that should be dealt with.

**Mr. Rose:** Are any of these decisions made or, after they are made, are discussions held with the Manitoba Intercultural Council?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I am told, not directly. They have not been directly involved in the seminars that have been picked. Am I correct? Further, our Affirmative Action Coordinator is involved in the discussions as well.

**Mr. Rose:** I am wondering, if this has not been done in the past with this very valuable organization, if you would anticipate consulting and using their services in the future.

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate that we will take that under consideration.

\* (1650)

**Mr. Harapiak:** Mr. Chairman, when we were speaking about security, I am wondering if the Government has had time to evaluate some of the programs they are involved in with tendering out some buildings for security? Have they had an opportunity to get back an evaluation? Will there be more buildings be tendered out or are we going to be staying with the security system we have got in place at this time?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding that we have two tenders that have been submitted right now that are being reviewed and we will be deciding as to what route we will go with them, I believe the Manitoba Developmental Centre as well as the Brandon Mental Health Centre. Those are the two that are under consideration right now.

**Mr. Harapiak:** For how long a period, and what will happen with the existing staff who are there now?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Member knows that both those situations were tendered until now and we are looking at whether we should continue that process or whether we should not.

**Mr. Harapiak:** How have the costs come in, in comparison? What has been the results of the tendered process that has been there now? What has the cost comparison been like?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** The tenders just came in. They have just been opened. The assessment has not been completed. Once it has been completed, then the decision will be made.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Will there will be any reduction in the number of staff who are in there now and, if there is, how will they be accommodated?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** No, there will be no reduction.

**Mr. Harapiak:** Are there any plans to increase the security in the Legislative Building? As it stands right now, I know that there are electronic hookups with Ministers' offices, Deputy Ministers' offices, and some of the MLAs have got it now as well. Are there any plans to increase that security?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I think the Member full well knows that we are looking at the aspect of security in the building, but I do not think it would be appropriate to go into details. If any Member is interested, I would like to extend an invitation any time to come and discuss it on a more detailed basis. I think that we want to be a little hesitant in terms of how much we discuss in terms of the security aspect of it for this building.

**Mr. Cowan:** As we all enter the building, we know that over the last number of months there is at least one aspect of the security system that is different, and that is a computerized alarm system. I would ask the Minister if they have any analysis as to the effect of that system. Is it working as well as anticipated? Is it coming in under cost or over cost with respect to the estimates that were provided for it, and is it now functional to the extent that the Minister would like to see it functional when it is completely operational?

**Mr. Albert Driedger:** I would like to indicate to the Member that the program was brought in under budget and, if there are any details, we are prepared to accommodate any Member of the Legislature in terms of discussing the details but not in here.

**Mr. Cowan:** Let us let that last suggestion pass for the moment and perhaps discuss it privately, not the details of the issues but the approach which the Minister has taken, discuss it privately with him. I am not so certain that he is not being a bit too secretive about the security. There may be matters of which I am not aware at the present time which would cause him to be reticent to discuss the issue here, but normally we discuss issues like that in this Chamber without any fear or concern. So I would like, rather than either agree with his approach or disagree with his approach, the opportunity to discuss privately with him his approach, and then perhaps it may be that we want to discuss those things in private.

I do not believe we have a lot of questions left on this particular item. Before turning the floor back to my colleague, the Member for The Pas (Mr. Harapiak), I just wanted to put on the record our appreciation for the work of the security guards in this building on an ongoing basis. They sometimes are faced with very difficult situations and circumstances and they perform their job in a very professional and very competent way. It is not often that we have the opportunity to put on the record the appreciation for the work that they do. We can put it on record the appreciation for the work that the security do here in the Chamber, and we do so at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year, but we do not have all that many occasions to say to the security guards who do work very hard on our behalf—when I say “our behalf,” not just the MLAs but on behalf of the entire building—and I would want their contribution that they make to the effective

functioning of this building and the effective functioning of the Government with respect to the Legislature to be clearly on the record, and to encourage the Minister to continue dealing with them in a fair and equitable fashion and ensure that they recognize that we do appreciate that which they are doing.

\* (1700)

**Mr. Chairman:** The hour being 5 p.m., I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. Call in the Speaker.

Is there leave for the Honourable Member to continue this matter? One more time, the hour being 5 p.m., I am interrupting the proceedings for Private Members' Hour. We will be continuing the Estimates of the Department of Agriculture at 8 p.m. in this Chamber.

Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

## IN SESSION

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

#### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

#### RES. NO. 1—CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT

**Mr. Speaker:** The hour being 5 p.m., time for Private Members' Business. On the proposed resolution of the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), Resolution No. 1, Canada-United States Trade Agreement, the Honourable Member for Concordia has five minutes remaining.

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** It is very appropriate that this Legislature again deal with this very important matter, as it becomes in essence one of the major issues in the federal election and the major issue that people of Canada will have to decide what type of future they want, a future that is an American future with Americanized standards and Americanized regulations, with 37 million people in the country that do not have Medicare, with a country that does not have social services, with a country that has lower environmental standards, with a country that wants to get our energy and our energy resources, or to have the advantages that we presently have; a trading country, an outward country with the United States with 80 percent of our trading as tariff free, with a country that enjoys excellent trading relationships in the GATT group, a country that enjoys excellent trading relationships with the Pacific Rim, a country that is well-positioned to be in an excellent position with Third World countries, whether they are the African states or indeed Central and South America, a country that has maintained a tradition that is Canadian with our social services, with our energy policy, with our investment decisions, with our energy conservation, with our environmental standards, with our development of our natural resources and our park resources that are totally different in many fundamental ways than the United States of America.

The greatest hoax about this whole proposed Free Trade Agreement is the fact that we do not even have

free trade under this proposed Mulroney-Reagan Trade Agreement. We are subject to all the American tariff applications. We are subject to all the remedies under the Trade Agreement, but we do not have an exemption under that Bill that Ronald Reagan signed last week. We do not have an exemption from the U.S. Congressional and Senate Omnibus Trade Bill. What a ridiculous situation! We enter into a trade agreement to get easier access allegedly or access to the United States under this protectionist regime, and we have absolutely no protection.

The Wheat Board is going to be under attack by farm groups. They have already stated it. I have already stated it publicly that they are going after the marketing boards and the Wheat Board. Every time another group looks at this trade agreement, whether it is environmental groups, whether it is church groups, whether it is farming groups, whether it is consumer groups, whether it is anti-poverty groups, whether it is health care groups, whether it is small business groups to some degree, Mr. Speaker, they come back to the same conclusion. We did know that this was in the agreement and, if this is in this agreement, we cannot accept it in terms of the future of Canada.

I believe that this proposed agreement with the United States with absolutely no protection for us in terms of our trading with United States will mean that many of the institutions and social fabric that we take for granted in this country will be set back some 25 years to 30 years. I believe that this Free Trade Agreement is something that Members opposite want. They want a complete free-market American system. They like it. Now, I am not anti-American -(Interjection)- I am totally in favour of trade with the United States, but I do not want to give away our Medicare system, our Wheat Board system, our marketing systems, our oil sovereignty, our hydro sovereignty, our development of our natural resources, our environmental standards: I do not want to give it away for 15 cents off a bottle of California wine. That is the trade-off. It is a bad deal for Canada and it is a bad deal for Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has not produced one document, one legal opinion, one document to offset the energy reports, the environment reports, the social services reports, and you know why? All they can do is puppet the Brian Mulroney line on this trade agreement, the Brian Mulroney line to get him more seats in Quebec. This is a terrible, terrible agreement for Canada, a terrible agreement for Manitoba, and I would like to see the opposite Members get off their chairs and vote with us to have an all-legislative committee to legitimately review this as the resolution calls for. Thank you.

**Hon. James Downey (Minister of Northern Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to the resolution that the Member has introduced, but to speak fully and wholeheartedly in support of the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States.

**Some Honourable Members:** Hear! hear!

**Mr. Downey:** Mr. Speaker, I would hope that you would give me approximately five minutes' notice when I have



five minutes left so I can introduce an amendment to the resolution that is on the floor, so I can adequately prepare the Members for it.

Well, what are we talking about? We are talking about a philosophical approach to the future of Canada, the future of the people of Manitoba, and really the future of everyone in this nation. The socialists, of course, immediately take that position that, any time you have anything to do with the Americans, it has to be bad—lack of trust, lack of any way that they can seriously negotiate anything because they feel that they are the weaker people in the deal. They come from that position of being a position of weakness.- (Interjection)- Mr. Speaker, the Member asks if I have read it. I have certainly read parts of it and tried to understand it. That is the difference of the mess between me and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Doer). He has read it, but does not understand it. That is the basic difference.

What he has done immediately is run back to that hard-hided position of a socialist.

**An Honourable Member:** Hidebound.

**Mr. Downey:** Hidebound or hard hided that everything that you do dealing with the United States is bad for the people of Canada. I happen to be an optimist. I have to be an optimist, that our Prime Minister and the Government of Canada on behalf of the people of Canada have gone forward from a position of strength. That is one of the things that we all have to clearly understand, we were dealing from a position of strength, dealing from a position where we have tremendous resources. We have tremendous people in this country able to compete with anyone in the world. I do not particularly think that it is in the best interests of the economy of our province and the economy of Canada to take the negative attitude that is perpetually taken by the socialists and those of the socialist belief. They believe that the people are not capable of putting forward a better deal or putting up a strong argument.

There is a lightweight who is trying for the leadership of the New Democratic Party continually speaking out from the background.- (Interjection)- Yes, lightweight and strong wind, the Member for Flin Flon (Mr. Storie), who is running for the leadership of the New Democratic Party. Mind you, they do need some, one has to agree with that, that they do need some leadership.

\* (1710)

Mr. Speaker, let us deal with the resolution that is before us. Let us deal with the resolution. It says WHEREAS many Manitobans have strong reservations about the Canada-United States Trade Agreement. Reservations? Well, I have not talked to that many people who have that many strong reservations. A lot of them are farm people who are going to benefit from the Free Trade Agreement. We are based in Manitoba basically as an exporting province. If we do not have markets for those people who are exporter or producers of our natural resources and our non-natural resources, who are we going to sell them to? Are we going to the million people who live in Manitoba or the 24 million

people who live in Canada, or the 220 million who live in the United States, a natural trading partner available to us?

WHEREAS provisions in the agreement seriously threaten Canadian sovereignty—that is the biggest myth that anybody has put on the record that we have ever heard of, threatening our sovereignty. What a bunch of balderdash! The next thing you hear them argue, when you give up sovereignty is when you give up the ability to make the laws for your country, where you give up the ability to run your country and make the laws that we have to adhere to.

The energy provisions—well, I will read it to the Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), if he would listen. There is not one little bit in this agreement that would in any way, shape or form threaten our sovereignty, not one thing except in the minds of the socialists and those at times in the Liberal Party who think they are socialists. They lean that way at particular times because it seems to be the public opinion to do so and they soar back. That is a Liberal. They just have not found whether they are right, left or centre but find themselves more comfortable in the centre.

So there is no threat to our sovereignty and there has been nothing in any way, shape or form that would threaten it. You have heard that from every Member of the Government. There is a tribunal which will settle the disputes on trade relationships between Canada and the United States which are selected by each country and a third party.

Mr. Speaker, let us go to the next one: Canadian jobs and Canadians' ability to make free and independent decisions about future development. Where is the evidence that we are unable to control our future and provide for the development? We saw the Government, the last administration of this province, down on their knees to sell energy to the United States. They were so anxious to sell energy to the United States that not only did they give up our right to make decisions, they based the sale of that energy totally on the price of coal based in the United States to sell that energy on. And they have the audacity to say that we are giving up the control of our future. They gave it up for us and it cost us millions of dollars in spades in doing so. This Opposition sitting—what it is now—it is not polite to use rump. Is that a rump Party; is that what you refer to them as? The rump Party in the Manitoba Legislature. They justly got their reward. They were prepared to not only give it away, they were signing long-term agreements to do so. I think the people of Manitoba made their decision on April 26 as to how much they really believe in the New Democratic Party and their governing. I am trying to get through this Resolution if I were not interrupted from the Members opposite.

WHEREAS grave concerns have been voiced throughout Canada about the lack of opportunity and information for a full review and discussion of the terms and conditions of this complex and wide ranging Agreement. Mr. Speaker, I can assure you there have been ample opportunities. However, those individuals who have been against the agreement have not been prepared to deal with the facts. They just want to take

the position they are opposed for opposition sake. Not good enough. I think there has been ample opportunity. In fact, I commend the federal Government and the Prime Minister of Canada for saying this election will be based on the Free Trade Agreement. What better way to get a mandate to do something? That is the kind of issue that the people of Canada should decide and they are going to. And again, much to the dislike of the Canada social conscience in Ottawa and our friend Ed Broadbent, he is going to end up about the same number of seats or a few less than what he currently has. Our friend Mr. Turner, however, he is going to end—he may have a few more or less give or take, but really no change.

I believe that the federal Government will get a clear mandate to implement this agreement. If they do not, I would like the Members opposite to tell us where they are going to hide for opposing a deal that has been put together with the United States and Canada that will give us major, major job opportunities, major, major economic thrust, which will, dealing with the social programs in Canada, which will be the reason we are able to maintain them.

If we do not improve our economic output and the economic generation of wealth for our provinces and our country, we will not be able to afford our social programs that we have been accustomed to. We have to get more wealth developed and created in this country so that we can carry the social programs that we have been accustomed to. That is where it is at—more people working, more economic development, more wealth for this country. There are figures that our incomes, the projections that I have available here in some of the information that I have, that each person on an annual basis, a working person will have an increased income by \$450 per person because of the increased economic wealth from this agreement.

How can you oppose that kind of economic generation for the people of this country and this province? Being a socialist, I can see why, because they believe that the taxpayers should not prosper and enjoy, that the taxpayers should be subservient to them when they are in Government and pay for all their experience and experiments, whether it be in Saudi Arabia or wherever it is.

WHEREAS the proposed agreement goes far beyond trade to affect foreign investment management of energy resources and the future viability of Canadian cultural industries. As I understand it, there is no way, shape or form that we are going to have any dictation as far as our culture is concerned in Canada. There is not an inclusion of our culture in this whole agreement.—(Interjection)—The Liberal Leader (Mrs. Carstairs) says not an exclusion either.

The whole question though, and it has been said many times, that our energy sales to the United States, and I am sure that the Members opposite get extremely excited when they go and tell the people that we are giving up the right to control our energy. Not so, we are fully in control of our hydro power energy, more so under us and this Agreement than we were under the former NDP. The oil and gas reserves, the future development of those will not be affected. Mr. Speaker,

the Member says the companies are gobbling them up now. Then what in the devil is the free trade going to do to affect it then? Your argument is hollow. The agreement has not even come into effect yet. The Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer) is talking into a hollow barrel.

I am going to move on; I can not go through it. It is so long, and as some people in society might say, this resolution, they may say, is that not scary? That is scary that we see this kind of thing.

Therefore, I will propose an amendment. I move, seconded by the Minister of Health (Mr. Orchard), that the resolution be amended by deleting all the words after WHEREAS in the first line thereof and substituting therefor the following:

Manitoba industry and workers are dependent on access to export markets for continued growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS several countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Mexico, Korea and other countries of the European Economic Community are currently emphasizing liberalized trade practices in their economic policies; and

WHEREAS Canada must align itself with a major trading nation if it is to have a meaningful role in future negotiations on the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade and not be relegated to the role of a fringe player in the international trading community; and

WHEREAS Ministers of GATT will meet in Montreal later this year to review progress of the current round of multilateral trade negotiations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba fully support liberalization of international trade consistent with the Manitoba economic interests and directs that the Clerk forward a copy of this resolution to the federal Minister of International Trade.

Thank you. I would expect, Mr. Speaker, full support from the Liberal Party and from the New Democrats in support of this amendment, and I think, for Manitoba's interests, and Canada, they would be well-advised to do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

\* (1720)

#### POINT OF ORDER

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member for Concordia, on a point of order.

**Mr. Gary Doer (Leader of the Second Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, we, of course, await your ruling that I think will be critical in terms of another resolution where the Members opposite did not amend the meaning of a resolution but amended the complete intent of a resolution totally and completely, which is, to my way

of thinking, what is the sense of having resolutions presented to the House if the Members opposite just do the opposite in the resolution, an amendment?

They should indeed put in their own resolutions and stand up on their own feet and come in with their own resolutions instead of amending in a completely opposite way with this frivolous type of amendment. I await your decision on the other resolution, but this is diametrically opposite to the original resolution, and therefore you should rule it out of order right now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Honourable Government House Leader, on the same point of order.

**Hon. James McCrae (Government House Leader):** Mr. Speaker, I think there is ample precedent for Your Honour to view this resolution with favour and to allow it to stand before the House. The practices of this House are such that this resolution does not differ in any way from routine procedures in Private Members' Hour where resolutions are offered in one way or another.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please; order, please. I thank all Honourable Members.

To the Honourable Member for Concordia (Mr. Doer), on his point of order, I have carefully compared the amendments proposed by the Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs and Native Affairs (Mr. Downey) with Private Members' Resolution No. 1, as moved by the Honourable Member for Concordia. As I have indicated previously to Honourable Members, the question of relevancy of amendments is an area in which the practices of this House has permitted considerable latitude.

Beauchesne's makes it quite clear that an amendment which proposes to substitute an alternative to the original proposition offered to the House is in order as long as the amendment is relevant. The original motion addresses the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement which is an aspect of international trade. The amendment refers to international trade, export trade and international trade negotiations. I am

therefore satisfied that in accordance with the practices of this House the amendment is in order.

**Mr. Jay Cowan (Second Opposition House Leader):** With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, we must challenge your ruling.

**Mr. Speaker:** The ruling of the Chair has been challenged. All those in favour of sustaining the Chair will please say Yea; all those opposed will please say Nay. In my opinion, the Yeas have it.

**Mr. Cowan:** Yeas and Nays, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Call in the Members.

Order, please; order, please. The question before the House is shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained?

**A STANDING VOTE** was taken, the result being as follows:

### YEAS

Burrell, Connery, Cummings, Downey, Driedger (Emerson), Ducharme, Enns, Ernst, Filmon, Findlay, Gilleshammer, Hammond, Helwer, Manness, McCrae, Neufeld, Oleson, Orchard, Pankratz, Penner.

### NAYS

Alcock, Angus, Carr, Carstairs, Charles, Driedger (Niakwa), Evans (Fort Garry), Gray, Lamoureux, Minenko, Patterson, Roch, Rose, Yeo, Cowan, Doer, Evans (Brandon East), Harapiak, Hemphill, Storie, Wasylycia-Leis.

**Mr. Clerk, William Remnant:** Yeas, 20; Nays, 21.

**Mr. Speaker:** The ruling of the Chair has been overturned. The amendment is, therefore, out of order according to the wishes of the House.

This House is now adjourned and stands adjourned until 8 p.m.

\* (1730)