

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
8:00 o'clock, Monday, May 26, 1975

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY - HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jenkins): The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, before starting this, it has come to my attention that the health critic for the Official Opposition has been taken ill. He's in the hospital - I don't know if it's a metro hospital - Winkler Hospital. I hope his colleagues will tell him that we wish him well and we're sure that he's going to get the best of care in the Winkler Hospital.

Now, if I may, I have two other answers that I wish to give today, one a question of the Member from Brandon West: What are the Manitoba infant mortality rates compared with other provinces? The most recent year for which figures from all provinces are available is 1973, and the Canadian average was 15.5; Manitoba had 16.4; Saskatchewan 17.6; Alberta 14.2; British Columbia 16.7; Ontario 14.1; Quebec 16.4; New Brunswick 15.1; Nova Scotia 15.5; Prince Edward Island 15.9; Newfoundland 19.3; Yukon 16.7; Northwest Territories 37.4. I'm told that for 1974 Manitoba went down to 15.6, but we haven't the other provinces yet. I think it's of some interest to the members that the Manitoba rate has gone down since 1961, or generally gone down since 1961 from a top in 1962 of 26.2 to 15.6 now.

Now the last question, I think, again is from the Member for Brandon: When will a decision be made regarding funding of CAMROC or are there other facilities in a similar category? What per diems are paid to community residents? What per diem is paid to the facility at Swan River? CAMROC: This facility is a workshop for the mentally retarded located in Brandon and operated by the Brandon Branch of the Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded. Like the other 19 CARM workshops in the province, services are purchased by the province from CAMROC at a fee of \$80 per month for each client approved by Rehabilitation Services. The current \$80 monthly fee has been in effect since January 1, 1975. Prior to that date the fee paid by the province was \$50 per month per client. The fee is cost-shared under CAP.

I think that we all agree that \$50 was a little low. While we were working on new policies we put an interim rate of \$80.

As the \$50 monthly fee paid by the province has not been increased since 1967, a number of CARM workshops, including CAMROC, incurred deficits during 1974. The department has indicated it is prepared to give consideration to supporting these deficits and is currently proceeding to review requests received from CAMROC and ten other CARM workshops. The department is also in the midst of establishing policy guidelines relative to a comprehensive rehabilitation service for the disabled in Manitoba, including new methods of funding workshops for the physically as well as the mentally handicapped. However, the future policy and programs direction and alternative funding methods have not been approved by the government as yet.

Community residences for the mentally retarded - this is a list of residences currently in operation: Altona; 880 Alverstone Street; 886 Alverstone Street; Boissovain; 128 Canora - that's Steinkopf; 578 Sherburn - Steinkopf; Morden; Neepawa; Portage la Prairie; Selkirk; Steinbach; Swan River, Virden; Winkler; and L'Arche.

The province pays an appropriate rate to the residence on behalf of individuals who are eligible for social allowance. The rates are based upon an approved budget and are reviewed annually. The current rates in pay range from \$5.20 to \$11.25 per day. The variance in the rates is due mainly to the following factors: (a) some of the rates in pay are 1975 rates whereas the lowest is a 1973 rate which is currently under review and will be increased shortly; (b) smaller residences tend to be more uneconomical and therefore have higher cost per service unit; (c) capital costs which exist in the case of some residences whereas they do not exist in the case of others can amount to the \$3.00-plus on the daily rate.

Swan River - for my honourable friend - Swan River branch of CARM currently operates a 20-bed residence and a workshop for 35 trainees. The present rate being paid to the residents is \$5.20 a day. This is a rate which was approved in 1973 and it was not adjusted in 1974 because the residence did not submit a budget to the department. The 1975 budget has now been submitted and is under review.

I think that completes the questions that I was supposed to take as notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57(2)(a)-The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

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MR. EDWARD MCGILL (Brandon West): I'd just like to acknowledge the answers to the questions that the Minister has provided, and I think that these have been fairly detailed. However, I would like to just refer again to the statistics which were given by the Minister in respect to the death rate for babies in Manitoba, that is the number of deaths which occur just prior to, during, or after birth. The Minister seems rather satisfied with the fact that Manitoba's average was 16.4 in 1973 where the Canadian average was somewhat lower than that - I think 15.5 is the statistic that he gave. He did indicate that there was some improvement in 1974 but we're not able to compare that with the Canadian average because I understand that figure is not yet available.

But, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister, what specific programs has he under way to improve the experience of Manitoba? I think we cannot be really very satisfied or really very able to accept the present situation where our death rate, our perinatology death rate, is exceeding even the Canadian average, which I believe is rather high in relation to the North American average in this respect. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister, then, if he's able to indicate whether there are some clinics proposed or being established, prenatal clinics, which would assist in this area and which would be able to provide the kind of advice and guidance, nutrition advice and so forth for expectant mothers, that would enable the province and the hospitals to certainly work towards the reduction of the Manitoba experience in this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman I don't want to give the false impression that I'm satisfied with the rates. Especially when it's above the Canadian average. We're not satisfied, but I wanted to indicate that it's been going down gradually.

Now as far as these prenatal clinics, they do exist now. It's the Public Health programs that we have and they exist pretty well all across the province. And there are high risk care in special units, especially in the Health Centre in St. Boniface, and I think the Manitoba Health Services Commission has been discussing with both the St. Boniface Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre to see if there was any improvement there. I think that there's a report that's been prepared that the MMA has been studying - it hasn't been approved by the MMA yet. It's known as the Peddle Report, Dr. Peddle from St. Boniface Hospital, and the Commission is taking a good look at that.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, is there some effort being made by the Department to provide some accessible prenatal clinic care across the province, or are these provisions being established roughly in the urban areas? What about the rural areas? Are they getting any kind of service in this respect?

MR. DESJARDINS: These clinics exist all across the province and as we go along and establish these new district health clinics, there will be more and more of that. But they do exist pretty well all across the province now.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, in the category of Child Care, we are aware in Manitoba that there has been a continuing discussion of the programs being delivered by the so-called volunteer agencies, the private agencies, the Children's Aid Societies, and there has been an ongoing consideration and debate in the department, we understand, to consider whether or not these programs could be better delivered, more efficiently delivered, by government agencies.

We're aware too that there's been a report prepared at the request of the department, I think it's referred to as the Ryant Report, and we would like to know whether the Minister has that report now, and if he can indicate what kind of directions are being suggested by the report in the area of child care. We know that the Children's Aid Societies have from year to year, during the last few years, been concerned about the continuity of their operation. They're also aware of some of the directions that have been taken in other provinces. We know that in British Columbia, the Government of British Columbia has taken over and integrated the private agencies with the government programs. So, Mr. Chairman, I think it's rather important and rather urgent at this time that if there are proposals, if there are recommendations contained in the Ryant Report as to the continuing part to be played by volunteer agencies or as to the discontinuance of such volunteer services, I think it's rather urgent and rather important at this time that this information be communicated to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to follow up on that particular line of questioning to address some similar remarks to the Minister, some of which were generated

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) by the interesting revelations that I came to last year, when we were introduced with the new Child Welfare Bill.

One of the things that struck me at that time was that this particular responsibility of the Provincial Government in dealing in the child care field was certainly one of the more unique and difficult roles played by this government or by any government, and one that probably had not gone with the proper degree of examination of this House. Dealing in this particular area of child responsibility, to begin with, struck me that there were some 3,000 children in the province which were legal wards of the state and in effect carry with their responsibility, of government in effect, to look after their upbringing and growth and maturity like any other family, and it struck me that at that time it was a very crucial and critical task. And yet I would hasten to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we probably spent more time in this House, over the last couple of years that I've been in it at least, worrying about the care and feeding and growth of animals than we have about children, mainly because it seemed to be something that lends itself perhaps to more explosive partisan debates. And certainly we spend an awful lot more time worrying about property and things than we do about this particular question of the responsibility we have for the care of children.

And so it was with some concern that I try to find, begin to look into the question after that debate, to make some determination as to what were the particular guidelines and philosophy that seemed to guide the role of government in this area, and one of the first things that struck me very directly, Mr. Chairman, was the fact that we spend an awful lot more money in the care and custody of children after we've taken them from the home than we seem to spend in terms of trying to prevent that breakup of the home.

I guess it goes back to one of the original reasons why governments became involved as the legal custodians of many children. But over the years it certainly seems that we have, as we have in this estimate, close to \$15 million being spent with the question of how do we look after children once they have been taken away from a broken family situation or some other form of disruption. And yet when you look at the kind of emphasis that we've put on the other side of the coin in terms of the prevention of that breakup, there seems to be a much stingier kind of attitude and feeling prevail about that responsibility. That was partially taken care of, or compensated I think, with the establishment of a Day Care Program last year, at least in its original starts, but there are many other kinds of bases for trying to maintain the child in their own home, which we have yet to undertake, and it goes back in many cases to the question that has been faced about the role of the private agencies.

But I think that that is one of the first issues that I'd be interested in hearing from the Minister about, and that is that curious paradox that the philosophy under the Child Welfare Act and of the child care system still seems to be highly geared towards care and custody as opposed to prevention and anticipation of keeping children out of the position where they must be looked after in foster home situations or be placed in adoption for whatever reasons. It seems to me that that in itself is a number one question that we should look at and to what degree are we prepared to begin developing a much more serious attempt at prevention, a much more serious attempt at the maintenance of a child in a family situation whether it be single-parent family or with two parents.

The fact is that we have been, I think, dragging our feet in this respect and have attempted . . . there's been a curious kind of attitude, I've sensed, about programs when you start talking about Day Care Programs or Lunch and After School Programs and the wont that somehow that's almost a subversive thing for us to be doing. And somehow people attack it on the basis that it's somehow breaking up the family. Well, I've always seen it as quite the reverse, that in fact it's one of the major ways of maintaining a child in a family. And the kind of remarks that I've heard from some people in this House have been quite opposite to that, and yet it seems to me that this is something that we should be taking a look at how we get the balance. In fact, I even noticed about two weeks ago where the First Minister himself said that he didn't think things like that were much of a priority or weren't simply a priority with him. And yet I would put forward, Mr. Chairman, that in this area of responsibility the government must bear and place as a top priority that whole question of prevention.

I think that this comes down to the issue that was raised by the Member for Brandon West about the role of private agencies. Because one of the other curious aspects of this whole child care area is the fact that we have delegated a great deal of the responsibility for

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) child care to private agencies or agencies that have a board of directors and so on, chosen from the private sector but which use basically public funds for their operation. And that in itself is a little bit of an anomaly and something that must be looked at and I think looked at in particular because there's been a growing degree of criticism on the whole area of Children's Aid Societies and the role that they do play in society and many of the critiques have come down to the point that they think they really are kind of organizations which really aren't that much in touch with the total community or they represent only one kind of opinion in the area.

And I think that one thing that we require in this House is a clear statement from the government about how it intends to reform, if it does at all, the relationship between the private agencies in this field and the Provincial Government. I think that we've heard from the Minister that there is an internal review going on and I think the Minister said in the House last week that as far as he was concerned that was an in-House document. Yet again that strikes me as being odd or curious that something as important as this would be basically within the purview of the Minister and the civil servants and other officials dealing with the agency but not exposed to any kind of public view or debate. And yet it is an area of extreme seriousness and importance to many, and yet that somehow it's not something that's going to see the light of day, that it's going to be kind of bounced around inside, and on the outside we're going to be sort of wondering a number of questions about the role of external agencies as they themselves are going to wonder about.

It comes back in this case, Mr. Chairman, to the issue of preventative work in the child care area because the attitude that I would adopt in many cases is that it is time that the government itself took initiative and brought many of the child care agencies together as a common working group and perhaps it has since transferred much of the procedural regulatory work back into government and allow the private agencies themselves to become much more activist in the preventative area. And one of the reasons for this, Mr. Chairman, is I think that we have to take a look, if you like, at what you can call maybe the old agencies and the new ones or the ones which have been providing a traditional service and those which have been trying to undertake more initiative or innovation in this field. Because, in a sense, because of a vested fact that many of the older agencies are there, they tend to sort of command most of the funds and most of the attention and most of the time in the child care field. And yet if we're trying to develop directions and initiatives in the preventative aspects of it and to the child care aspects of it, other than in custody, then it would seem to me we must provide a system of encouraging those kinds of groups.

And it was brought forward for mention in the House before, but let me just give, for example, the curious position that the Lunch and After School Programs occupy in the province. I think that the Provincial Government presently supplies an annual grant for Lunch and After School Programs. Now the rationale behind this program is to allow children to stay in the home of a working mother or a working father. The reason why you have them is that the hours of work don't in any way correspond to the hours that people go to school, and there has to be sort of some time filled in within the gaps. But we have this kind of situation where we give four agencies a grant but the grant doesn't work during the summer. You don't get anything to occupy yourself during the summer, at least, and so as a result many of these agencies are scrambling hand to mouth. They get STEP projects or OFI projects to stay alive during the summer because the fact is that the parents that put their children into this probably need the service most during the summer time or during holiday periods, because someone that's working in the T. Eaton Company or Great West Life doesn't get the same holiday schedule that a school child does, and yet they need some kind of support for this kind of activity and yet it's not forthcoming. So the program seems to be an afterthought, it's done because someone put some pressure on somebody, but it doesn't seem to be an integral part of a child care program or one that's tied in with this whole question of prevention. And I think that they must use that as an example really of a little bit of the ambivalence that seems to be shown by the government and this House towards this particular area.

I think also, Mr. Chairman, that in the area of child care there is very little combination or integration of services between Child Guidance Clinic and Children's Aid Society and Family Bureau and Day Care Centres and all the rest of them. And these private agencies are notorious, I suppose, for their independence and some might call it even in-fighting or at least they

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) guard their prerogatives very jealously. But what it does indicate though is that there are many facets to child care and each of them are being dealt with kind of in a singular, insular way, not being dealt with in a combined way. So again we're putting kind of resources and money into things. And again I would suggest, as far as we can see, there is a requirement and a very important requirement for the government to take some role in bringing them together because I don't think it's going to happen itself. We have relied in the past, Mr. Chairman, on things like the Social Planning Council to presumably provide some form of overall planning or overall integration. Well frankly, Mr. Chairman, it just doesn't work at that area. That's not an exercise an agency like that can do because it itself is limited in funds, limited in authority and just limited period, and therefore can't play that kind of role. So who's going to play it? Who brings them together? Who organizes that kind of activity, first to ensure that there is a combination and secondly, to ensure that those agencies which are doing their job are able to do it?

The final point I'd like to mention, Mr. Chairman, is the question of the actual role which is still a very vital one of the adoption custody problem. We've dealt with a number of problems or we tried to raise a number of problems to the Minister during this last session concerning the nature of the adoption procedures that are now followed in the province, and there are a number of problems associated with those which I don't think are in any way being cleared up. There is still the basic question of the standards of adoption and if you're allowing adoption to take place, there's five or six different agencies, each of which uses different standards, each of which sort of uses a different kind of measurement to determine who gets a child and how they are sort of processed and what is the criteria that's used for adoption in each of these areas. So there really is a lack of standards in the adoption field.

There is also, I think, at least I detect and the Minister might correct me, a kind of attitude going up, at least as I look at past debates, on the question of adoption, that somehow we have to balance the kids off, according to the regions of the province, to make sure that everybody gets its fair share. Well that seems to be kind of a reversal of philosophy because it would seem to me the first criteria should be the child itself, and to get the best home for the children regardless of where that home is. And that should be the first and foremost concern, not whether Eastern Manitoba is getting as many as Western Manitoba or northern or central. And I realize that that's not necessarily a popular attitude in some areas. But I was concerned because my colleague, the Member from Assiniboia, brought to my attention, that he thought that there was an inequity before in terms of the children that come up for adoption in different regions and that there was an imbalance between them. As I look back on the figures that the Minister supplied in the Orders in Council, in fact it appeared that each region was producing about the same number that it was adopting. So there didn't seem to be any inequity at all in terms of that particular criteria of children, at least that is the way I read those figures, which suggested to me that perhaps that rationale before wasn't really a sound one and that we should go back and take another look at it.

Now further, Mr. Chairman, in the whole adoption procedure, there isn't any real area where grievances can be expressed, either by the child or by parents or anyone who is involved in the whole adoption procedure, and there are many points in the system where a grievance could occur. Certainly there's a major grievance by parents who had applied for adoption under the old system and because of transitional problems have received no word, no communication, no information about where they stand in the whole procedure.

A MEMBER: It's not true.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, it is true because I've spoken to many of them and they simply have not received any indication other than a mimeographed letter that I think went out about a month ago, way after the transition occurred, to say where do I stand in this whole thing. Nor are there any grievance procedures really in terms of the kind of situation which I ran into about a month ago where someone who had provided care for children in a foster home situation, and it was a very complicated case, but it worked out that somebody who had provided the upbringing of children for about 20 years, all of a sudden was faced with a court order which no longer gave them the right to see that child. And I think it was a grievance on both the side of the child and on the other side of the case.

And so, Mr. Chairman, there isn't any kind of procedure which we can make sure that there is a fair amount of rights heard, nor is there really any, I think, public input into the

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) planning or development of this whole area. And that again, Mr. Chairman, gives me real cause for concern because I think that as elected representatives, we have very limited information in this area. I don't think that there's anyone in the House that could really pretend to know a great deal about the whole problem of child care or to be deeply versed into it. We are not given much information coming from the government side and it's very difficult for the different groups and agencies and parents who are involved, to make their point of view heard.

And I was disturbed - and that's a mild word - of the position, for example, taken last week by the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources when he said, "Oh, let's get rid of all this participation nonsense; after all we're elected and we should make decisions. And all this question for enquiries and special committees is nonsense because everyone is a political partisan and everyone has invested interest, all you are going to do by having that kind of forum is to have a bunch of sort of pseudo-politicians out there sort of beating their breast." Well I disagree very strongly with that position, Mr. Chairman, because I think in an area like this where there is a very strong requirement to know an awful lot more about it and to provide a forum where the different groups and individuals who are concerned are able to present their case, that it is important.

And I would suggest that this is one of the things that should have happened, away before this, certainly before the Child Welfare Act came in. But even now as the Minister is doing his review and reorganization, there should be a committee of the House looking at the problem, so that we can hear the presentations by the social agencies, the private ones, so that we can understand what other problems they face; what are the relationships that they are developing. We should be able to get presentations from people working in the child care field as to alternative kinds of programs that might be undertaken. We should be able to listen to parents. We should be able to listen to Family Court lawyers. We should know an awful lot more about this area and the only way that we have legitimately of finding it, I think, is through a committee of the House, so we can ask the questions, get the information, consult the people. And I don't think that there is a great danger of partisan division. I don't think there is an NDP way of bringing up children, or a Liberal way, or a Conservative way. But I think the members of this House, if they are to give the kind of attention that should be given to this area, just need to know an awful lot more and many people who are involved in the procedures, whether they are in agencies or parents or whatever, also need to have a place where they can bring their concerns to be heard because it's very difficult to get them heard right now. And, Mr. Chairman, I've had a number of complaints about the kind of stone-walling that goes on in trying to get your point of view to the department on these areas. There just doesn't seem to be much of a line of communication developing, that there's a reluctance or an unwillingness to talk about these things or to deal with them.

And so, Mr. Chairman, that would be a final point I would like to raise with the Minister that, I, you know, take full cognizance that he has just taken over the portfolio but there have been a number of papers and white papers and general reviews going on for a good long time in this area. I think they should be examined by this House or by a committee of this House. I think it's absolutely essential because in fact, the issue is just too important, it has not had the attention it deserves, and I think the only way that we can get a decent and respectable level of discussion and knowledge by members in this area is to know more. And so I would hope that the Minister of Health and Social Development would take a contrary attitude to that of the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, and be prepared that in certain areas, which are highly charged, I suppose, with partisan division, to open it up and to allow committees of this House to begin investigating and finding out. Because I think until we do this we are really going to be, I think, not fulfilling our proper responsibility to many children in this province, which I think by legislative right we have guardianship over, and I don't think that guardianship is being very well exercised at this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I agree with some of the remarks from the honourable member, but I think that he's being very unfair in some other remarks. He has been fed some information by somebody that doesn't agree with some of the policies that we made, that wasn't very difficult to figure, and he's taken their word as law, and I think that this is quite unfair. He's talking as if nothing is being done in the department, very little money is spent,

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) we were spending more for animals. One has to say to him that in the last two years there's been an increase of approximately \$4 million or 36 percent, and that's not bad.

Now my honourable friend knows that there has been, he mentioned this himself, that we've had a new Child Welfare Act that was passed last year. He knows that the Ryant Study is going to be prepared and my honourable friend probably wasn't in the House when I announced that. The report should be ready some time in the middle of June or certainly in June; and yes, I did say that it was an in-House study. I did mean by that nobody would know what the content would be. It is, I can't call it anything else, it is an in-House study. It is being discussed now with the different placing agencies, with different groups that are interested in working with the children, and I think that as soon as that comes up that we will have more policies to announce. I think that both the report and the Child Welfare Act stress prevention and pre-apprehension service that my honourable friend mentioned. I think it's unfair to say that this is not the case. I think that the new adoption procedure also, you know, my honourable friend made a statement that the important thing is the children. I certainly can't quarrel with him on that. And that when we look for a home, we should look for the best possible home for the child and I think that's being done now, and because we have a Central Registry that doesn't mean that this is not being done.

My honourable friend also talked about a committee of the House. Well, if we had a committee of the House for everything that is the responsibility of the government, I guess we'd only have a House and not a government. If this would be true, I think that we could have a committee of the House for many other things in this department. But the idea of getting more information, more advice appeals to me, and I would inform my honourable friend that I'll be pleased to get in touch with the Official Opposition and the Liberal Party before the next session and discuss the Ryant Report with them, and use them, if I may, as some kind of an advisory committee and discuss with the placing agencies and so on. I would be very pleased to do that if that makes my friend concerned. And I think that we will also have a better standard across the province by the change that we've made. It's not right to say that there aren't any standards. It is right to say that we've had trouble in defining the standards because different standards of different agencies might understand standards in a different way. And this was discussed, I think I announced this in the House, and I think that it was agreed that there was some cleaning up in the bills. I think there's two bills that were brought in that were introduced for Second Reading, one of them today. But any new policies and so on will certainly be discussed between now and the next session.

The new Act does indeed lay a whole new emphasis upon preventive services and the child-caring agencies are specifically required to work with children and families in their own homes to prevent apprehension if at all possible. I think that there are changes in the Act that would indicate that.

As far as the Central Registry, I think it is probably too early to say that it is a great success. We think it's a success. There might still be some problems, and maybe we should look at some of the figures to give you an indication of what the situation was. And if we want to be fair, and again it goes without saying that we're trying to get the best possible home for the children, that's No. 1. Now, if we could be fair and spread this over the province, as long as the children are taken care of, well that is also very important.

Now, to March 31st, 1973, the applications from the Children's Aid of Winnipeg, there was one. And the application from all other agencies including the constituency of my honourable friend from Assiniboia, there were 16.

On April 1 to July 31, 1973, none in Winnipeg; 25 in the rest of the province.

August 1 to September 30, 1973, one in Winnipeg; 20 in the rest of the province.

October 1 to October 31, 1973, none in Winnipeg; 19 in the rest of the province.

November 1 to November 30, 1973, none in Winnipeg; 18 in the rest of the province.

December 1 to December 31, none in Winnipeg; 10 in the rest of Manitoba.

January 1 to January 31, 1974, 3 in Winnipeg; 29 in the rest of Manitoba.

February 1 to February 28, one in Winnipeg; 15 outside of Winnipeg

March 1 to March 31, 2 and 7.

April 1 to April 30, 2 and 10.

And May 1 to May 31, 1974, 4 and 5. That is a total of 14 against 174.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)

And when this Act was passed and certainly it should have served as a notice of what was coming - they say that they weren't advised - there were only 14, and that's up to the end of May 1974. I don't know exactly when this Act was brought in, I think it was probably before that. So I think that in all fairness this is a good thing. It will take a year or so to get going. Well, I shouldn't say a year, it's going now. But it's understandable that the people of the Winnipeg area are not too pleased because it was very easy for them to be able to place them in a Winnipeg area. And when I say Winnipeg I'm not talking about the City of Winnipeg, I'm talking about the inner core of Winnipeg. So it's not half of the population. So I think in all fairness - I wasn't even in the House when this was approved - and I understand that it received unanimous consent. So now we're going with it and I would hope that the members will try - and my honourable friend made a very interesting statement, and I know he's sincere - that's why I offer that we could discuss the situation between the sittings. But again I ask him this . . . if we're not going to be partisan and if we're going to try to work with the children, I think that we should give this a try and I think that it is only fair.

There are other points that are covered and we talked about the lunch after school, well I think that received quite a bit of discussion last week, so I don't think I have anything else to offer. I tell my honourable friend that yes, the report will be coming in some time in June and that will help us. This report is being discussed with the Children's Aid Society and the placement agencies, and we will be guided . . . I personally welcome any volunteer associations but that doesn't mean that they shouldn't deliver; the policy of government will have to be followed. There shouldn't be any duplication and the cost also will be looked at. But this is something that the government and this department has a responsibility by Statute, and this is something that we must deliver and we will try to deliver it in the best possible way. Now, a decision hasn't been made on this at this time, and once we receive the Ryant Report there will be more study and this is the time I would like to invite the - and I hope that my Deputy Minister will take note of this - and we would be very pleased to discuss this with the representatives from the different parties before the next session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for his comments and for his responses. I'd like to just raise with him on one other question which has been brought to my attention and I ask simply for an explanation, and depending on what the explanation is, we may want to pursue it. But this year, March of 1975, the National Council of Welfare on Children and Poverty released a report called "Poor Kids" and the statistics that they use in this study are pretty disturbing if they, in fact, can be borne out. They say for example that in the Province of Manitoba close to 31 percent of all children live by standards that they call, "in poverty". And in particular, children in rural Manitoba, 50 percent of all children in rural Manitoba are considered to be in a poverty situation. They then go on to use a number of other statistics to talk about the lack of income, lack of food, lack of nutrition and other sorts of criteria all bearing the same thing. But Mr. Chairman, I've certainly had this brought to my attention by several people wanting to know, is it true? Because if it is, that's a horrendous set of statistics to deal with. So I'm just wondering if the Minister . . . I noticed that the newspaper report, that when the First Minister of the Province was presented with these findings, he said he'd be greatly surprised, or something to that effect. I wonder if, in the meantime, the Minister has had an opportunity to determine to what degree this kind of report by this National Welfare Council, which is an advisory council to the Department of Health and Social Development in Ottawa, is in fact verifiable and how close to the truth are these figures?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, we're always concerned with this, and when that first came out I was very concerned, and I've asked for an explanation, the same as my honourable friend is doing tonight. Now first of all, and my friend will have to help me now, I think, that this report is very outdated. I think that's about five - not only the report, but the figures that were taken for that, I think they're about five or six years. I think that's number one.

And secondly, we'll have to remember who's putting out this report, these are people that are in this field --(Interjection)-- 1973, the figures? I don't think so. I don't think so. I haven't got my copy here, but I think that it was somewhere around 1970. And of course the people that have prepared this report are the people that are working in that, and they need - I

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) think it's a bit of lobbying to get some grant. I'm not saying they're not concerned, and they're not honest, but I think that this is one thing that we should remember. But the most important thing of all is that we'd have to look at the definition of poverty, and I think they're talking about the definition of poverty, if they used, what, 3/4 or 2/3 of their - I don't remember exactly the figures; I think it's in there now - and for housing, food and clothing. I think there's many more. There might be many more, that most of Manitoba these days are using most of their income for housing and food and clothing. So it is a concern, but I don't think it's as bad as this report would have us, and as I say it's very much outdated.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, just to follow through to the Minister. While I just try to look at the footnotes, or the sources for it, and I gather it was a 1971 census that they used, and he may be quite right. I'm not sure what definition of poverty they're using. I think it's an income line of about \$3,000, from what I get from the reading of this. But in any event, when the Minister said that when the report came to the attention of the government, that highlighted this particular issue, could the Minister indicate what action the government took in terms of both evaluating and assessing the degree of the problem, which while this may not be an exact definition, it would seem to indicate that there really is something of a problem there. I'm just wondering to what degree did the government respond, and what kind of response have they taken in terms of either determining the nature of this problem, and if they can then tell us what a more accurate portrayal of it would be in the Province of Manitoba, and also then what sort of supplemental action is being planned or contemplated as a result of that?

MR. DESJARDINS: I don't think that the government could do any more than it's doing now. I think that all that, the problems that we have, a lot depends on the outcome of the discussion that the provinces are having with Ottawa on this. We're all working towards that. We recognize the problems. We recognize the problems that were touched on this afternoon by my honourable friend, and I think that the discussion that we've had, as I stated, we want much more information. We're supposed to have another meeting in September, and we think that we will have a guaranteed income in certain areas - that is helping, and also the supplement - that we will have some kind of policy that will try and get more of the people, those unemployed employables to work, and so on. And I'm told that my recollection wasn't far off, that this was the 1970 figures, and that was prepared for the 1971 consensus. So that's already five years old.

The definition, I don't think mentioned any amount. If a certain percentage was used for housing, for food, and for clothing, and I think there's many people now that are living a pretty good life, but they are spending most of their income on these three things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, may I refer again to the remarks of the Minister on the Ryant Report. I think there was some satisfaction on this side, that the Minister indicated he looked with favour on volunteer agencies. I think, Mr. Chairman, you know, it's not an unfair assumption to make that the whole point of this Ryant Report was to try and find some justification for the government department taking over directly the delivery of these programs that the private agencies have in the past been delivering.

I think that, you know, we can see why that might appeal to the government. One is their funding of these programs is an important part of the total cost. The other is of course that it's nice and tidy to have programs and organizational charts that show all of the authority and the responsibility for the delivery of child programs in the hands of the government.

But, Mr. Chairman, if we, in any way created the impression that we thought that such a program, such a direction was the one that we favoured, I would like to make that clear. I think that there is a quality of program being delivered now by the Children's Aid Society. It's dangerous to generalize in this area of course, but certainly in the area in which I have some familiarity, the Children's Aid Society and the WestMan area is looked upon with some pride by the local people. They have good direction, a good administrator, and these programs are being carried out in a way that, well we wonder whether it would be possible for the government to equal in quality the kind of programs that are being delivered. So I would hope that the Minister, when he says that he looks favourably on the effort and the present performance of the volunteer agents, would continue to hold that view and that if he finds when

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) . . . he is prepared to divulge the recommendations of the Ryant Report, that there is some backup for this feeling and that there is not a strong case made for the takeover of all these private agencies by the Department of Health and Social Development. Then I hope that the Minister would look at it carefully and not succumb to simply having a nice, tidy organizational chart and having all kinds of programs directly under his control. I would ask him to look very carefully at the kind of problems that have arisen in British Columbia during the takeover of private agencies and the results which have been achieved or have not been achieved during this changeover period. I think this is well worth looking at before any direct changes are made by the government.

Mr. Chairman, what I'm saying is, let's not downgrade the performance of private agencies, of volunteer services. I think they're very important. I think the resource people that many of these agencies have are well experienced, capable, dedicated people, and we would hate to see the kind of input that they're providing in any way taken away from the direct benefit of the children that are now receiving these programs.

I would like also to ask the Minister some more detailed questions about the program of adoption in the province. He gave some statistics and I understood those to be applications for adoption in the province, and he noted the disparity between the number from rural areas and the urban area of Winnipeg. Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Those are approved adoptions.

MR. MCGILL: Approved adoptions. I'm wondering if there is still quite a large waiting list of people who are anxious to provide a home for children who are available for this kind of adoption service. And perhaps the Minister could enlarge on this and tell us whether or not the Province of Manitoba is providing some children for adoption outside of the Province of Manitoba and if indeed there are some going outside of the country and perhaps being adopted in the United States. I think this would be interesting, because my information is that there still is a large backlog of applications for prospective adoptions within our province. If that's on, then perhaps the Minister can explain if there are indeed adoptions taking place of children from Manitoba in other provinces and in the United States, how this comes about, just what it is in the allocation of children to foster homes that makes it necessary for approvals to be given for children to leave the province and to go to other jurisdictions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: My honourable friend wanted to make sure that I understood the position of his party on this, and in return I would like him to make sure that he understands the position of the government and my own position in the department of course. I don't think he has any fear that we do not appreciate what is being done by the agencies, and just so he will realize that we are not only paying lip service, there's \$28 million of my budget, this budget, that goes on for private agencies. I certainly welcome, as I said, and I think I said last week that I would think it would be a sad day for Manitoba if we did away with the agencies.

But having said that, I want to tell my honourable friend that we will continue to evaluate - I think that we'll do much more than we did in the past in evaluating what is done by these agencies. It is not my intention automatically because somebody's on the list that they will be on forever. I think that they will have to produce . . . I certainly will insist that these agencies follow the policies of government and I think this is to be expected. And there is one thing that is quite touchy, is that my honourable friend said sometimes they do much better than the government, but we start with a program and sometimes they decide to enrich that program, and I would ask my honourable friend to remember that because these people, if they're refused any funds to provide a service that we're not ready to provide, that we haven't prioritized as the first priority, these people will do a lot of lobbying with the different parties and so on. It is my intention to hold fast on that. I think that we have to prioritize. We're responsible for the budget and we don't want any repetition. As far as the enrichment of the program, I think that we will have to agree to this before other outside agencies decide and lead the government in the direction that they might want to go.

No, the Ryant Report was not put in to see if there was a way that we could take over the agencies. That is not my information and this is not the way I'm going to receive it anyway. But certainly, as I should have made clear by now, I have no hang-up about agencies. I welcome the agencies, but we will look at the service that we have to render and it if could be done better by the agencies it will be done by the agencies, and if in certain areas it could be

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) done better by the government than it will be done by the government.

As far as the adoptions, I can assure my honourable friend that we certainly wouldn't place any of our children for adoption outside of the province unless there's nobody that's interested in them. And I would like to maybe at this time appeal to the public of Manitoba not to necessarily look for the little two-year-old or six-months-old girl with blue eyes and in perfect health and so on. There's people that are a little older that need loving and they need help, and we have quite a few of those. If the people that are waiting and if they're really interested and if they want to help these children, these are the people that need the most help. I know it's always easier to have a nice blonde little girl with blue eyes and perfect health and just six months old, "it's just like our own baby," but I certainly would like to appeal and I have asked my friends to help me with this appeal, there are many children that are a little older that need our help, and I think that we should sometimes try to promote a little bit more of assistance for those children. Now these are the ones that might go to other provinces and so on, if we have no takers here. I might say that we're working on a Central Registry with the other provinces for an exchange of different people that we might want. But I couldn't help but be a bit sad when I realized the thousands of people across Canada that were calling, they wanted some little Vietnamese kid and so on, when we have some of our children that need an awful lot of help and we can't place them anywhere.

I was going to give my honourable friend, if I have some information here. . . I've got too many papers . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Walding): Resolution 57 (b)(2). The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Yes, I have one question perhaps the Minister can answer at this time. When children are placed in foster homes, is there any kind of screening of foster parents done, and what kind of training? Are there any kind of sessions that they have to have with somebody within the department, a social worker, or is the child just placed in a home on recommendation and the application . . . or if there is some form of, say, training, if it might be the first child that the family's receiving, is there anything in the legislation that it be a pre-requisite, or what is taking place at the present time?

MR. DESJARDINS: I would say that the agencies would take the same care as they would if they were placing somebody for permanent adoption, and I think to add to this for the foster homes, I think we're working on something now with the Federal Government where we could help some of these people who wish to adopt them. They might be poor families and so on, they might need some assistance and we're working on that now to be able to help them on that to adopt the kids, the children legally. But the same care will be taken to choose the right parents even if it's only foster parents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57 (b)(2)(a)--passed; (b)--passed; (c)--passed; (d)--passed; (2)--passed; (b)(3)(a) - The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I have some inquiries of the Minister on the new Day Care Program. Again taking into recognition that it's a program which has really only been introduced since last spring, perhaps were not really operating this fall, but there have been, I suppose in this early shakedown period, two or three problem areas that have emerged, and I would like to hear from the Minister some of the plans that he may have to deal with the problems.

I think probably the most difficult one is the question that has emerged as a result of the financing formula, that many parents who previously were able to use day care facilities now find themselves, because of the income level that they're at which may be just above the income line which could use a full subsidy, in a state where they're now having to pay a full \$5.00 a day under I believe it's the 20-day requirement, so they're having to pay far more for day care service than they had to previously and, as a result, in many cases had to pull their children out of the day care program or out of some form of nursery operation. And this seems to be a horrible kind of treatment to place upon many people. Some of the parents I know involved in the day care programs were some of its strongest advocates and most devoted proponents in the earlier periods, and they now find themselves being severely penalized as a result because of an income requirement which I think is - I believe the fall-off line would be somewhere just above \$9,000 for a family working in this area, and it may even be lower at this stage, but

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . whatever it is, that group of people, group of parents in the lower middle income level, who all of a sudden find themselves having to pay upwards of perhaps \$150 if they have two children in a day care program, it puts a horrible drain on their income, as you could imagine, and as I say often results in them having to withdraw their children where previously they had good care.

The second question that I would have for the Minister comes back to the actual support system for the day care programs. Last year in the House our caucus introduced a resolution which was designed to provide supplementary care in the day care program because we realized that the \$5.00 a day stipend was in many instances not sufficient to support a day care program, particularly one that had a high degree of educational services attached to it, and that we felt that there should have been, as there is in some other provinces, a supplementary scheme of provincial funding. And I realize that the Minister, the department, has supplied I believe it's \$100 start-up grant and \$100 maintenance grant. But again, it's my information that in many cases these grants are not nearly enough to cover costs, particularly in areas which may have special requirements so that a day care program which may be dealing with handicapped children or disabled children or which has a high degree of educational component in it, is no longer able to bear the costs. It may be the kind of problem that couldn't have been expected to be anticipated, but we did bring a resolution last year which focused attention on that particular problem, and I don't think the problem's gone away.

The third area of questioning in the day care program I'd like to raise deals with the development of day care facilities in rural Manitoba areas, which wouldn't have the same degree or high degree of organization as has been the case in the City of Winnipeg. In fact there are even areas of the City of Winnipeg in which there's an imbalance. If you like, in day care programs. There just isn't seemingly at this point enough of an organized community base to bring about the day care program on the co-op thesis that is part of a day care system. So I would simply like to get the information as to what is in fact happening in terms of the encouragement and development of day care facilities, particularly in rural Manitoba but also in parts of the city which don't have these services.

The fourth question, Mr. Chairman, has to do with again the relationship of a day care program to many of the private nursery agencies, which under the Act were of course excluded from support - and I believe that that's a federal regulation. But to go back to the earlier problem, there are many areas of the city which previously were being serviced by private groups that supply day care facilities, private groups that were commercial-oriented but which oftentimes provide a service at \$3.00 or \$4.00 cost because they were, for whatever forms of economy, able to provide it at that kind of price, and again under the new day care program, children in families who could afford a subsidy are now being forced to take their children and move them down to, let's say, a downtown location, where previously they might have been able to have a location much closer to home, and that there is a kind of a crazy-quilt pattern around the city of people running around trying to find an appropriate agency to place their child in. I was just talking to some parents two or three days ago who've got to get up at five in the morning to take their kids half way across town because that's the only place they can get a location because the private groups in their area are obviously not available to them.

And finally, in terms of this line of questioning, Mr. Chairman, the fifth point would be the present question of regulations on the day care centres and the working out with the City of Winnipeg on health standards and physical standards so that there can be some kind of common base, particularly as to how these refer to the small group, family group day care programs. But I think that we should go beyond that, and I'd like to ask in terms of the development of the kind of educational standards that are being placed in the day care program itself, the kind of teaching and the kind of education that should be going into it. So perhaps the Minister can start with those.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Jenkins): The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, you know, I haven't been particularly vocal on the subject of day care centres, but I believe that perhaps at this particular time it'd be worthwhile to ask the government through this particular Minister, their overall and general attitude and direction in this particular program from a philosophical point of view, recognizing that our society is changing, that we're living in a very much different kind of a set of circumstances than we were even just a few years ago, recognizing

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) that we have forces and elements within our group in society - and I'm referring now specifically to the mothers who up to now have been left with the responsibility traditionally of looking after our children. Just what are the Minister's personal thoughts as he guides the direction of this program, as he guides the direction of his department overall?

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that it's not unfair to ask, without putting oneself in a position for or against that kind of thing. I think really that isn't the question any more. There is no question that the necessity for this kind of facility within our society has proven itself, has made itself very clearly, you know, a program that government has to concern itself, particularly in view of the kind of specific circumstances that individuals, families find themselves in our society.

But, Mr. Chairman, programs like this start in a particular way, and I would think that it's fair that we should have some expression of direction from the Minister in charge as to whether it is the belief and the option of this Minister that this is a kind of a program that we should be, that he envisages should become a global and universal program with respect to Manitoba, that this is the kind of program that for instance if I should, you know, many years before such programs as universal medicare or hospital care came into being, you know, governments of that day, of that yesteryear day, whether it was under the leadership of Mr. D.L. Campbell and the Liberal Governments of yesteryear, or the early years of previous Conservative administrations, where a degree of medicare or hospital care was extended to particular segments of our society in specific need. I'm asking the Minister, Mr. Chairman, to express himself freely in the best formal attitude of the Committee of the House does he believe that I could encourage my wife, for instance, to believe that living in Woodlands, Manitoba that pretty soon this government sees it as a right for all mothers of Manitoba to be able to have the facilities of a day care centre, much as his colleague right behind him believes that it's the right of all Manitobans that we should drop into a Claims Centre to have our dented fenders fixed up under Autopac, or something like that. In other words, Mr. Chairman, I'm not really being facetious about this at this particular time. It happens to be, you know, and I have some very very deep feelings about this matter. They happen to be strongly held by myself. I have a feeling that the government owes the people of Manitoba some explanation as to the direction that they see this program going. Is this the kind of program, Mr. Chairman, that we should believe that with funds coming available, priorities being set, that it would be a kind of service or program that Manitobans can expect to be applied in a fairly universal manner generally in our province; or is this a program, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister feels is necessary to be provided for specific areas of need? By that I mean a program that would be subject to some kind of means test, some kind of specific circumstances test, and so forth; or programs where even if this wasn't done where simply by the allocation of where these facilities were available that you in effect would be making in a sense a means test as to the availability of this program. In other words, if you provide the day care centre facilities only within say, Mr. Chairman, the inner core area of the city but not in Tuxedo, or not in Woodlands, is that your way of limiting this program at this particular time?

So, Mr. Chairman, I don't want to prolong the debate, the discussion on this particular point at this time, but I believe it's a program that is relatively new, only relatively recently that we have, you know, fair-sized appropriations allocated in this department for this program. Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister owes us some general comments as to the direction that he hopes to see this program develop. Does he see this program as one that he wants to, you know, become a major program, universally applied across the Province of Manitoba? Does he see this as a program that is necessary for the welfare and benefit of all children of Manitoba, or does he see it as a program as it's probably envisaged at this particular stage, and that is of meeting specific needs.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if we were across the hall having a coffee together I'd tell my honourable friend that he's pretty cute. But nevertheless I'll try to see that . . . he's trying to put me on the spot quite a bit, but I'll try to give him the answers that he wants.

First of all I suspect that he has had at least a minor change of heart, and I think that's what he said that in this changing society, and so on, that things are changing, and I must say that my change of heart might not have been only minor. I remember when I was sitting across the aisle there, I remember voting against day care. Of course that's quite a few years

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) ago. So he's asked me for my comments, and then I think the important thing is that I give him my comments as the--(Interjection)--I think that certainly right now the policy of the government, and I'm not going to try to prophesy what's going to happen in the future because my honourable friend touched on it already. It's a changing world and there might be reason why we change our policies again, and my friend and I wouldn't want to be caught off base. But right now I would say that we should help as much as possible in the setting up of these day care centres. I don't think that we should . . . it's not the intention of the government at this time to subsidize the people that can afford it. We are working now on a cost sharing - it's a program, it's a federal program that all the provinces have.

I think that we definitely though help those that are in need, and the situation now is that it's cost sharing under certain ground rules, the per diem rate \$5.00. It is true what my honourable friend from Fort Rouge said that some people at one time were paying maybe \$40.00 a month or so, and now they're paying close to \$100 a month. We're trying to rectify that. I don't want this to be negative; I think that it's a program that has done an awful lot of good. I'm told that we had - somebody asked about the rural area - I think there is many applications, but so far I think we have about 16 day care outside of Winnipeg. It's not that many but we expect to have more. We have roughly now about 1,200 children that are taken care of in these day care centres, and by September, 1975 our estimate is about 2,000.

Where the problems are, it's on the tax back. Now over a certain amount I think that an adult with one child is allowed revenue of \$4,320, and they will share up to \$6,920, that is, a mother with a child would receive some help if she's getting anywhere between \$4,320 and \$6,920. Now we feel that the problem is that the tax back is too high. As soon as they start making a dollar, or over \$4,320 in this particular case, there is a tax back of 50 percent. Now we think this is too high. We think that this is an area where the problem is, and we're discussing this with Ottawa, and I might say that we're not alone that I think most of the provinces have the same problem, and this is something that Ottawa will have to take another look at. It could be maybe as low as 25 percent. Now I think this will also give my friend from Lakeside an answer that I feel that we should help those that need help and not necessarily subsidize the others.

Now it is true, as was mentioned, that we have a start-up grant of \$100 and a maintenance grant of \$100, the start-up grant is only the one shot, it's a \$100, and the maintenance grant is \$100.00. Now we've tried to increase that, and we wanted to go as high as \$500, and the Federal Government told us that they wouldn't share in this and we're negotiating now. We hope that they'll go somewhere between the present \$100 and the \$500.00. Now if this is done I think that this will rectify a lot of the problems that my honourable friend mentioned.

Another problem is in the City of Winnipeg here. The City was going to license the health facilities, and so on, to make sure that it's not a fire trap, and so on, when we're talking about family day care which is five children or less. So I think that members of my staff have discussed this with the officials of the City of Winnipeg, and I think that part will be rectified, but where we'll have a lot of trouble, there's practically no family day care in operation now because of the zoning, and this is something where we have a problem. We have been told that they will suggest some amendments to the City, and that will be presented to the different community centres, and so on, and this might take a year or so. So I'm very disappointed in that because I think that this is the answer, is the family day care where you can have them in all areas, in Tuxedo, like my honourable friend mentioned, in his area, and so on, because it is just a number of five or less children, the children of the neighbours, and if somebody needs help well you can help them on that. And we must remember that by providing this help also sometimes we're saving money for the people of Manitoba because we allow maybe an unmarried mother or a widow, or a woman alone with a child to go and earn a living and work, and sometimes they pay practically all the costs themselves.

So I hope that I didn't stick-handle too much for my honourable friend. I think it's a good program. Right now we want to help those that need help. We are not ready to make this a universal program, and certainly not at this time. I hope that we will be able to discuss with Ottawa to get a better program going, and I think that we'll get support for other programs, and I hope that we'll be successful with dealing with the City of Winnipeg. But it's a program that I certainly want to congratulate the director of this day care program and the staff because

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) they've had a lot of difficulties and they've got a good program going on, and it's been quite helpful to many Manitobans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin): Mr. Chairman, I just have a few brief questions, and I'll try not to belabour the committee with them. The private day care centres have been in existence for some time, and I'm wondering how many private agencies were in existence in the province before this new program came in September 1st in 1974. And I believe I heard the Honourable Minister say that . . . did he say there was 1,200 children involved at the present time. I just can't justify that for the expenditure of some 3.6 million. I think there must be . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: We didn't spend all that money . . .

MR. McKENZIE: No. Well anyway . . . The other thing that I'm wondering, is the Minister satisfied that these private agencies are continuing and are still doing a good job and the end results, or is the thrust of the department now to phase the private agencies out. Another question: the preschool children, I'm wondering how many preschool children are involved in the program.

The other point that was raised by the Member from Fort Rouge was during the summer months, is it the intent of the program now that the children will be in day care centres all 12 months of the year and that during the holiday vacation the program will continue.

I'm also wondering how many brand new day care centres have been set up under this new program since it's come into force on September 1 in 1974?

MR. DESJARDINS: First of all let me tell my honourable friend that they are all pre-schoolers so they go ahead all year round. Now as far as the profit or private day care centre, I don't know the number because they're not required to be licensed by us, and I know that there are some. I think that my honourable friend from Fort Rouge can tell you that. I think that his mother has been doing good work on that.

Now it's a federal requirement that the centres that are operating for profit, and I don't think they are making very much money, but the private plan cannot share in this program. Now I think I told my honourable friend that we have a certain amount for the budget. That doesn't mean that all that is spent. We'll have to have more centres.

The group centres: there were 20 in 1974 and there are 34 now, and we expect - there's quite a few applications - that by September of this year we should have at least 50. Now to tell him any of the new ones, I haven't got that. I could try to get that information to see how many existing day care centres . . . We'll take that as notice and try to give you the information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57(3)(a)-passed; (b)-pass - The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask the Minister one question that was sparked by the proposal raised by the Member from Roblin, and I think partially by the Member from Lakeside, who seemed to be suggesting that the expenditure of \$3 million relating to 1,200 children seem to be extravagant or too expensive. I'm wondering if the Minister, or the department, has at this stage assessed what the cost to the province would be if there wasn't a day care program in terms of the number of working parents, single parents, who otherwise would not be able to work or have some form of employment if in fact there wasn't a day care service that was offered to them so that they could gain some kind of supplement. I was just playing with a pen just figuring out that if we're talking about 1,200 children, and we're talking, I suppose, about the straight welfare complement, we are already talking well over \$3 million in any event. So in effect the cost is already taken out or extracted by this different fact and if you assumed that some of the parents were able to work as a result of the ability to have children in a day care program, then if even half those parents are working it would probably amount to about a five million dollar wage budget, or salary budget, which would seem to me to probably by those equations make good sense to have the program if it means that a number of people are thereby able to be in the work market, or to be independent, and not require other forms of public assistance. I would be interested to know if the department has done that kind of analysis to find out really what the comparative cost benefit would be in terms of say supporting day care programs with this amount of money as opposed to presumably having a number of people who would otherwise have to be on some form of public assistance.

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MR. DESJARDINS: Well again I should say, I said that we had about 1,200 at this time, and we expected more. Now I don't think that that should be . . . the amount in there means that no matter how many children you have all that money will be spent by the end of the year. I think this would indicate that we're ready to go a long way to get this thing going. Now if we have difficulties the way we have now, it might be that we'll have a surplus by the end of the year, but it won't be a lack of money that will hold us back on this. I thought that that was one of the questions that you mentioned - you talked about the \$3 million and the 1,200 people. Now, as far as the other question my honourable friend asked me, I can take that as notice but I don't know if we will have this ready before the end of the session, because we are looking now at the people - we can tell you how many families, probably we can get the information how many people are getting some help from this cost-sharing program, are getting some subsidy and the amount of subsidy, and by that we know what the guidelines are from Ottawa. But to say, if we didn't have this program, would they be on welfare and so on, I don't think we asked these questions. It's not that, you know. . . we could surmise, we could probably give you a rough idea, but to give you this in detail I don't think we've got this information. But again, as I say, we can tell you how many people get full . . . probably we could find how many people get the full subsidy and other people that get less. I think we can do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, the reason I raised the issue with the Minister comes down to this. I think that the Member for Lakeside properly pointed to an area of concern and I think a number of people in the province are growing apprehensive about the growing bills in the social welfare field; and we've certainly learned the lesson in the past that once you get into the universal social programs the costs have a way of escalating and kind of expanding. So it appears to me, Mr. Chairman, that in order for a program like this to be warranted in large part, that we have to find an effective way of analyzing its impact and certainly by making some kind of comparison between the costs of running a day care program, which is \$3.6 million at this stage - well, whatever. Let's just assume for a moment that over the next year we spend 3.6 and have 2,000 children enrolled - we'll say for the sake of argument. I think it's important for the public to know or understand that by the provision of those services they thereby enable "X" number of the parents of those children to be in the work force, to make an income, and not to have a full form of public assistance. So that, in fact, the cost of 3.6 may be a deceiving figure; it may be much lower than that if you sort of take, if you subtract the cost that would otherwise be borne by the public in terms of supporting, say, on public assistance, a number of single parent families or working mothers or something, who wouldn't thereby be able to work because they wouldn't have the day care facilities. So I'm just really in a sense suggesting to the Minister that in terms of providing a proper base of assessment of the effectiveness of programs like this, that kind of information would be very useful in terms of trying to present the case to the public, of saying, look, this is not a program of where we're simply putting a bunch of dough in to get a bunch of people sort of looking after someone else's kids, but that in effect it is very much the kind of thing we talked about earlier in terms of developing a preventative child care program in order to first maintain children in a home, and at the same time try and enable people to maintain their own independence without having to resort to full-scale public assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just for clarification. I believe I heard the Minister speak about 1,200 children being involved in the day care program. Mr. Chairman, we've talked about costs. You know, I think then we should be a little bit more specific. That means that we're spending in the neighbourhood of \$3,000 for every pre-school child. Now for \$3,000 of public tax money . . . Well, we're talking about an appropriation here of \$3,600,000. My engineer friend beside me tells me that if you divide that by 1,200 that's \$3,000 roughly per child, give or take, you know, the cents and dollars. So if we're talking about that kind of expenditure . . . --(Interjection)-- Well, the Minister will have an opportunity to correct me, but I asked him just a little while ago, if we're talking about 1,200 children, the appropriation is 3 million or 3.6 million, and my arithmetic works out to that. So if we're talking about those kind of figures, then I think, you know, we want to assure ourselves, firstly, what kind of care these children are getting for that kind of money, namely \$3,000 per child; what qualifications do the people have that are administering the care of these children during these day care centres; what kind of salaries are we paying in this area, recognizing at

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) the same time that there is a per diem rate being paid - there's a per diem rate being paid by the Federal Government, or it's a cost-sharing program shared by the Federal Government. There's input put in by the Provincial Government plus an input being put in by the families, by the families involved.

You know, Mr. Chairman, somewhere there seems to be an awful lot of public dollars being eaten up by bureaucracy again, by administration again, and you know, we sometimes wonder where our dollars are going, but at \$3,000 per child, you know, before we accept too glibly the kind of assurance that, well, if we didn't spend this money, then, we would be adding that on to the welfare rolls, well I would have to ask how many \$3,000 do you pay for welfare or social allowances at that level to offset this account? So I think, Mr. Chairman, the Minister ought to clarify these figures; ought to clarify the numbers of children involved in the program and the amounts of dollars spent. This is the concern, I think, that quite correctly should be expressed by the Opposition at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll try again. I said that we had now approximately 1,200 children. I said that we were expecting at least - well I shouldn't say at least, but we feel that around September we should have 2,000. Now we could have put in \$100,000 in there. We're not going to spend it if it's not needed. As I said, we're trying to go higher than that. We're discussing with Ottawa. We are held back in the City of Winnipeg because of the zoning, and it might be that we'll need more money than that next year. Now I welcome the suggestion of my honourable friend and we certainly will evaluate this program, and when we come back next session we can tell you exactly what was done. This is a new program. It's a program that has improved 44 percent in eight months, so it's been a good program, although I did agree that we have problem areas. Now the maximum that we could pay, the maximum - that is if we paid for each child the full amount - is \$1,250 plus \$100 maintenance fee and \$100 start-up fee. That's the maximum for each child and we're certainly not paying the maximum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: That's fine and dandy. You know, I appreciate the Minister saying the maximum that he may be paying for each child, and that, I assume, is a payment that is being made, you know, specifically direct to the child. That doesn't tell me, sir, the amount of dollars that the department eats up in administering the care of that child. And I point out to the Honourable Minister that no matter what he's telling me about this year, the fact of the matter is last year he spent 3 million and \$2,200, and I would assume that he didn't have 1,200 children last year in the program. I'm referring to your column on the left hand side now of your estimates, which says the money spent year ending March 31, 1975. Last year the program - and one would have to assume that there weren't the full 1,200 enrolled that he now speaks of - last year the amounts of money he asked for - no, not the amounts of money he asked for, the amounts of money spent - was slightly over \$3 million. This year for the same appropriation you're asking for three and a half - \$3.6 million. Now, you know, somewhere . . . --(Interjection)-- Always. Always.

MR. DESJARDINS: Can I help you out? To say, first of all, in the left column, that money wasn't spent last year. The program didn't operate . . .

MR. ENNS: It's there to confuse us then.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, if you want to look at other departments . . . Well, if it was there to confuse, it's doing a hell of a job because you're pretty confused. This program, I'm saying that it was voted last year and I'm saying that it wasn't spent because the program wasn't in operation. That's all I can say. We have already passed (a) and (b) and that gives you the salary that we have. Then when we have the full staff and that, the co-ordinator of different areas and so on, this will be the amount. Now we're looking at (c) and I thought you were looking at the \$3.5 million, and that is where I'm saying that the maximum per child will be \$1,250, the maximum, plus \$100 for the start-up and \$100 for the maintenance, and there's not that many that are getting the maximum. There's about 36 percent, 36 percent of those people, so I'll even give you more ammunition now because there's only about 36 percent of those children that are getting any help at all. I'm not talking about the start-up grant now, the maintenance grant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

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MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to argue with my favourite Minister. Just tell us how much you spent last year. How's that? If we can't believe the figures in the book and if they're just there to confuse the Opposition, tell us how many children the program looked after last year and how many tax dollars you spent last year and we'll back off, how's that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order. I wonder - we're on (c), we're discussing (c), we haven't passed (b) yet. Could we pass (b) and then get on to (c)? (b)-passed. (c)-the Honourable Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: I am told by my friend the former Minister that it was under a million dollars last year. All complete. --(Interjection)-- I appreciate that.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Just further to the concerns expressed as to the quality of opportunity in the whole of the province for these day care services. I think the Minister said, and his report contains the information that after three months of operation a total of 19 day care facilities were in operation. Now he might bring that figure up-to-date as of after eight months. And what percentage of these again are in the rural areas of the province? I understand that of the 19 day care facilities that were in operation after three months there were 555 child spaces. Perhaps we could compare the facilities available in the rural area with the urban area by the Minister telling us how many child spaces there are in the rural parts of the province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: This program is improving so fast that every time I get up I have different figures. When my first information was prepared we had 33 centres, and out of those there were 21 in Winnipeg and 12 outside of Winnipeg. I think that now it is around the 36 centres, but I can't tell you those that are. . . just a minute maybe I can. No. Well this is the answer to the question that I took as notice a while back. There were 16 new centres since September 1st and 20 existed previously, so that is the previous question. We had 33 centres, I'm told that we have 36 now - there were 21 in Winnipeg and 12 outside of Winnipeg but we have many applications in the rural area I'm told. Out of 33, there were 1,139 child spaces; and family day care, there were another 23 child spaces, there were only five approved. That's family day care, there were only five approved because of the zoning and I think they're all in the city.

MR. MCGILL: Yes, we know that there are 1,130 some child spaces now. Are these facilities of equal. . . --(Interjection)-- 1,200. Are these facilities sort of equal in size, or how do we determine how many child spaces there are in the 12 outside of the city of Winnipeg as compared. . .

MR. DESJARDINS: . . . the spaces outside, there are 409 child spaces in those 12.

MR. MCGILL: Based on 12.

MR. DESJARDINS: Based on 12. I can't break that down, but that's what you want, the total outside of the . . .

MR. MCGILL: That is, that of the 1,200 spaces there . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: No, excuse me, that was 1,139. Out of the 1,139 - I can't tell you the latest - out of 1,139 we had 409 spaces outside of Winnipeg and 730 in Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. I wonder if we could just have a bit of co-operation. It's very difficult for the recorder here, for people working in Hansard when everybody's jumping up and not being recognized. Mr. Sly needs about a dozen hands to keep the tab here, so please wait until the Chair recognizes you. The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm still having trouble with arithmetic, but then that never was one of my best subjects in school. I expect to take some of the Provincial Government's upgrading courses shortly and redeem my credits in that particular area. But I would like to, because I take the Minister seriously when he indicates to us certain facts or figures, I'm still puzzled why he is asking for \$3,600,000 for this program when he's indicated to us that the possible enrolment, potential enrolment might be 2,000. He's only got at 1,200 right now, and he's limited to help of \$1,250 per child, which comes out to some \$2-1/2 million. I'm interested in why is he asking for an extra million dollars in this particular appropriation. I realize this is only one, and we're dealing with a department that spends multi millions of dollars, but is this the way the Minister pads his estimates, by putting in an extra million here and an extra million there, that somehow gets lost in the dust?

Now, Mr. Chairman, I believe I'm being reasonably fair with the Minister. The Minister has indicated that he is limited to a specific sum that he could spend per child, namely about \$1,250 I believe he indicated. He has also indicated that he anticipates, he hasn't got it now, but he anticipates with an expanded program, an enrolment of potential of 2,000 children . . . 2,000. Now at that figure, multiplied with the help of the slide rule by my honourable friend the Member for St. James, he tells me that that works out to \$2-1/2 million. But the Minister right now, Mr. Chairman, is asking for \$3-1/2 million. Now just a little while ago he also told us that last year he asked for \$3 million and only spent \$1 million. --(Interjection)-- Oh, pardon me, the Minister of Urban Affairs, the former Minister last year - you see he was even a little slippier than this present Minister. He asked for \$3 million and only spent \$1 million,

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . and the question surely has to be answered, where did the two million go? This Minister just finished telling us that he only spent \$1 million approximately, and I let him off the hook. You know, I wasn't pressing what the million dollars, he was spending it on, how many children it applied to, except I saw the appropriation for last year which called for \$3 million; the Minister says we only spent \$1 million. By the Minister's own statements of a few minutes ago, using his own figures, \$1,250 per child for 2,000 children, which he hasn't got - he's only got 1,200 now - but accept the 2,000 figure, that works out to \$2-1/2 million, but he's asking us to pass \$3-1/2 million. Now, Mr. Chairman, there's a missing million dollars somewhere. There's a missing . . . --(Interjection)-- Well, two from last year, a million from this year. You know, quite frankly I think that could be maybe diverted to housing, could be diverted to the cow-calf operators, could be diverted to many other areas. Or maybe the enrolment, maybe you can assure us the enrolment of 3 or 4 thousand children, 3 or 4 thousand children. But, Mr. Chairman, you know this is one of the problems of dealing with a massive department that spends in excess of \$300 million - that's what it is \$308 million - a third of the budget of Manitoba, and you know, we tend to look at the program and not worry about crossing the T's and dotting the I's, and slough off these minor points. It gets a little scary, quite frankly, when we can slough off a million dollars, or \$2 million from last year that we don't know what happened to it. So, come on, Mr. Minister, I think he owes us to level up with this House, and with myself, and tell me what he intends to do with the extra million dollars.

MR. DESJARDINS: My honourable friend knows that I always want to level out with him. First of all, let me say that the money from last year, we haven't got it, and I think he knows that. He was a Minister before and you don't accumulate this money from year to year. I think he knows that. And I need say no more.

Now, as far as this money. we are saying in effect, what I'm saying, this is the sum that we're ready to spend. I might say to my honourable friend, that originally we had an extra million. Now, we're saying that we estimate about 2,000, and that was September. I didn't say at the end of the year, I said by September. And I'm saying that the ground rule doesn't change, that there is no advancement; if we don't get anywhere with Ottawa and the City of Winnipeg this is what we expected to have. So I'm not trying to hide anything. We're ready to spend this amount of money. If we can't set them up as fast as we'd like to, if we don't get any improvement with the cost-sharing plan with Ottawa, and so on, we might have some money left over and it'll go back to the Consolidated Fund, because we certainly won't keep it.

And there is one thing, when I said 1,250 per child, that is for the per diem, then there could be another \$200,000 for the maintenance grant of \$100 that I mentioned. It might be that Ottawa will allow us to go to \$200 for maintenance grant, or 300, and then also there's for a startup grant, that's the one-shot deal, but we still have to pay that, it should be another \$100,000. So when you have new programs like that, it's a guess. We try to have an educated guess, but if I'm going to be criticized for that, well, let it be. But we are ready to spend that kind of money. We are going to try to have an improvement in the taxback with Ottawa. We will try to have some relaxation of the zoning rules with the City of Winnipeg. We've got staff that are going to go across the province to the . . . there's been some concern about the rural areas also to try to promote this, to try to let the people know that this is available under the said conditions, and we're ready to spend up to this amount. Now, you know, I don't know how fast we'll be able to set them up. But we expect, as I say, around 2,000 by September 1st, and by the end of March it might be much more than that.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to pursue the point any further, except to say that I have to now get considerably more serious about my concern about the manner and the way which this government handles money, and its respect for these estimates.

You see, Mr. Chairman, if we can slough off an extra padding of a million dollars on a relatively minor item in this department in this way, then what faith do we put in the rest of these estimates that we haven't solicited from the Minister the kind of specific information that enabled many persons to be able to determine these excess dollars.

Mr. Chairman, the answers that the Minister just gave us just don't hold any water. Yes, I was the Minister of an administration at one particular time. I know that when you put down certain funds for expected expenditures, those are based on fairly realistic assessment commitments of program costs. If you need more money, if the program exceeds it, then - and

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . particularly this government shouldn't be talking - then you go for a Special Warrant for extra programs. And this government has shown no reluctance at any time to go for 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 million dollars of extra warrants. If this program is successful, if the enrolment is higher than anticipated, and it's deemed to be a priority item of this program, then surely this Minister would have no trouble in going to his Cabinet colleagues and asking for a Special Warrant of \$500,000, or a million dollars to cover the extra enrolment. But, sir, to put this kind of figure into the estimates at the same time that they are telling people, for instance, like the City Fathers here in Winnipeg, that they haven't got an extra dollar to ease up the tax load that is now going out to them in tax notices, that they haven't got extra dollars to do this or that. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Will the honourable member confine his remarks. We're not on taxation in the city. We're now on the Health Department. The honourable member confine his remarks to the statement or the item under discussion.

MR. ENNS: I'm not looking for an argument with you, Mr. Chairman, or with any other member of the House, except that, you know, quite frankly my confidence in the budgeting of this government in their setting up of their estimates has somewhat been shattered tonight. You know, if I can find a million extra dollars, a million dollars of fact on one item which is relatively insignificant to the total \$308 million budget of this department, it shocks me the kind of 5 and 10 and 15 million dollars I could find elsewhere if I persisted, persevered and questioned the Minister on other items.

And, Mr. Chairman, I think it's particularly to the point at a time that governments across this country, and this government who is not immune to that, is being held responsible for a certain area of adding and abetting to the cause of inflation. If high uncontrolled costs, government spending, are part of it, then this kind of you know, laissez-faire - and that's a term they don't like on that side - approach to the use of public money, surely it should start to frighten us, Mr. Chairman. Now, quite frankly I'm you know, my mind's boggled, that on this little item we find a million dollars worth of fact. Never mind the two million from last year.

So, Mr. Chairman, I will desist for now other than to say that, you know, that I have very little confidence in the manner and the way in which these estimates are being presented to us. I accept the Minister's explanation that to some extent it still is in the pilot stage, or introductory stage of a program.

A MEMBER: Some pilot.

MR. ENNS: And that he cannot with complete assuredness indicate to us at this moment the actual dollars that may or may not be spent in the coming 12 months. But, Mr. Chairman, don't let the Minister pull any wool over my eyes. I also know that it is for him to put down realistic figures here. It's for his staff to put down realistic figures here, and then if the program exceeds that amount, then he has other recourse. Then he has recourse to his colleagues to ask for a Special Warrant for additional moneys, if the program is so warranted. And in the meantime there is certainly some responsibility that this kind of budget - in other words, you know, if the total budget of Manitoba wasn't padded the way this - it's now being padded - you know it might have been much more difficult for this government to deny fairly legitimate claims on some access to the inflationary profits that this government has been making in taxation. There might have been a fairly legitimate response, a fair legitimacy added to the request by some of the municipalities for some additional help, who are facing intolerable taxation burdens. There might have been many other worthwhile programs involved or entered into by this government.

But, Mr. Chairman, it's become patently obvious what's happening. There is a nice fat cushion that this government provides for its Ministers, that is there so that they have elbow room, that makes it possible for them to move in, move out, enter specific programs at their pleasure and at their leisure. And that, sir, is holding this Chamber and this Legislative Assembly in contempt. Because if there's one reason for us being here - and the Member for Morris has often indicated - the one reason that for us being there, particularly us Opposition members, is that we have an opportunity to pass judgment to say Yeah or Nay to the passing of public money, to the expenditure of public money that the government intends to expend in the next 12 months.

Now we have a certain right, Mr. Chairman, to believe that those figures presented to us in the Annual Estimates brought down by the government are reasonably accurate, and reasonably

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(MR. ENNS cont'd) . . . reflect the spending efforts of the government during the next 12 months. Now we don't expect, sir, that they will be held precisely to the dollars and cents. That's not what we're asking for. But, sir, a million dollar overshoot on an item of \$3 million --(Interjection)-- well, that's what we're talking about.

MR. DESJARDINS: No.

MR. ENNS: That's what we're talking about. --(Interjection)-- Oh well, the Minister hasn't been able to explain it otherwise. The Minister hasn't been able to explain it otherwise. He asked \$3 million last year for this program and only spent one. And this year by his own figures - it's not my figures, it's his figures - he said he's speaking \$2-1/2 million, but we're asking for \$3-1/2 million here. Mr. Chairman, it leaves one with very little confidence in terms of the kind of figures that are being presented to us by the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

HON. SAUL A. MILLER (Minister for Urban Affairs)(Seven Oaks): Mr. Chairman, I'm really touched by the Member for Lakeside's concern about the budgeting process. I'd like to remind him that the \$3 million that appears here was put in as a supplementary estimate in 1974-75. It came in towards, three-quarters of the way through the Session, when we first got the word that the Federal Government might approve the day care program, and it was put in at the last minute. And it's based on approximately 5,000 spaces as a maximum utilization, and that doesn't include maintenance, nor the start-up grant or the annual maintenance. But, if he wants to know why the \$3 million was put in, it was put in because we had every reason to believe that we would come to an arrangement with Ottawa. Unfortunately that didn't take place as rapidly as possible. We didn't get word until very late. It wasn't until September that we could even start going out to the community with this program, which requires that organizations, voluntary organizations be set up, that they run the Day Care Centres as they come into being. It requires incorporation. These are one of the conditions of the Federal Government which we have to meet, and these things do take time. So that that explains why the \$3 million wasn't spent, and I can tell the honourable member that it simply lapsed, as he knows it does because he was a Minister of the Crown, it simply lapsed.

The 3.5 million that's in there today is based on the assumption that the program will take off in September of this year, because at this time of year we're coming towards the summer holiday period; there is a usual lag, and people start working towards the September start-up. And in September, October, will be the acid test of this program. If it proves out, as we expect it will in the rural Manitoba, there will be a big pick up towards this program in the city, if we can overcome some of the problems that exist with the City with regard to zoning for family centres, and family day care in particular, then I think it will be successful in Winnipeg, too. But it's not entirely in the Minister's hands.

But I can assure the honourable member if it takes off in accordance to the best projections that are known across Canada for utilization, then the 3-1/2 million will be spent, and I wouldn't be surprised to see the Minister come back to Cabinet some time in January or February asking for more money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I just have some other questions related to the question of operational cost. I did want to remark though that the issue that we've been receiving a good deal of heat and light about in the last while is very similar to the one that came up a few evenings ago in Tourism and Recreation, and I think it's the same kind of question, or confusion arises when you don't have on these kind of sheets an exact accounting of how much was actually spent. We got into the same kind of debate and the same kind of problem because - in fact there was a number of appropriations laid out for which the money had not been spent in terms of the amount that seemed to be stated, and it gives a great deal of misleading advice and information. I would suggest that perhaps this Minister, because he is an innovating Minister, might be one of the first to undertake, or certainly the government might be prepared to undertake a different format for setting these out, so that in fact not only do we receive last year's appropriation but the actual dollar that was spent during that period, so that you have a very clear idea as to what to do on these areas.

Saying that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to simply ask the Minister two questions. One is that when he talks about the support maintenance grant for the individual day care centres, is there any intention by the government to increase those some amount, taking into account that

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(MR. AXWORTHY cont'd) . . . again each of these centres will have experienced a certain percentage increase in costs in the forthcoming year over last year, and that the \$100 standard rate may not be sufficient in order to keep their same rate up, so perhaps he could give some answers to what might be expected by these centres for support?

The second question comes down to the one of facilities. Again it's my understanding that one of the major costs of many of the day care centres, at least in the city, and I would probably say for the rural areas, are encountering is getting the proper space, at a rent that can be afforded. Many of them rely upon church basements, and other such things; they require a fair degree of renovation work, and oftentimes the spaces aren't appropriate. I'm wondering if the Minister or the department has had any discussions with his colleagues in the Department of Education to begin seeing if in part some of these day care programs cannot be run in school space facilities. This would be especially appropriate where in the inner city, in particular I can think of my own constituency where I know at least two of the elementary schools have a number of excess classrooms where there is several classrooms not in use, and at the same time you have a situation where two blocks down the street you have a day care centre using a church basement, or Lunch and After School Program using a church basement. I'm wondering whether it wouldn't be of some economy if in fact we could work out a system that the day care centres, where this space was available, could be incorporated as part of the school facilities, which would obviously share because the schools normally have kitchen facilities and recreation areas, and would have the administrative system to help cover some of the costs, because in many cases in a day care program now, the directors, and so on, spend a good deal of their time simply becoming accountants because there was so much paper work and so much red tape involved in the program at this stage. I think it's probably required, but it still takes an awful lot of time. So I'd be interested in knowing if there is any intention to begin developing the use of school space as part of the Day Care or Lunch and After School Program.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the last suggestion of my honourable friend is worth looking into. I must admit, this is something that I hadn't thought of. Certainly it would bring problems, but my honourable friend the Minister of Education has just nodded his head, and I think that we are certainly ready to explore that with him. For the maintenance grant I think I did mention that we felt that this wasn't enough and that could reduce, if these maintenance grants where that could reduce the per diem rate also that would, you know, the cost might not be as much, and I think I've stated that we were ready to, in some instances, to \$500 and we asked the Federal Government and they said that they were not ready to cost share to that amount, but they seemed to indicate that they might look at something in excess of \$100, and I'm told that our staff are now discussing this at this time. --(Interjection)-- Yes they do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I listened to the Minister, the remarks of the Minister of Urban Affairs with keen interest, and I first of all would like to ask the Minister, why it's not spelled out in the annual report that the Federal Government pulled out of that program. I see no evidence of that statement at all. --(Interjection)-- Well why isn't the evidence in here.

The other thing I can't understand, why in the annual report, and the figures that's before us, that we haven't got some evidence that the 3.1 million was not spent, only a million was spent. Here's the records, here's the figures. Why couldn't that have been included in the estimates for the Opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57 - The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Again, if my friends that have been members of Cabinet before, they know that the estimates are usually printed in January, which is certainly too early to give you this information, and I don't think that any information was kept back. It might be that again one of the other suggestions that we could start by giving the information that this was what was voted, and then give you what was spent. I think that we're certainly giving as much information as the previous government did, if not more, and I certainly, as a member of the Cabinet am ready to look at this suggestion, but there is no way that this could be given when these estimates were printed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57(b) - The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Just before we leave the item for 3.5 million, I wonder if it would help us to understand the projections of the Minister and his department, could he give us a breakout of

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(MR. MCGILL cont'd) . . . that figure, that 3.5? Is there some detail that we could have now?

MR. DESJARDINS: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I can't give any more details than I've already given at this time. A lot depends on the speed in which we will be able to go ahead with this, the applications that we receive, the co-operation of the different levels of government, and also the change in the cost-sharing method, if any.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, am I to understand then from the Minister that this 3.5 is a single line in his estimates, and that there is no breakout of any kind in that total amount? It seems to be a very large item for one single projection.

MR. DESJARDINS: I gave you all the projections that I have. This is the full amount covering the per diem, the start-up grant, and the maintenance grant, and there's nothing that I could add. I stated that we expected approximately 2,000 on September 1st; I stated that we're negotiating with Ottawa to increase the maintenance, and to increase what would be allowed under the taxback. I can't give any more information than that. Next year it will be a different thing, this program will have a . . . My honourable friend, I know him quite well, I didn't take him too seriously. I, like many of the backbenchers of the Opposition, smiled also when he was making his little speech, it was quite interesting, but he knows that when you have a new program, you can't dot the "i's" and give the information to the cent. I think it is a budget as reasonable as possible, as responsible as possible, and I'm glad to know that if we need more money that my honourable friend stated that they would be ready to go along with that if we bring an Order in Council for more money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution 57(b)(3)(c) - passed; (3) - passed; (4) (a) - The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Mr. Chairman, under this item I wish to ask the Minister. . . I had the opportunity during the, I believe, Throne Speech debate, and had an opportunity again during the session, I think, and on two occasions requested the Minister if he had provided any more funds to the preschool program for the deaf. I did have some response from him at that time, and I don't know if they were able to hire any more staff because at the present time, or at the time I spoke to the House - it's approximately now a month and a half ago - and the situation at that time was where we had one teacher for 48 preschoolers, Mr. Chairman. And where the teacher is supposed to spend on a personal basis, person to person, or teacher to each child, at least one hour per day, the situation at the present time is that the teacher was spending five minutes per day. I know that the Society was to see the Minister and ask for a further assistance. They asked for two more trained teachers and one, I believe, audiologist and a speech therapist. Well the Minister says it shouldn't go to him, and I believe at the time when I tried to raise this matter before some other department - I forget which one it was - I was instructed by the Minister for Tourism and Recreation, I was instructed that's the responsibility of the Minister of Health and Social Development. So now we're before his department, and we're getting directed to some other Minister. So, Mr. Chairman, I'm at a loss where we could bring this up, but all I want to know . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the responsibility is mine. It's true that when my friend was bringing this under the Department of Education, we felt that this would be under this, but the global budget for different agencies, as the Crippled Children, --(Interjection)-- Yes. Well they deal with the Crippled Children, and all that is incorporated in the budget of the Crippled Children. Now we look at the budget with the Crippled Children and we make our grant, and there was an increase this year. But then they in turn fund different agencies, and it's up to them to look at their . . . they come with their priorities, and so on. Now if we start dealing . . . it's the same thing when we're dealing with any hospitals. If all the different departments would come in and say we want this, we always send them back to the board, different hospitals, and say okay, you work with your priorities and we will work with your board. And this is what I'm saying that they should go and they make their case, and they made that case, but they're a group that is interested. They have lobbied, and I've warned you about this; I don't think there is anything wrong, but this should be settled. Their presentation should be made to the Crippled Children and then the Crippled Children in return should come in with all their priorities, all the people that they in turn fund, and then we deal with them, but we don't deal directly with those other groups now. If this has to be changed we could look at that, but so far it's been working well. The School for the Deaf know it. They have a lot of priorities, a lot of responsibilities. And awhile ago we were talking about the agencies doing good work, and

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . they help prioritize and maybe advise the government where the priorities are, and this is what's been done in this case. So their case should be made strongly to the Crippled Children. I'm not suggesting by that that you can't talk about it now, I'm just telling you the way the funding takes place.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Walding): The Honourable Member for Assiniboia.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I do understand and I am very closely and very much familiar with the Society for Crippled Children and Adults. When I was associated with Canadian Paraplegic, we did the same thing. We submitted our budget to the Society, and we had a very good working relationship, and the Society is doing a tremendous job. But in this situation it seems that the Society for Crippled Children and Adults were only able to get a certain amount of money from the Minister, and this is my concern - or whatever their total amount was. But I know in the specific case what I'm talking about, I know it's a very serious situation. --(Interjection)-- Well I hope the Minister can indicate to me, or give me some idea how the preschool program, you know, at the Kinsmen Centre, operated by the Society, can get more funds. I would like to know because the Society wasn't able to get any more, and naturally they get all their money for their total budget from the government, and I can't understand how they can get more. All I'm asking the Minister at the present time, they have asked for, and the Association for the Deaf has presented a brief to the Minister, and they said, "We need two more teachers, we need an audiologist, we need a speech therapist and assistant social worker." We said we need a staff of four more people, and they said at the present time the situation was one teacher, and that was only the administrator, the accountant, and the teacher teaching 48 pupils, preschoolers, and that's the situation at the present time. And the reason I feel that this program is so important, because what has happened, we were able to get the preschoolers into the present school system. We didn't have to send them to Tuxedo into the Deaf School, we were able to integrate most of these children, or all of these children, into the present school system, which I think would be the desire of every parent and would be the desire of all the members in this House that this be done, and we'd be able to do this.

Now when we have the situation that we have at the present time where you have a teacher spending only five minutes per pupil on a personal basis, I wonder, and as good as the program we have in our present school system for the deaf - and I think it's the best in Canada according to my information, if not the best in the country - it's two schools that we do have classes, and the students do integrate and do extremely well, and go through school completely and have no difficulties. And it depends the type of preschool program we have. So I'd say the preschool program is most important, and as I say at the Centre the children are from all over Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, and I think it's most important that we have proper staff, and we have proper facilities and the facilities are there. All the problem that we have at the present time is we haven't got the staff, and as I say the present teacher is not only the administrator but also the teacher, and spending something like five minutes with each pupil instead of the one hour that's required.

So the question I'm raising with the Minister, I know that the budget was submitted through the Society for Crippled Children to the government, as they do fund some other private agencies, as well, the Society does; but they were not able to get enough money to be able to hire any of extra staff that's required, or the staff that's required to maintain the type of a program that's necessary. Now I've asked the Minister on two separate occasions about this same problem. So this is at least a month and a half later, and I wonder if the Minister was able to do anything, and how can the Society get more money that they can hire the necessary staff that's required? And that's my question I'm putting to the Minister.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, just in case I'm not giving the proper answer to my honourable friend I'll take it into consideration. I know that even before my friend raised it in the House that it had come to my attention. I was as concerned as my honourable friend, and I did bring this to staff, and I thought at the time that they were saying that they were reviewing the budget from the Crippled Children's Society, and if everything has to go to the Crippled Children well then we'll have to go ahead with that, because if we start dealing with people individually then the whole setup has to be changed. But it might be that we can do certain things, that we give some maintenance grants directly. I'm not sure, I'll take that as notice because I am very concerned also, and I've asked the staff, the person responsible for that, to look at this program, and at the time that's the information I was given, but I'll

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . take it as notice and give the proper information to my honourable friend.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I am glad to hear the Minister give the commitment to look further into this situation that he has just given to the Honourable Member for Assiniboia. It's a question that obviously has been brought to the attention of many members of this committee, and many members of this House. The Minister has had it brought to his attention on previous occasions; I certainly have, the Member for Assiniboia has.

My understanding is the basic problem here is that the budget that the Society for Crippled Children and Adults had to accommodate the necessary increases in the staff for the preschool training of hearing impaired children was cancelled. Now how come that budget was cancelled is a situation that I'm not able to explain, and my information, as I say, is that there was an item in the budget, in the appropriation asked for by the Society for Crippled Children and Adults, to accommodate the necessary increases in staff to meet the needs of that program. And that there's an association of parents - The Association of Parents of Hearing Impaired Children of Manitoba, I think is the formal name of the Association. They in fact collected some \$3,000 among themselves in their own group and lent that money, loaned that money to the Society for Crippled Children and Adults in order to permit that agency to hire an additional teacher to take up the slack and cover the period of difficulty. But it was a temporary ad hoc kind of arrangement that was made necessary because of the limited training that the students in the school were getting under the staff limitations that existed. In my understanding, as I say, from that organization is that they raised that money and extended that loan to the Society for Crippled Children and Adults because the item in their budget which had been approved was subsequently cancelled. Now whether that was cancelled because of the reconsideration, or a review of the situation by the department, I don't know, only the Minister can tell us that.

But this is the information that has come to me and I'm sure to many others of us in this House, and I think that's a situation, if true, that deserves the attention of the Minister, and if he has any information on it I'd like to have that information from him now or as soon as possible. There are a couple of other things I want to say in this area but if the Minister has some information relating to that point that I've raised, I'll defer to him for the time being.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'll have to take that as notice with the other question. I'm unaware of anything that has been cancelled, so I'll try to have that for tomorrow.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for undertaking to find out what the story and what the situation is with respect to that problem.

Generally speaking in the whole area of rehabilitation service to the disabled, Mr. Chairman, there are two or three questions that I think the public of Manitoba at large, and certainly we on this side of the House are concerned about and are interested in determining the answers to. They relate to the kinds of services that are being offered in this field, and what modifications or refinements or limitations or improvements may be in the process of being introduced there. There, for example, is the whole field of screening for preschool children in the area of vision and hearing skills or handicaps so as to be able to identify handicapped children before they get into the regular public school system. In many cases children with visual and hearing handicaps are not identified, and are not properly diagnosed; they get into a regular schooling situation where because of their handicaps, they are not able to keep up or compete. They're often diagnosed unofficially as being slow learners, even possibly being retarded, when in fact there is no such mental incapacity afflicting them, their problem is in handicaps in the visual and hearing area. It's vitally important that in order to prevent that kind of misfortune and that kind of disadvantage from repeating itself over and over again, that proper screening programs for children at the preschool level be pursued by the department and I'm wondering to what extent that kind of service is covered under the department's functions in this area.

I'm also concerned, and have had many expressions of concern forwarded to me from families who have multi-handicapped children. These are children who suffer from a combination of handicaps, and they include mental and physical damage as well as the kind of damages that we've just been discussing in the visual and hearing field. There is a very limited range of educational opportunities, a very limited number of facilities and programs that can provide

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(MR. SHERMAN cont'd) . . . any kind of educational opportunity for children of that kind, children suffering and family suffering from that kind of misfortune, Mr. Chairman. I would like to hear the comments of the Minister with respect to plans and programs that exist under his department to attempt to serve those persons, those disabled and handicapped persons, and plans that they may have in the department for improving that kind of service and that field of service.

There is the whole area also, sir, of the kinds of expenses in living and in working that disabled and handicapped people face. I don't want to bring up that item at this point if we're on the wrong resolution for that, that might perhaps be better left to Vote No. 5 under Vocational Rehabilitation Services, but I defer to your direction on that point. It's a critical problem for handicapped people, the difficulty of getting back and forth to work, and the additional expenses that's incumbent on them and that they're forced to bear because of that handicap. I would like to hear from the Minister as to whether any of the funds which we're voting in these appropriations go to compensate people in that predicament for those expenses that they face.

The program of providing work opportunities for disabled and handicapped persons is another that I think deserves intensive scrutiny. Once again, we may be under Vote No. 5 rather than Vote No. 4 in that area, but since the two come side by side on our estimates order, Mr. Chairman, I'm raising them now, and I will take the direction from you as to whether we should deal with them a few moments from now, or whether the Minister can deal with them in his general answers to my foregoing comments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I have a matter here that I would like to deal with, with a person who has been disabled for many years. I'm sure that the department and Workmen's Compensation are quite familiar with this case. I don't know what to do with it. All the medical profession in this province have tried to deal with it. The man is still disabled, and he's only drawing 40 percent compensation. His name is Mushmanski and he was involved in a mine accident in 1961. He's had four back fusions, and it's a long medical story . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Honourable Minister have a point of order?

MR. MILLER: On a point of order, you know, I don't like to cut the member off, I'm sure he has a case that he wants to bring to the attention - but I think he's bringing it to the attention of the wrong Minister. If it's Workmen's Compensation, then it does not fall within the purview of the Minister of Health.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, if I read the annual report correctly, I read here in the last paragraph on Page 61: "The Regional Program Staff assures the availability of rehabilitation services for all the disabled persons, but has the prime responsibility for the mentally handicapped, mentally retarded and mentally ill. The physically disabled receive services from three private designated agencies, The Society of Children's Aid, CNIB, the Workers Compensation." But it goes on and in the latter part of it, says: "Development in . . ." Where was it here I read that . . . "Although many types of training facilities are used in the rehabilitation, the Provincial Directorate has particular responsibility for workshops." I'm wondering, you know, with this case, what's going to happen with this man. Maybe it can be dealt with at a later date, but it's a lengthy - and it came back now from the doctors that they're not prepared to send him to - he wanted to go to England. They examined him again just in the last month and . . . I don't know how to deal with it, but maybe we can deal with it later. If I'm out of order, I certainly don't want to raise it tonight.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: It's quite difficult to deal with a specific case without getting all the information. I think that my honourable friend, my colleague, was saying that if it's under the Compensation, that is as far as the pension, because my friend was saying that he was only receiving \$40,00 I think --(Interjection)-- 40 percent. This doesn't come under this department but as far as workshop, and so on, the name can be referred to and we can see if we have any program. For those rehab programs we are responsible, so if there's anything we can do in this area, we certainly would be glad to look at it. I think that if my honourable friend can give me the details, bring it to my attention, or the attention of the Deputy Minister, we'll see what we can do. But as far as the pension, that doesn't come under us.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)

Now as far as the screening, my honourable friend from Fort Garry . . . I think we have three vans now that are going around the province doing this kind of work. We have in front of us . . . we're considering now trying to get more staff. I think that what we want to do is to train the voluntary staff in different areas, that it's not that difficult; we would like to train people in the area. Now we're talking about the school children also, the preschool, some of that work is done through the Health Services and clinics, and so on, but this is something that we are doing, We are looking at the CNIB estimates now, our budget, to see if we can increase that also. I agree with my honourable friend this is some of the service that we would like to increase, and although we're doing something now we're looking to see if we can get more staff and do a little more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister, are there things being done in the field of the multi-handicapped children, for example, who really need instruction in their homes rather than - while there may be some opportunities, some facilities available to which they can be taken in wheelchairs and in beds, but in many cases they need a very specialized kind of instruction. I recognize that these are services that all cost money; nonetheless these are all citizens and they deserve an opportunity to have an education made available to them, and I would expect that if there is the kind of money available that there appears to be for the operation that Health and Social Department running into the excess of several hundred of millions of dollars as we've noted, I would hope that there would be something to develop programs for servicing that kind of handicapped citizen too.

MR. DESJARDINS: There is a program under the multi-handicapped children that my honourable friend is speaking about now, that is under consideration now, a joint effort between the Department of Education and my department. This is being considered now to work with the school boards, to assist them, and so on. That program doesn't exist, it is not in place yet, but this is being prepared now.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, so the Minister is telling me that there is consideration in the appropriation that we're voting now under his department, or that there is one under the Department of Education?

MR. DESJARDINS: I don't say that we have the money for this new program. I think there's enough under some of the existing programs, and I'm at a loss to tell you if we're discussing this in the right place - the person that is responsible for this was taken sick and had to leave a little earlier - but I know that there's been some discussion on this program with a joint staff, the Minister of Education and our staff also to work in this field. In the meantime, I guess that these people would be taken care of, if they have more than one handicap they could be taken care of with money from the CNIB, and then the deaf, and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. GEORGE MINAKER (St. James): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague from Fort Garry raised the question to the Minister with regard to funds available for transportation for people that are handicapped, and I'm wondering if the Minister had forgotten to answer the question. If he deals with the question under this subject, I would like him to also advise us if there are any programs that will provide transportation funds for people who want to go out to work but are now finding it difficult, or even worthwhile, to go out and take on a job, because a good portion of the moneys that they earn is taken up by transportation costs to and from work.

The other question I wanted to ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, is, has there been any consideration given to possibly those particular individuals who are driven in wheelchairs but are capable possibly of driving a vehicle themselves, is there any consideration to assisting them to convert a vehicle so that they can drive, or even driver training for these types of people. Because I'm confident that my colleagues on this side would support a program which would encourage people who want to work and are capable of working but who are now presently discouraged because of their transportation costs, and as a result probably many are staying at home, and as a result are getting some kind of an allowance to assist them to survive. So I'm wondering if possibly the Minister could answer these questions.

MR. DESJARDINS: Some of the costs for transportation are already covered in the grants to different agencies, and we've been informed by Ottawa at the last Ministers' meeting

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . that this might be an area that under the new formula that will be cost-shared by Ottawa, so we're preparing a proposal for that for the transportation.

As far as the other point, for the people that have trouble, that might be able to drive their own cars, and so on, there has been a research grant to Dr. Tucker I think at the Health Science Centre, to study these kind of things. Ottawa has indicated that this is the final year, but we've already committed to fund that research, and this is being done now, and they're doing quite a bit of work in this area. Of course, we've extended, we went in the program of the mechanized wheelchair this year that we didn't do before. The other ordinary wheelchair, we have quite a supply of them, and we have quite a bit of this kind of help, for the crippled children and adults.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister could advise how many dollars are in his budget for this particular transportation program this year?

MR. DESJARDINS: It's not broken down. What we're doing now, it's not broken down. It would be covered in different budgets of different agencies, and so on. It would be quite difficult - I can take it as notice, but I doubt if I'll be able to get this information at this time. As I said, we're working on that comprehensive transportation program now because of the announcement from Ottawa, and then when this happens, it would be funded and cost-shared by Ottawa, then we could give you more information, but right now it's, you know, we'd have to find out, look in every single budget and so on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to pursue and get an understanding with the Minister regarding this specific case where this gentleman has had a disc operation in 1962, a fusion in 1963, refusion in 1964-65, refusion in 1966, refusion in 1968. I can certainly bring it up in the estimates of the Minister of Labour. There's letters here from the medical profession telling him, "I don't see that there's anything further that can be done, particularly in your case." And it goes on. The Workmen's Compensation is only paying the man 40 percent, and yet at the same time they're telling him that the medical department didn't feel there's any evidence that you were totally disabled - and the man is disabled. I'm wondering in this rehabilitation . . . if I'm not able to gain a hearing from the Minister of Labour, then this gentleman would be entitled to rehabilitation services and likely some welfare, because he can't possibly exist on a 40 percent settlement from Workmen's Compensation.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, this person like anybody else could qualify for social allowance. The only thing that I can't comment on is this pension that he's getting from this insurance company, because that's what the compensation is, this comes under, as my friend knows, under the Minister of Labour, but as far as program to assist him to improve him if at all possible, we would be ready to look at this workshop, anything we can do for him and we could look to see if he qualifies under any other assistance. You can give the information to the Deputy Minister, we'll have a look at it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With regard to the same subject, in the transportation allowance for disabled people who wish to become employed. I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable Minister could advise us, with his discussions with the Federal Minister on this subject, if I understood him correctly, it had been discussed with the Federal Government, was there any consideration or recommendation by the Honourable Minister to allowing some kind of an allowance, tax reduction, for these type of individuals, in other words, if they are committed to utilize a taxi to and from work, or a special vehicle, whether possibly in the interim period, that the Federal Government might give consideration to allowing it as a cost and deduct it from their income and thus have reduced taxes and also would have reduced provincial tax accordingly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: This is something that we would be interested, we could make representation, this is strictly a federal matter, it's an income tax matter. And when I said that we discussed with Ottawa, we didn't discuss that at all, it was more this new change on social development and so on; the Federal Government indicated that they would be able to do more in the field of helping the children and the senior people and so on. This was one of the

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) . . . areas that they felt that they might be interested in, but this might take a little while to come. This was mentioned at the last meeting and this is something that we were quite interested in and we certainly will have representation to Ottawa as soon as possible. But as far as this exemption for tax, we could bring this to the attention of Ottawa, but it's strictly a question of federal jurisdiction.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Honourable Minister, it is a federal jurisdiction, but I think if the government indicated its desire of the Federal Government to look into this, then I would presume it would indicate to the Federal Government that the Provincial Government would be willing to give us some provincial tax as well, based on how the provincial tax is applied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: . . . before we leave this question of rehab service for the disabled. The annual report indicates that during the year 12, 100 persons received services from this program. I wonder if the Minister could tell us what percentage of that number were children. How many children were involved in this program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'll have to take that as notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7(b)(4)(a)-passed; (b)-passed; (c)-passed; (d)-passed; (4)-passed; 5(a) - the Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister to explain the difference in the appropriation this year over last year in this area of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. I note that particularly in the field of Work Activity Projects, the appropriation for this year is down substantially than that which was asked last year. The biggest problem that many handicapped and disabled persons face, as the Minister knows and appreciates I'm sure, is the difficulty in obtaining employment opportunities and in being in a position to achieve a feeling of self respect and independence through work activities, and I would hope that this cut-back in work activity projects as it's indicated on the estimates statement, is not a cutback in the availability of providing projects, developing projects, and providing work opportunities for disabled and handicapped people. Why is that program down, why is the expenditure on it down? Do we take from this, can draw the conclusion that these people who formerly were able to go into work activity projects are now just being transferred on to the welfare rolls, or what?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: If my honourable friend promises to pass this fast before the Member from Lakeside comes in, I'll give him the information. It seems that the reduction in this appropriation reflects the actual expenditure for these projects in the past. So apparently that was another way where the former Minister was hiding some money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, can the Minister tell us whether the department is enjoying success with its work activity projects and with its vocational opportunities for disabled and handicapped persons. Are there any yardsticks, are there any criteria, can he draw on the previous experience of his colleague, the former Minister in this department to give us some indication as to how the projects in this field this year compare with those in previous years and what the success rate is?

MR. DESJARDINS: The work activity projects are the same that we had last year. The Manitoba Association Northern Work Activity Program was 777.9 thousand; Amaranth Work Activities, 304.8; Winnipeg Home Improvement Project, 548.7; WestMan Work Activities in Brandon, 714.3; Pioneer Service Centre Work Activities Program, 419. In general, these have been successful. I'm not going to say that we haven't encountered any problems; we're evaluating this constantly, we've done some work, we've increased the staff and reorganized that part of the Community Operations Division and we're having another look at it to improve it, to see that this money is well spent, but in general we're quite pleased, we think that this is a very worthwhile project.

MR. SHERMAN: Can the Minister tell us whether there's a waiting list of disabled or handicapped people waiting to get into this kind of work stream?

MR. DESJARDINS: I don't know if there's a waiting list. That list changes, there's people that might have spent time in jail and so on, that come out, that have been a load for

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) society, I think that we're helping quite a few of them. I don't think there is much of a waiting list. They're placed by these different people in the field that are the rehabilitation officers and so on. I don't think there's too much of a list, but it changes quite fast at times. Some people might not last too long in their centres; some of them might come in and leave, but in general it's been very good and we have had no indication that there's a large waiting list.

MR. SHERMAN: There's no indication then that the program has to be expanded in the Minister's view at this time. It has to be maintained, but he doesn't feel it has to be expanded.

MR. DESJARDINS: Not at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. R. (Pete) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make a few comments on this particular section of the Department of Health and Social Development Estimates. I notice that the Minister's comments were that the estimates for this year reflects the actual expenditures anticipated. I'm just wondering if there is any allowance for the cost-of-living increase or inflationary process that's taking place. I notice that the salaries, there's only a modest increase, but there's quite a cutback on (c) and (d). Is it in order to comment on (b) at this particular time, or should I wait?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're still on (a) at the moment.

MR. ADAM: I noticed members opposite were wandering from --(Interjection)-- Give it a try? I notice that members opposite were wandering down to the lower (d), so I thought maybe I would take a chance on it.

A MEMBER: Well, try it.

MR. ADAM: All right. I would like to comment. There are a couple of . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

A MEMBER: . . . suggests that maybe we should pass (c). So can you . . .
5(a)--pass? (b)--pass?

. . . . continued next page

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MR. CHAIRMAN: 5(a) - the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, tempting the wrath of the Minister, who had worked out a deal I gather with the Member from Ste. Rose, I did want to raise a question, based upon his previous answer, that satisfaction that he now has that the work activity area and the general vocational rehabilitation program is about where it should be and there is no contemplated . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Work Activity Project is under 5(d).

MR. AXWORTHY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I did . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That was the item that the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose wanted to speak on and you've heard his comments.

MR. AXWORTHY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's why I include in my remarks that in the general area of vocational rehabilitation, which included . . . --(Interjection)-- Well, but I wanted to cover something that wasn't necessarily work activity, if that's all right with the Minister. Okay? That in terms of sort of satisfying so that there was really no expansion contemplated, I want to raise to the Minister one issue that again has come to my attention - and I don't think that there is any specific program at this present moment operated under his department, but it is a need that seems to be growing. It is in the area of people who seem to be in the late middle-age years - I guess if I had to put a figure on it, probably in the late 50s, early 60s, somewhere about that period - who are older workers, who for reasons of changes in the job market find themselves displaced. They may have been working for a company for a long period of time.

I can think of a case, for example, of a woman who came to see me who had been working for the post office bases for about 20 some odd years, and because of changes in the technology of it, lost her position, and then finds it almost absolutely impossible to find anything new; that once people reach a certain stage in life the ability or opportunity for employers to bring them into new work opportunities is almost nil, and that there seems to be an increasing problem, particularly with female workers, who have worked with companies in fairly low paying jobs without much skill attached to it, they lose that job or are displaced for one reason or the other and then find it almost impossible to get any alternative. As a result, Mr. Chairman, they find that soon their unemployment insurance benefits run out because they can't find any other available work; they go around looking, but there just isn't anything that fits that criteria, and as a result they find themselves resorting to public assistance, or in some cases they can't even find that. I've come across that case in many instances now and it is becoming some concern of the older worker, who needs to find some form of rehabilitation, to move them back into a kind of a job market or back into some useful employment or assistance. I would want to know if there is identification of this particular problem on the part of the Provincial Government - and I again recognize it is a shared responsibility here, that something that Manpower also must take its full share for - but it is a growing problem, a serious one, particularly as our population, as the demography or the demographics . . . that there are just now many older workers in the job market.

I was going to point out that I suppose one group of those used to be sort of insurance agents who were displaced and had to find new opportunities, but that's a . . . --(Interjection)-- That's right, they've all gone to work for Autopac, so that was one form of a case of rehabilitation I expect. But there are many others who find themselves being dislocated --(Interjection)-- well, not all of them actually, there's many who didn't find - a lot of them didn't find any relocation. I simply use that as one example which the province itself created, but there are many others in the private and industrial field as well, in the commercial and retail field. I would want to determine if there is some identification of this problem and some planning to deal with that particular group of people, and if there isn't, to suggest or urge that some attention be given to it, because I think it is a growing problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'm aware of the problem referred to by my honourable friend, but I don't think that this is covered here, this is mostly for the culturally handicapped people. These people that are, because of some change in society, or a certain age it is difficult for them, it's practically retraining. I think that those are the people that we usually consider the unemployed employables, and this is the discussion that's going on with Ottawa to provide under Manpower, and some other programs, but I doubt if this would be under this item here.

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd)

I'm not saying that this is not a concern of the department, and it's still this department that would deal with that. This is something that we hope that there will be some kind of an incentive and try to place these people. There are some programs that Ottawa were discussing to help these unemployed employables and we're looking at that. But as I say, it wouldn't be under this item at all.

MR. AXWORTHY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like if I may to debate that point to some degree to the Minister, because I think that age is becoming a discriminatory factor; that the definition of disadvantaged that operates under Vocational Rehabilitation has certainly gone beyond someone who is physically handicapped and now includes a number of people who are socially handicapped and that many of the programs do deal with people of native origin or with poor education or other kinds of disabilities of that nature. And I would suggest that I think that older age is becoming one of those kind of disabilities, that increasingly the way we're organizing the society tends to narrow the range of options for older people and many of them find themselves being kind of opted out of the job market very quickly, or really opted out of any capacity to make a decent income. --(Interjection)-- That's right, and there's all kinds of Ministers of the Crown I suppose who would fit that definition very adequately and probably some - actually I was going to suggest that probably fit much more adequately many of the backbenchers in the government who are going to become sort of - never become Ministers of the Crown and sort of probably want a pension in waiting.

I was going to say, that one of the aspects of the problem is that we have tended through pressure of, in some cases unions, in other cases, insurance companies and so on, to continually lower the retirement age so that it's now almost mandatory that many people leave at 65. And I would make the case that that group of people themselves - and I didn't include them in my earlier remarks - but again I have had many discussions with men and women over 65 who have been compulsorily retired from their company, from their work, and feel no way handicapped, feel quite capable of continuing on the work for another five, ten years, they're physically and mentally in top shape, but they are sort of rostered out, because that's the way we want to do things. As a result they very quickly become disabled.

I think one of the serious problems we have to look at in our society is that if you take work away from someone who has used that as the rationale for their existence for 40 years and all of a sudden you snatch it away, it can very quickly become a major disability. That people just can't respond, that we're just so conditioned to define our worth through the kind of work we do, that when it is taken away it becomes a pretty serious and pretty traumatic experience. I know later on we'll be dealing in the area of continuing care, but I would think that in this question of Vocational Rehabilitation, again whether we are paying much attention to older people and their ability and capacity of work, both those who are below the 65 age but nearing it, and even those who are over that, and we talk an awful lot about training for new careers, talking about disadvantaged young people, or trying to get them out of something. I would suggest that we should be talking about the kind of training and opportunity that's being given for second careers for older people, so that - they may have been an insurance agent for 40 years, but all of a sudden they decide that they want to become a high school teacher or whatever and would probably have many useful skills and insights to bring to those kinds of occupations, that there is virtually no way in our present training programs, present Manpower programs, present vocational program, that someone of that age can be introduced into it. We always kind of figure they've already had it or are over the hill, or should go off and garden or do some other sort of pursuit like that. But there are many who don't want to do that. I'm wondering at what point do we begin providing some assistance for older people who still want to maintain an active working life beyond that magic age of 65.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want my remarks to be interpreted to mean that we have no concern. I'm just saying that this is not under this item. Now my honourable friend is talking about people that are approaching 65 or that are over 65. I sympathize with those people, that's always been a concern of mine, because whenever they are talking about people retiring at 60, I shudder, because I think that work is not just something that you're doing to acquire money, but this is a right that you have. I think that a lot of people, even though they could afford to retire would still want to continue working, and I think that

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(MR. DESJARDINS cont'd) many people past 65 are still pretty good, but I must say that for the people of that age there is no program and I don't envision any program at this time, not an organized program funded by the department. I think our priorities will be to those that are a little younger, like the unemployed employables that should be working now. As I say, there is some discussion with Ottawa on this subject. I think that Mr. Andras is responsible for Manpower and the Minister of Labour, who is the chairman of the Manpower Committee of the Cabinet is looking into this, and I think that some of the change that might happen in this whole social development with Ottawa that I hope will correct some of this, but I doubt if there is anything under this particular item for these people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, on that subject, there was a study entitled Aging in Manitoba that was begun in 1971. Was that study completed, did it have certain recommendations to make with respect to the problem in Manitoba, and how much did it cost?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: I'll have to take that as notice. It's not under this item but we will take it as notice though.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 5(a) - passed; (b) - passed; (c) - passed; 5(d) - The Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A. R. (PETE) ADAM (Ste. Rose): Thankyou, Mr. Chairman. We have one Work Activity Program in our constituency at Amaranth. This was mentioned by the Minister and I would like to make a few comments on it, because one gets a surprise when you go down the estimates and you see increases in nearly every category. And suddenly you come to one and you find a considerable cutback, and then one starts to wonder and asks questions as to the reason why, and the Minister gave a partial answer that the estimates reflects the cost of delivering the program as it is now. I would like to comment that, generally speaking, the program has been very successful in my area and there seems to be a demand for an increase and in expanding the program somewhat. And I'm a bit disappointed to see that it has been cut back, or at least only holding the line, and if you take into consideration the inflationary costs, now we wonder whether there isn't a further cutback.

The project at Amaranth has been successful, as I mentioned a while ago, and to date there has been 118 trainees involved in that particular project who were unemployed employables and probably on social assistance to a large degree. Of the trainees that have gone through, there is approximately 40 percent that are now gainfully employed and making a contribution to our society. One of the trainees has gone on to university because of the training that he received through the work activity project, and three are attending the Assiniboine Community College. There are presently 34 trainees as of the beginning of March, there are 34 trainees involved in the program. Since the inception of the project, the training allowance formula has been from \$60 to \$80 per week, and this goes back approximately three years and there has been no increase, Mr. Chairman, in the training allowances. While we look down the estimates of the Minister, we find that the salaries of the people who are delivering all the different departments; we see the salaries' increases; we see social allowance benefits increased; we see the doctors' salaries increases; we see members of the Legislative Assembly and the Federal members receiving increases; and I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister that there has been absolutely no increases for these trainees whatsoever to encourage them to participate into this program. It's a very worthwhile program in my opinion. It's my understanding that the board of the Work Activity Program approached the Minister in July of 1974 requesting an increase in training allowance of 13 percent, which is very modest in my opinion in comparison to the demands of the doctors and the nurses and the government employees. And we're going into 1975, and in another couple of months or a little more than a month we'll be in July, it'll be a year, and the board has not had a reply to their request. They had the funds available, it was not a question of asking for additional appropriations, they had sufficient funds on hand to provide this very very modest increase which is now a year past, and should be retroactive. I have been in correspondence with the Minister and he has my file. There has been a resolution passed by the board. The minimum wages have gone up a couple of times or more since the work activity got under way, and there has been an offer of \$25 a month to the civil servants, and I'm just wondering why we would not consider allowing the trainees the 13 percent that the board has recommended, retroactive to last July 1974.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: The training allowance for all these work projects are under review now, they're being studied by the department, and it might be there'll be an increase. I'm not making any commitment, especially that it will be retroactive as of July and so on, but the whole training allowance for these workshops are being reviewed now and there could be some changes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (5)(d) - passed; (5) - passed; (c)(1) - passed; (2) - The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, I attempted under a previous item to discuss in general terms the problem of preventive medicine, preventive health care. I notice that this item is now labelled Continuing Care Service, and in the previous estimates the word "preventive" medical administration was used. I wonder if this change in . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Health.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, if I may, is my honourable friend talking about preventive care? This would be the next item, it would be under (d); this is Home Care program. (c) is Home Care, and panelling of Personal Care Homes. The next item would be preventive care.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(3) - The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, you didn't mention that item before. I was wondering whether there was an inclination to call it a night as it is. I would move that committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise. Call in the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee of Supply has considered a certain resolution, recommends it to the House and begs leave to sit again.

IN SESSION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING (St. Vital): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move seconded by the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose, that the report of the committee be received.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Honourable Acting House Leader.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health, that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried, and the House adjourned until 2:30 Tuesday afternoon.