

# THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Tuesday, May 2, 1978

Time: 8:00 p.m.

## SUPPLY — PUBLIC WORKS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Gentlemen, we have a quorum present. Before the supper break the Member for St. Vital was recognized. I'm sure he did not complete his questioning and his thoughts. The Member for St. Vital.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a few questions on some problems with different departments that have been giving our members some trouble with these Estimates. And they were in two particular areas, one of which arose as a result of some remarks by the Minister of Finance, which were unsubstantiated, and we have been asking the same questions on every department to try to get some substantiation for these remarks.

This Minister, when he introduced the Estimates of the Department of Highways, was very frank with me, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering if he is going to be just as frank again. I'd like to ask him what was the total amount of the preliminary Estimates, when they were first presented to him.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, all I can say is that I was in fact humiliated by receiving considerably less than was initially asked for.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether the Minister is going to explain to me, again, that the consideration of the Estimates before they are presented to the House consists of a certain amount of cutting here and there. But I would like to ask him just for a couple of specific figures. If he can give me what the amount of the first preliminary Estimates were that were presented to him, I should be obliged.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe what the honourable member is asking for is not appropriate. I also believe that the members of the opposition can't have it both ways. I can't recall which specific member of the opposition made a point of chastising the now government for taking some of those preliminary first run, first flush, you know, Estimates of departmental spending and using them as in fact anticipated or actual spending that would have been carried on by the former administration should they have been in the position to make that final determination.

I can recall, and I think it was the Member for St. Johns, that said that it was highly unfair and highly improper to suggest that simply because the first go-around of departmental requests represented in any way the then government's planned spending program as being realistic and to having based on those figures any reductions that the now government in effect has taken place, as being totally unreliable and unrealistic.

I would have to say that that kind of information — the Honourable Member sitting beside me from Elmwood would appreciate this perhaps more than the Member for St. Vital — is that when the first run go-around on the business of establishing a set of Estimates for a department are to take place, you go out for the ballpark. I haven't got the figures that the honourable member is asking about and, secondly, I don't think they are relevant to the problem that is in front of the committee today.

I am asking this committee to consider the Estimates that are printed in this book.

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

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree with the Minister that the figures that I have asked for would be irrelevant under most ordinary circumstances.

The story that he has just related to the committee about remarks having to do with the first draft and how much they have been reduced were just the remarks that were referred to by his colleague, the Minister of Finance. It is only because of those remarks and because of the impression that was given that we on the opposition side are asking for something to substantiate them, something to back them up and to show that the Minister of Finance was simply not indulging in exaggeration or wild speculation, or was indebted to his imagination for these remarks. And that's the reason for it. Had they not been brought up by the Minister of Finance, we would not in fact be asking for them. But if the Minister feels a little sensitive about it, or a bit embarrassed to tell us what it was, perhaps he can tell us what the amount of the Estimates was that he recommended to Cabinet for their approval.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can go back to the experience that I have had during the years 1966-69 as a member of the Treasury Bench, and again I think the Honourable Member for Elmwood can inform the Honourable Member for St. Vital that Cabinet Ministers or his department seldom get all the money they ask for in the first flush, in the first go-around of Estimates.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure the Minister is right that he didn't get all that he asked for in the first place. I suppose that when we ask him for that figure that he recommended to

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Cabinet that we are really asking what sort of a job Cabinet did to his proposals and how sharp was the axe in chopping back some of those programs, whether the axe fell just as severely in this department as it did in some other department, or whether in fact that there was money added in this case, as there was at least one other department.

So let me just try the Minister, again, Mr. Chairman, one final time to see if I can flush him out and see if he will give me those figures. Can he tell me, and then I will move on to something else if he can tell me what those preliminary figures were and how much he recommended to Cabinet.

**MR. ENNS:** The Printed Estimates that are before this committee measure my success or failure with respect to getting my fair share of the pie for the Department of Public Works.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, that has sort of a final ring to it, so I will move on to another matter. And it's one that has given members on this side a particular difficulty in other departments, and that was trying to follow through this Reconciliation Statement and to see whether this amount of \$53.9 million was in fact the total amount that was spent and was the total capital spent from last year, etc., etc.

**MR. ENNS:** That was the total amount spent last year.

**MR. WALDING:** Can the Minister tell us whether the \$27.011 million of Schedule B capital was spent last year?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I want to be cautious in answering that question. It's a question that has been raised I believe legitimately by the members of the opposition. It has to do, again, in this particular department where carry-over amounts and revolving funds are concerned, I have been told that with the return of the Minister of Finance that an overall reconciliation of the very questions that have been bothering members opposite in their questioning of the Minister of Agriculture, of the Minister of Highways and now the Minister of Public Works — and indeed I haven't been a member of the other committees, but no doubt the same questioning has taken place there — but that that kind of an overview of expenditures and transfers of moneys from previous voted authority and of unlapsed capital authority, — and I think the Honourable Member for St. Vital will appreciate that it's not fair to ask the officials of the Department of Public Works to be able to come up with a finite answer on these questions — that that kind of information will be forthcoming very shortly to all members of the House, from the Department of Finance.

Further to that, I should say that you are asking finite questions as to what was the actual dollars spent by the Department of Public Works last year. Well, that isn't determined until we have it done to a point where we feel confident enough that we can put it into an annual report. That's why I ask the honourable member to defer those questions to what I consider to be, and what we have suggested to be, the appropriate source for those answers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I might suggest to members of the committee that I would be, as Chairman, of the opinion that capital expenditures of this department would be under Item 6., the last formal item within this set of Estimates, and if we were to have an exhaustive study of capital spent and capital being proposed to be spent, I think that's the item and the appropriate place that it should be discussed. And as I said privately to the Member for St. Vital and some of the others, I would like to think that we could stick item-to-item with this particular set of Estimates. The Member for St. Vital.

**MR. WALDING:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, you're probably right about that, but the questions do tend to go a little bit further than the actual capital spent itself. It involves, you know, carry-over into the last fiscal year and carry-over into this one as well. The Minister, I'm sure appreciates the problems that the opposition is having in waiting for the Minister of Finance to bring forward his Estimates that once we've got that information, then this department and many other departments will have gone and if we wish to come back to it to ask further more detailed questions then the opportunity has gone.

I'm a little surprised also that the Minister claims ignorance on these sorts of facts which I would have thought that he would have been interested in as the Minister responsible for the department. He says that maybe his officials cannot be expected to know this but surely they are now in a position, now that the Minister of Finance is back, to clarify just exactly what that position is and be able to ask those questions. And indeed the Minister himself would be able to ask his colleague those questions if for no other reason that the Minister himself should appear knowledgeable before the Committee and not have to claim ignorance on the topic and put it off onto the shoulders of his colleagues.

Let me make a suggestion to the Minister then, Mr. Chairman, since you have suggested that we deal with the matter towards the end. Would the Minister consider consulting with his colleague, the Minister of Finance, since these questions have come up in the past and have taken up a great deal of time of the Committee and the Minister as well, so that he will become knowledgeable by the time we reach that part of his Estimates and will be able to give those facts to the Committee with a good deal of authority and background. Could we get that commitment from the Minister?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, as the speaker is prone to say, I will take that question under advisement.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Elmwood is next, Transcona and then Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, a couple of questions I'd like the Minister to answer. Maybe he could do them one at a time. He was talking about Fire Commissioner reports and the actions of the government in this new program, or beefed up program that he's overseeing and I asked him specifically about a report on the old central provincial garage. Could he indicate whether he has seen that report, what was contained in that report and whether he would release that report to us?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, I might mention to the members of the Committee that earlier the Minister was asked a similar question from the Honourable Member for Elmwood and the Minister asked if that could be asked under 3.(b) and I'm quite sure that the Minister is going to give him a similar answer again this time. He is hoping, as I am, that we will go item by item. I know that the member for Elmwood and St. Vital, the two who have participated in debate so far, are perhaps trying to respond to the Minister's opening statement and there is a fair amount of leeway in trying to respond to a Minister's opening statement, but I could just ask members if they would do their very best to stick to the items as closely as possible.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister whether he would nevertheless respond to that. Does he have this report and would he release it to us?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'll respond when the appropriate item is under consideration. **MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, another point or two. Following my colleague the Minister indicated very interestingly that he had added to the Budget of the Department of Public Works, that when he received the Budget from staff he added to it. We obviously don't know what he added to, but could he indicate whether he made additions to both Capital and Current or did he just, for example, make additions to one of those two.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, requests for the spending within the Department of Public Works combine the two matters together whether they are classified by Finance as being of Capital nature or not do not hold up in these set of Estimates. These are combined Capital Current requests, the total being for some \$53,901,100 in this calendar year.

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

**MR. DOERN:** Okay, then I would ask the Minister these questions which I gave notice of earlier, that I would like his staff to provide him with, in each line. First of all, does he have the actual expenditures under (b)(1) for last year? Voted was 692; does he have the actual expenditure?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, the former Minister of Public Works is aware that up until the books are finally closed off, that figure cannot be given.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, they have been closed off.

**MR. ENNS:** But my staff, and his former staff, is not in a position to give the Minister that answer.

**MR. DOERN:** Can the Minister indicate under (b)(1) Salaries, there's a reduction of some \$69,000.00. Can he indicate what changes there were in staff, for example?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, in this particular appropriation, there was deleted from the appropriation that was voted in the previous year, some \$9,500 from the Minister's offices of Executive Assistant I. Provision for the general salary decrease is that there has been no provision made for the Deputy Minister's office and the Systems Contract renewals in this particular vote.

**MR. DOERN:** And how many positions is that altogether?

**MR. ENNS:** This provides for position of 49 SMY's under (b)(1), as compared to the — well, the only principal decrease there is the Minister's salary and the Deputy Minister's salary and the associated office staff.

**MR. DOERN:** So how many SMY's this year and how many last year? Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that it was a deletion of the Minister's salary. I guess he meant the Deputy Minister's salary.

**MR. ENNS:** Both.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, the Minister's salary comes under (a).

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** But I think his answer to the Member for Elmwood was the deletion of the Deputy Minister and related staff that goes with such an office.

**MR. DOERN:** I intend to ask this question as we go along in the various, you know, under (b), (c),

(d), etc. etc. etc., so if the staff can provide this as to how many SMY's this year, how many last year.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, what in effect has happened and that correlates to the remarks that I made during my opening statement that in many instances the Department has maintained the SMY positions. This is going to be the difficulty that I and the Honourable Member for Elmwood are going to get into in this approach or in his approach to these Estimates. There has been no change in the SMY ' positions allocated to this appropriation, but there has been a deletion equivalent to five persons in terms of salary, or provision for salary for these positions. So, this \$68,400 reduction reflects that fact, that while the SMY positions remain open or in place, no provision in these Estimates are being made for five positions.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, I am not sure that I'm following the Minister there. There were 49 SMY's now and there were 55 last year?

**MR. ENNS:** There were 49 last year and there are 49 this year. . . . But there are no salaries attached to five positions.

**MR. DOERN:** But there is \$70,000 less in the appropriation.

**MR. ENNS:** That's right. That represents no salary provision for five SMY positions.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, if you don't have the money you don't have the positions.

**MR. ENNS:** No, Mr. Chairman, that's not quite right. Having argued successfully or having justified the rational for an SMY position, the department feels that's an appropriate position to take during a period of where some, in this case, very obvious non-requirement of the fulfilling of those positions is there. (a) I have a Deputy Minister. I am not maintaining two offices. I am not maintaining or receiving two cheques or two salaries either, and that in effect the functions that were carried out by the five SMY positions for which salaries has not been provided for under this vote, is not being contemplated to be necessary or required during this fiscal year for which these Estimates are there. In other words, the restraint program starts at the top, right with the Minister's and the Deputy Minister's office, it doesn't just start at the bottom up.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, then I have to point out to the Minister that he apparently doesn't read very well, because in the next line the expenditures are up and those are the non-salaried expenditures.

**MR. ENNS:** I suppose I could indicate to the honourable members that that is the natural reflection of the higher cost of doing most things whether it involves a phone bill, whether it involves postage, whether it involves the purchase of office stationery, or indeed whether it involves the storage of paintings.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, in other words, the Minister is saying that he is retaining the positions, but there are five vacancies. this year compared to last. I will pass to one of my colleagues.

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

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to comment on the Minister's explanation as to why he couldn't provide to us the estimates which he received from his department, before going on to Management Committee and Cabinet for their decision on this. He indicated that he had been a Minister from 1966 to 1969 and he has tried to indicate to us that this is a normal procedure not to disclose this, that this is a normal procedure in any estimates process for departments to come forward and ask for in a sense the ideal program and it's up to the Minister and it's up to the Management Committee and it's up to Cabinet to try and tailor to the cloth to fit the revenue in a sense. And I can agree with him and I think he sounded markedly like the former Minister of Finance, the Member for Seven Oaks, when the Member for Seven Oaks made those comments in relation to the rather misleading statements that were made by his Minister of Finance, the Member for Riel. And I could excuse the Member for Riel, if the Member for Riel had been a newcomer to the House, but he had been a member himself, he had been a member of the Treasury Branch from 1966 to 1969 and that means that his statements in introducing these estimates — or perhaps from 1967 to 1969.49 - 01 His statements were quite calculated when he introduced these estimates and they had an effect of giving people the impression that there were something like a \$400 or \$500 million overrun in this fiscal year that we're in right now which was a legacy of the New Democratic Party administration.

And the First Minister who also had had some experience in the House prior to 1969, didn't correct the Finance Minister. Now I can perhaps appreciate that the First Minister has a bad memory and perhaps didn't remember that the proper procedure is one that was followed, probably on the advice of staff, by his — (Interjection) — I think this is Public Works. If the member wants to ask some questions I'll yield to him because undoubtedly he'll have some very important questions to ask. . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Transcona has the floor.

**MR. PASIUK:** Fine, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't heard the Minister of Highways correct his Minister of Finance. He's told us that we shouldn't be asking questions about what the departmental proposals were and we shouldn't even be implying anything with respect to departmental proposals. So if he's going to tell us that, I would hope that he would also tell his Minister of Finance that because it was the Minister of Finance who originally raised this issue and I must say that it's probably the most deceptive comment that had been made in the House since this new Legislature started. And I say that it wasn't unintentional and it was calculated and it was made by the Minister of Finance and if the Minister of Highways at any time wants to correct the Minister of Finance as he has tried to correct us, we would certainly welcome that because I think that the Minister of Finance certainly needs some correction when he puts forward statements that he can't prove and that when we try to prove or disprove them, the veracity of those statements his fellow colleague Minister's refuse to provide the information because of course they know that they couldn't prove the Minister of Finance's statements.

Turning to capital, and these are the Capital questions that were raised by my colleague, and I think in a general sense they are valid at this stage. My colleague, the Member for St. Vital, said, "Look, you know, rather than have us try and ferret out these possible Capital carryovers or other items regarding Capital, may in fact be misleading, they may in fact be honest mistakes or areas of honest disagreement," and I think the First Minister used those precise words, honest areas of disagreement, "rather than have us try and ferret out those right now, we are giving the Minister an opportunity of coming clean and telling us what they are."

I think that the Member for Seven Oaks, when this was being discussed in the Agriculture Department's Estimates, had asked the First Minister, who had all of the Finance staff here at that time — in fact I thought we weren't discussing the Department of Agriculture's Estimates, I thought we were discussing the Minister of Finance's Estimates for a while — because we had all the Finance staff here, and the Member for Seven Oaks asked the First Minister to again come clean, lay it all out on the table, and then we can get on with some other business regarding Estimates, because we really wouldn't like to let anything slip by. I think that's a very real concern on the part of the opposition in the Legislature when reviewing Estimates. So my colleague, the Member for St. Vital, has asked you specifically if you have anything to comment on this and you say you don't, you are hoping that the Minister of Finance may in fact produce something. You haven't given any commitment as to when he'll do it. I'd like to ask some specific questions in this respect. Since the Minister of Finance has been back in Manitoba for a few days now, has Cabinet met to consider this item of confusion over capital items in the Estimates? Has Cabinet had an opportunity in the last four or five days to meet and discuss this item with staff?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to answer questions that are germane to the Estimates before us. I am not prepared to engage in a discussion that has been repeated *ad nauseam* with every Committee or Minister before this Committee and I would ask once again, Mr. Chairman, that we address ourselves to the Estimates that are before us.

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

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, in this respect, I think the Minister of Highways has admitted to us that he is not in a position to really discuss his Estimates fully because he doesn't know some aspects of them and that he requires somebody else to fill the bill, perhaps. . .

**MR. ENNS:** That's not all the point.

**MR. PASIUK:** I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I have the floor, I have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please, order please.

**MR. PASIUK:** Would you correct the Minister of Highways who doesn't seem to know the protocol.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I might tell the Member for Transcona, I'm not sure whether he was present or not, but I personally as Chairman feel that financial matters as to Capital should be brought up under Item 6 on the next page, Page 72, Acquisition, Construction of Physical Assets in the Estimates, that's where I think those discussions should take place, or on the Ministers' Salary. We have agreed, Members of this Committee that were present earlier, that we will go back to 1.(a) even though there isn't a dollar figure in there, but we will go back to 1.(a) and treat it as if there was a Ministers' Salary and conclude on that item. That's an arrangement we worked with the Member for Elmwood and what we are on is really 1.(b)(1) Salaries of Administration, and when we get through that item, we'll go to the other expenditures. Will the Member for Transcona try and stick to the items? The Member for Lac du Bonnet.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order. If you read the heading General Administration as it's described, it deals with policy and program development and if you are dealing with policy I believe that's inseparable from the points that you would be dealing with in the Minister's Salary in any event. You're dealing with general policy of the department, so it really opens it up pretty wide if you're talking policy.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would agree that the word General Administration is a very broad term but we are on a specific item that falls under that major heading, that is Administration 1. We have agreed that we will go back to 1.(a) which is the Minister's Compensation, and I think that is the area that we can get into a discussion on any matter pertaining to the Minister or of his department.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, in this respect, it also says the General Administration deals with central accounting, budgetary and financial services and we are discussing budgetary aspects of this particular set of Estimates.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I feel, as Chairman of this Committee, that the policy is related to 1.(a) and the Program Development is (b), (c) and (d) and the numbers that are associated with those three letters. I would ask the members if they would try to follow that manner of conducting the business.

**MR. PARASIUK:** In 1.(b) then, is this the administration that briefs the Minister on the financial aspects of these Estimates?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, that could be taken for granted.

**MR. PARASIUK:** That's true. Then does the Minister feel that he has sufficient staff within his department at present here to adequately present the Estimates to this Committee? Does he feel he has been adequately briefed by the staff in this Administration column to present the Estimates to this Committee?

**MR. ENNS:** I have no problem with presenting the Estimates as they are printed and laid down before you for consideration by this Committee.

**MR. PARASIUK:** But you have indicated that there are certain sections of the Estimates that you cannot really present to us unless you have Finance officials here, unless you have the Minister of Finance here explaining them.

**MR. ENNS:** No, they are not before us.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Right, but you are also saying that we really can't get into certain aspects of the Estimates unless we have those other people here, and yet you have the power to call the Minister of Finance here to assist you; you have the power to call staff from the Department of Finance to assist you and that is certainly part of the legislative process. You have that power; you have the power to call a colleague. I don't know whether in fact the Minister of Agriculture called on the First Minister to come and assist him in presenting the Estimates when we were discussing the Agriculture Department's Estimates. I don't know whether in fact it was the Minister of Agriculture who called in the Finance Department officials. —(Interjections)— Who was the one who called him in? I don't know whether it was Finance officials.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I can answer to the Member for Transcona. In the Department of Agriculture where we should have been discussing Capital was in Item 11, Acquisition/Construction of Physical Assets — that is the item that the members who were present at that time that those Estimates were being debated constantly referred to. I, as Chairman at the time, was in error; I should have stopped the conversation and waited until we got to that point, but I didn't. What I am trying to do now is to, under these Estimates, go point by point and discuss the Capital when we get over to the next page to Item 6. If the Minister of Public Works at that time chooses to bring the Minister of Finance along, or the First Minister, that is his business. That's where I think we should get into that item.

**MR. PARASIUK:** I think, Mr. Chairman, it is fair to ask him at this stage whether in fact he would undertake to have the Minister of Finance here and to have the Finance officials here if in fact he feels that his staff do not have sufficient information to brief him and ask answer questions that we ask him regarding Capital items, when that item comes up.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, as Minister responsible for Public Works, I am asking this committee to give me authority to spend \$53,901,100.00. If honourable members in this committee want to find out where and how I get that money, then I don't think it is unreasonable to ask those questions to the Department of Finance, which is the department and is the authority that raises the money, whether in loan capital, capital authority — you name it — and I simply refuse to indulge in what has been obviously a pastime by Members of the Opposition. But let me make it very clear what the purpose of

this committee is for: I am asking authority to spend for necessary Public Works functions, \$53 million and some dollars. I am prepared and staff is prepared to explain to the committee to the best of our ability how we intend to spend those \$53 million. That is what the process is all about that is in front of us and I refuse to be drawn into the red herring that honourable members opposite are trying to bring into the discussions at the Committee stage at this time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Just before the Member for Transcona carries on, the Member for Lac du Bonnet on a point of privilege.

**MR. USKIW:** Mr. Chairman, I am sure the Minister of Public Works doesn't want to hide the fact that there may be spending authority already voted in previous years that he may intend to spend this year. If that is the case, then I think it is to his advantage as well as our advantage to say so initially so that we don't have to go through this fact-finding mission each step through the consideration of the Estimates. If there are sums of money voted in previous years, unused, that will be spent in addition to the printed Estimates, that is all that we want to know.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can then again only appeal to you, Sir, as Chairman of the Committee, that the appropriate time to discuss that particular aspect is on Item 6 of the Estimates.

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

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, I wasn't even raising it now. All I asked the Minister, who then went off on a red herring himself, was if at that time he would undertake now to provide the Minister of Finance at that time, have him present, have the staff of the Department of Finance present at that time with the information. But he has indicated to us that he really isn't in a position to answer our questions on Capital items and I was pointing out to him that he has access to the Minister of Finance; he has better access than we as a committee have right now. He has better access to the staff of the Department of Finance than we as a committee have right now. He can see them tonight after the meeting; he can see them tomorrow morning; he can see them tomorrow afternoon. I can't see them. I can only see them if the Minister brings them forward here and has them do some analysis.

So all I was asking the Minister is if he would undertake to be in a position to answer the questions when we come to them because he has served notice to us tonight that he is not in a position to answer those questions. That is all that we are asking.

I think it is pertinent, Mr. Chairman, because it may turn out that it is not \$53,901,100 that is being spent; it could be \$60 million. We have given the Minister an opportunity to tell us whether in fact \$53,901,100 is all that will be spent. Right now he has said that is all that will be spent and it may turn out during the course of the Estimates that there will be more that is spent. I would like to make sure that the Minister doesn't put himself in the embarrassing position of misleading us.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** To the Member for Transcona, I have asked on a number of occasions that we discuss the Capital under Item 6 and the Minister has said that he would be quite prepared to discuss Capital financing under Item 6. The Member for Transcona.

**MR. PARASIUK:** All I was asking was an undertaking and the Minister hasn't provided it. I think it is fair at this time to ask for that undertaking when we are discussing Administration because the administration are the people under 1.(b) who advise the Minister on budgetary aspects of the department. So since he has told us that that staff — and I think the staff is qualified — isn't in a position to talk to us about the financial aspects, of the way in which the Minister, the Department of Finance staff and the First Minister ultimately put the books together for presentation to the Legislature. I think it is fair to ask the question whether in fact we will have the correct information from those three entities or whether he will have the Minister of Finance and the Department of Finance people here when we come to that item.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can't recall whether the honourable member was present when I made the opening remarks on this very subject, and that is simply that I believe that information will be in the hands of all Honourable Members of the Assembly when the Minister of Finance deals with this very question.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, the difficulty there is that that could be two weeks from now, it could be three weeks from now, and we will be past all these items in the Department of Public Works and that is something that I think is fair for us, in going over the Estimates, to ask whether in fact that will happen by tomorrow so that maybe we wouldn't try — conceivably we could try to stall the Estimates in order to be certain that we will get the information in sufficient time to have it at our disposal when we discuss Item No. 6.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** To the Member for Transcona, I don't believe you were present when we opened

this committee tonight. I do believe the Minister of Public Works at that time said that within the next day or two the Minister of Finance would be making a statement to the Legislature in regard to all capital financing and carryover. So we are of the opinion that we will not be down to Item 6 prior to him making such a statement.

**MR. PARASIUK:** I'll move on to the whole question of whether in fact the administration and the Minister, because it is the senior administration which advises the Minister, whether the Minister and the senior administration have had a chance to review the recommendations of the Task Force pertaining to Public Works?

**MR. ENNS:** The answer, Mr. Chairman, is no.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Have you had an opportunity to read it yet?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I can't speak for all members of senior staff within the Department of Public Works, but I imagine the subject matter may have been of some interest to them, as indeed they were to me, and might well have read them.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Okay. Since you haven't in fact dealt with them, could you indicate whether in fact by coincidence your Estimates reflect an acceptance of any of these recommendations in your Estimates. Can you tell us at this particular stage, or do we then start trying to read through all the recommendations and say well, tell me when I should ask the question as to what is the appropriate sub item to have this one raised under.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm prompted to try to remember the line that always used to intrigue me, when I, as a youngster, went to a movie, and there was always that line at the opening credits, or at the end of the credits, that says, "Any representation of characters or events that bear no relationship are purely coincidental", of some such sort. If the honourable member is suggesting that there is some relationship between the Estimates as presented before you and those specific recommendations of the Task Force, I would have to say at this point they are purely coincidental.

**MR. PARASIUK:** They are completely coincidental then? That means if there is some similarity between the recommendations of this Task Force regarding the size of the car fleet, and your particular position in Estimates regarding the size of the car fleet, that is completely coincidental. — (Interjection)— Fair enough. I'm obviously going to accept the statement of the Minister from time to time and if he says it is in that manner then I will just place it on record that he certainly hasn't placed any credence in this Task Force as yet even though it's been out for about a month. Therefore he is not in the position to say whether in fact he has accepted or rejected any of these yet, or whether in fact any of them are being held pending some further analysis. So to all intents and purposes then he is saying that this report of the Government Task Force on Organization and Economy really wasn't taken into account by his department in formulating the Estimates, even though the Minister responsible for this Task Force has indicated that they were doing such valuable work that they in fact brought forward a number of the recommendations to Cabinet, for Cabinet consideration, during the Estimates process and that some of them were in fact accepted by Cabinet in the Estimates process and are reflected in the Estimates. Those are statements that the Minister responsible for the Task Force said. Those are statements that the First Minister said as well. But the Minister of Public Works is saying that as far as the Department of Public Works was concerned, none of the work of the Task Force had any bearing on the Estimates that he is presenting to us today. And I accept that.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the difficulty that the Honourable Member for Transcona represents is that, and I don't say this by means of criticism to the honourable member, because I recognize that when running two committees that it's not possible for all members to be present at all times. We have different interests and from time to time, individual members will make it a point of being at the other committee, but I would ask him to read the Hansard of my remarks prior to the supper hour adjournment on this particular matter. Well, accepting the fact that we in the Department of Public Works have had the opportunity or the time to take some of the recommendations or all the recommendations of the Task Force into consideration of these Estimates, that was not possible, because these Estimates were prepared prior to the compilation of the Task Force report.

Secondly, I did acknowledge to the committee this afternoon that some of the recommendations of the Task Force which indeed suggest the possible expansion of the role of the Department of Public Works to indeed becoming the service department of government, including some services not now within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works, may well be considered as serious recommendations to be considered by the government when we address ourselves to those matters.

I am making these comments and repeating myself simply because while I don't hold the member responsible for not having heard those remarks this afternoon, I can't leave on the record the implications that the work and the efforts of my colleague, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Task Force are being treated in the cavalier manner that the honourable member has just indicated. What I am suggesting to him that (a) in the compilation of these Estimates that were prepared and finalized prior to the final compilation of the Task Force there was not any major



or significant impact on these Estimates. Some of the things that have occurred that seem to coincide with some of the recommendations of the Task Force, some reduction for instance in the car fleet, happen to coincide — I need hardly remind the honourable member — with the contraction of staff.

Some of the other situations that may have arisen have come very naturally as a result of the attitude of this Minister with respect to how he hopes the direction of this department will go, whether it is a matter of contracting out certain services that are being done with the department, or whether it's a matter of consolidating and managing our space requirements in a more professional manner. I also indicated to the honourable members of the committee this afternoon that while the department has made significant strides in developing a Central Purchasing Bureau, we are not satisfied that we have completed that work that in fact was undertaken by the previous administration in making government purchasing as efficient and as rewarding in terms of taxpayers getting value for dollar spent as can be done. There are still too many instances where either under a rather loosely-termed heading of emergency purchasing individual departments are still doing too much individual purchasing and not using the expertise and the capability that the Department of Public Works is developing in a Central Purchasing Bureau.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I apologize to other members of the committee because I essentially am simply repeating myself for the benefit of the Member for Transcona who wasn't here this afternoon.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, I think in part the Minister is contradicting some of the prior statements that he had made. When I asked him the question about The Task Force I asked it in all seriousness, and I've asked it of every Minister because I think that the Task Force recommendations do hang like a cloud over the Estimates process and that we are approving something that may, in fact, be changed two or three or four months from now by Cabinet through Order-in-Council. So I asked a very serious question about the Task Force, whether he had read it, whether his administration in this appropriation had read it, and he said, "They may have read it, I've read it" — and he was treating it in a very casual manner. Now he's saying that it is a very important document and they, of course, will treat it seriously in the future although they haven't had a chance to treat it seriously to date because the Task Force was compiled after the Estimates process was completed.

Now that contradicts somewhat the statements of the Minister responsible for the Task Force and the First Minister when they were heralding the progress of the various review teams under the Task Force because it was in recent months that the Task Force edited the reports of the review teams, but prior to that we had been told by the Minister responsible for the Task Force and by the First Minister that this group was doing valuable work and, in fact, they were receiving recommendations on an ongoing basis from members of the Task Force and taking them directly to Cabinet so that they would have an impact on the Estimates process apparently. You didn't, I think, say that this afternoon but you were implying it now, that the Task Force Report recommendations, or the recommendations of the review team that covered the Department of Public Works, really weren't a factor in the Estimates process for your particular department. I was wondering when we were talking about administration whether you could provide an organizational chart for the department for last year and if you could provide one for this year because there have been some changes taking place, you say, as a result of contraction, and if you could also provide a detailed list of staff man years, including permanent positions, contract positions, casual positions, which ones were filled last year, which ones were vacant last year, which ones are filled this year, and which ones are vacant.

**MR. ENNS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I had indicated to the Committee that I was prepared to make this information available to the Committee and I now would like to do so.

As of October 31, 1977 we had a total of 1193.43 approved loan staff man years of which there were 100.38 vacant. As of March 31, 1978 we have an approved staff man years, and that's what we're requesting for in these Estimates, the same as last year, 1193.43 with a vacancy rate of 126.15. So that you have an increase in the vacancy rate of some 26 staff man years. Now I can provide some further information . . .

**MR. DOERN:** Could you repeat those figures. What's the vacancy for last year?

**MR. ENNS:** The vacancy for last year was 100.38.

**MR. DOERN:** Was that at March 31?

**MR. ENNS:** Pardon me, that was October 31, 1977. The vacancy position out of approved staff man years of 1193.43, a vacancy of 138 as compared to March 31, 1978, the same staff man years approval of 1193.43 and a vacancy rate of 126.15 — Pardon me, going back to October 31, 1977, that was a vacancy of 100.38, not 138 as I believe I said.

Now, we have in addition to that contract employee situation as of October 13, 1977, some 15 persons on contract. Since that time some three have resigned, four have been terminated, four contracts extended, three transferred from contract to term, one an extension being considered at the current time by Management Committee of the Cabinet. If honourable members want to review those figures again for contract employees I'll go through them once again.

This is as of October 13, 1977, the Department of Public Works had some 15 contract employees, three who in the interim have resigned, four whose contracts were not renewed — were terminated, four whose contracts were extended, three who were transferred from contract to term — still on

staff, and one position that is currently being considered.

**MR. PARASIUK:** I thank the Minister for that information. I'd like a bit of clarification with respect to the first set of numbers he gave us, the 1193.43 staff man years. Would that be permanent, term, and what is described by the administration manual as casual staff as well, because I would think that Public Works might have some casual staff as well.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can break that down further. That figure of 1193 consists of 1102 permanent and 91.43 term. There is no accounting or provision for another category that the department uses from time to time, namely casual, but they are truly casual and do not enter into these figures at all.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Yes, I was wondering if there was any seasonality to the hiring of term people because in a sense we're comparing one period of time of October 31, 1977 to March 31, 1978. One's the fall period and one's the spring period. We're just starting into the spring period and I was wondering if there was any change in seasonality because there has been a slight increase in the number of vacant staff positions in the department, and I just wondered if that was due to any specific action on the part of the new Minister or whether that was, in fact, due to seasonal changes.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, there is some seasonal factors that enter into it but I would have to indicate to the honourable member and to members of the Committee that there is a determined effort being made by the department to reduce the number of term people. In other words we have had far too many people in the term classification that in effect are permanent — term people that have been with the department for a number of years and in the last little while there has been a determined effort by this ministry to re-classify those positions into the permanent category. Employees that have been with the department for a number of years and still classified under term we feel tends to, you know, add to the amount of paper work that's involved in the renewal of the term positions every year or whatever the term is allocated for and if the justification is there for permanent status to be granted to these kinds of employees, I know that in the last little while there has been, and it will be a continuing attempt by the department to truly sort out and make more meaningful the differential between those terms — whether a person is of permanent status, has permanent status within the Civil Service, or whether the job and the kind of job that a person is filling is of a term nature. 4

**MR. PARASIUK:** I think that's a good thing to do. I think it probably lends itself to the Department of Public Works in a better manner than it might to, say, the Department of Renewable Resources where you might undertake a three year program and then want to ensure that you don't build in some expectations of a continued job even though the program is of a three year duration, say, a wildlife survey or something like that.

I also would think it's a good thing in that for some strange reason over the last few months civil servants have been somewhat concerned about their security of tenure and I would think that anything that the Minister of Public Works could do to alleviate their uncertainty and their feeling of insecurity is a welcome thing and I commend him for it. I wonder if there's been any contracting out of work that was being undertaken by the 1193.43 staff man years as of October 31, 1977. Has there been any contracting out of work that they might have been doing?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that there has been any significant change that I can report to the Committee. I can indicate to the Committee that the department, as has been the practice in the past, in certain areas — I can think of the areas of security services, the areas of janitorial, caretaking services, where possible, and where the right circumstances prevail — in other words, and this has a tendency to take place in the larger urban centres where there are, in fact, private firms in a position, and indeed seeking this kind of work, and where active tendering of this kind of work can take place. I want to make it very plain that I have asked the department to look at our practice and indeed tender out and contract out this type of work. The department reminds me, and I'm cognizant of the fact that that isn't always possible. It certainly isn't possible in many of our rural areas or remote areas where there simply isn't that service being provided by the private sector, but there has been no significant change. Since the interim, since October 24th, if the honourable member wants to be specific, there have been three additional buildings that have been contracted out for cleaning, but in no instances did it involve any laying off of current staff with the Department of Public Works.

**MR. PARASIUK:** That means that there were three new buildings in a sense brought under the aegis of the Department of Public Works and in these three buildings the services were contracted out by formal tender?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, unlike some of the actions of some of the Crown Corporations, I want to assure the Honourable Member for Transcona, by public tender.

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**MR. PARASIUKE:** Okay. And they weren't being handled before by staff from the Department of Public Works. I just want to make sure I'm clear on that understanding.

**MR. ENNS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I should have corrected the honourable member for Transcona. He put the word "new" into the description of the buildings. These were buildings that had previously been handled by the Department of Public Works.

**MR. PARASIUKE:** So that means then in a sense those three buildings had some staff, a certain number of staff who were doing the cleaning. How many staff were there?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that that involved some six persons who have been redeployed within the department and who do different buildings that are under the responsibility of the jurisdiction of the department. The buildings in question are 210 Osborne, 270 Osborne, and 442 William.

**MR. PARASIUKE:** Well, there are two ways of looking at that. One could say well, we've redeployed the staff. Obviously there was a need for those six staff elsewhere if you've been able to redeploy them within the department, but then you could also make the observation that you could have hired an additional six staff.

**MR. ENNS:** Of course, Mr. Chairman, the observation could also be made that that's precisely what we did.

**MR. PARASIUKE:** But you've hired them — now the point about that is . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Except they're not government staff.

**MR. PARASIUKE:** Yes, in that sense we've had a similar situation in the Auditor's office and that was mentioned in the Public Accounts Committee where the Auditor indicated that they wouldn't be hiring, they wouldn't be filling some of the audit staff positions but rather they would be going out to private accounting firms to perform the audit. The Auditor, at that time, and the Minister of Finance indicated that the overhead charges for the private accounting firms was something in the order of 150 percent of salary. The Auditor, when he used his staff, used to charge the department or Crown agency that was audited an overhead charge that was 25 percent of the salary so it may turn out that you may save on staff man years but you may, in fact, end up spending more for the janitorial services or you may still pay the higher overhead charges through the private firm, but since the private firm possibly isn't using unionized staff, the wage rates being paid to these people who are performing the janitorial services is less than that that would have been paid by the Department of Public Works and so you get a break even situation with the firm, as such, collecting the extra savings in wages in the form of overhead and profit.

I don't know if the Minister is in a position to comment on the relative savings or losses of going out, through contracting out, or whether in fact he has anything to say about the relative overhead charges.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to say in this particular matter that I am aware of and appreciate the member's concern but I want to assure the honourable member that the kind of staff that I have confidence in, and the kind of advice that I receive from my staff does not lead me to believe that it will be kind of a doctrinaire position that is going to be adopted by this Minister during the period of time that I have jurisdiction and responsibility for this department. I have a concern that I share with my First Minister, that is in getting maximum value for the public dollar that is spent for government services, and my staff will be the first, and indeed have advised me from time to time where there is in fact only false economy or no savings available and can be achieved by going to the private sector rather than retaining DPW staff.

The Department of Public Works is possibly in a very unique situation in this sense that we have constantly, throughout the eight years it was under the administration of the Member for Elmwood and prior to that, been in that position of constantly having a good apportionment of its work being done by the private sector and by in-house staff. That could be said whether it involves architectural people, whether it involves design people, whether it involves security, whether it involves caretaking, whether it involves carpenters, plumbers and electricians. There is a constant kind of a testing mechanism, if you like, within the department that immediately raises a flag that says, "Hold it, Mr. Minister, you are losing money by contracting this out," because of some of the reasons the honourable member may say, overhead charges or what have you.

But in this particular instance, we are dealing with a fairly straightforward low overhead or no overhead situation and again only where the necessary services are being sought, where the provision of these services are being sought by the private sector and where the department is satisfied that the standard and quality of work can be done and it is in that instance where perhaps I would say that my honourable friends have a hang-up about employing the private sector and would tend to not do that. I think that during the next three or four years or whatever period of time that I have within this department, you will see the Department of Public Works have a major complement

of public in-house staff doing a wide variation of work. At the same time there will be an encouragement, where possible and where it makes sound economic sense, to utilize the private sector.

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

**MR. PARASIUK:** The Minister is obviously saying that he will try to have a judicious mixture. The reason why I was raising this is that this was a contentious issue at the City of Winnipeg level where there was a consultant's report that recommended complete contracting out of public works operations. You have indicated in your prior statements that you will be considering that option and I think it has been looked at and utilized in the past, but you will be considering that option in the future. You don't indicate whether in fact you see any great changes in the mix that exists right now and I won't pursue this much further apart from asking the Minister whether he could indicate, at the appropriate time or whether he would like to now, where in fact the potential for contracting out exists within the appropriations that we are coming up to. Rather than asking specific questions about that now, if he could tell me that it is going to be in 2.(b) or 2.(c) or wherever, I will wait until that time to ask specifics on it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Perhaps, to the Member for Transcona, under 2, major heading 2, Operations and Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds. I think that there would be a fair amount of scope in there for you to question on that particular line of thought.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Just one final question on contracting out, then. It can be somewhat misleading, and again I don't say that this is intentional or unintentional, it may be misleading when you tell the public that you are in fact reducing the number of civil servants and people are getting the impression that somehow this is a saving when in fact it isn't really a saving, all you are doing is transferring the employment of the public sector to the private sector but you are still using public funds to pay for it. So this is one of those instances where, at least with respect to six people, the public really possibly might be saving a few pennies or it may not be, but we are still in fact employing six people. On the surface, one might have thought that we weren't employing those six people.

The last question I have ties into this somewhat. The Minister indicated that there are five positions vacant in 1.(b). If I can get this correctly, you said 49 positions and now you have 44 positions? — (Interjection)— You have 49 positions and 45 filled?

**MR. ENNS:** Forty-nine still. No change in the positions.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Okay, 49 positions and 44 are filled?

**MR. ENNS:** Forty-four are filled.

**MR. PARASIUK:** That means that you have a vacancy rate of roughly 10 percent there. That is sort of the vacancy rate that the past administration had set as the target with respect to its restraint program of a couple of years ago, so I assume then that all you have done is just carried that restraint program forward into this particular appropriation Estimate. Is that correct, or have you made a further reduction?

**MR. ENNS:** No.

**MR. PARASIUK:** You see, there was a general policy of a 10 percent vacancy rate and what you have here is a 10 percent vacancy rate.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, in this particular appropriation, the five bodies consist of a Deputy Minister, in his office an administrative secretary to the Deputy Minister, an administrative secretary No. 3, a systems analyst, and staff associated with a Deputy Minister's office.

**MR. PARASIUK:** So those positions aren't being filled; you don't intend to fill them this year?

**MR. ENNS:** That is correct.

**MR. PARASIUK:** If you don't intend to fill them this year, wouldn't it be better accounting to just remove them from the books and then if you need them next year, bring them back in.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm not so sure. Depending on how the Acting Deputy Minister performs, I may want to appoint a Deputy Minister one of these days.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Conceivably, I guess, although you don't have a salary in there. The First Minister might want to act too, I guess.

**MR. ENNS:** Let me put it this way, I would have trouble doing it this year with these Estimates.

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

**MR. PAWLEY:** I'll pass by.

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

**MR. DOERN:** I have comments on other items so I'll pass.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Then 1.(b)(1)—pass — the Member for St. Vital.

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, before we move on, the Minister has said to the Committee pretty flatly that he wants to spend in the forthcoming year \$53,901,100.00. Can he assure the Committee that he doesn't intend to spend any more than that?

**MR. ENNS:** No, Mr. Chairman, I cannot assure the honourable member that. Again, I refer the honourable member to my opening comments that these Estimates reflect what the department feels we need as a basic and bare minimum, if you like. I made it very plain to my colleagues, the other departments, the other Ministers, that we are a service department. We respond to their requests and their needs. If a policy decision dictates an expansion in a certain area of, say, the Department of Health or in the Department of Corrections or in the Department of Education, that calls for unforeseen expenditures by the Department of Public Works that would normally fall within the responsibility of the Department of Public Works, then that will be initiated by that Ministry and by that department and would have to be added to these Estimates.

**MR. WALDING:** Would that additional amount not be charged back to the department requesting the service?

**MR. ENNS:** Again, Mr. Chairman, I would suspect that the financial situation being what it is, the first criteria that would be asked by Management Committee of Cabinet to that department requesting additional space, for instance, would be, you know, do you have it in your Estimates? If they do, there would be a transfer of moneys that would enable the Department of Public Works to provide that service. This surely should not come as any news to members of the past administration who brought in Special Warrants totalling some \$33 million or \$35 million that were never talked about or discussed in a set of Estimates. I just refuse to allow myself to be hamstrung or trapped into a situation that says that, you know, this is the request that we have before you. I would say it is quite inevitable that the kind of department that Public Works is and the kind of bills that we are asked to pick up such as the overnight call for supplying janitorial services for the Franco-Manitobain Centre in St. Boniface on Christmas Eve that nobody had any comprehension, nobody had an opportunity and certainly staff couldn't conceive as being part and parcel of our responsibility, but the department responds to those requests.

In that sense, let me make it very plain, the substantial dollars that the department has accepted the responsibility for in the maintenance of the Churchill Complex are not reflected in these Estimates. But, Mr. Chairman, that should not be construed as misleading the Committee or attempting to do anything that is not out of the ordinary realm of practice by this department under this administration or under any other administration. The Public Works Department is a kind of service department that gets thrust into positions that we cannot forecast to the last nickel or the last dime and therefore our Estimates are truly what the word implies, "estimates."

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister mentioned two specifics there, one in the last year, which indicates extra money spent, and one probably coming up in the forthcoming year. Is the Minister then suggesting to us that over the last year, 1977-78, that more was spent in his department than the amount indicated in the Reconciled Estimates of last year?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, staff advise me that it is conceivable that that final figure which has not been — although the books are closed — but the final allocation, that process hasn't been completed. I would think I would be correct in saying that that certainly is a reasonable figure to assume, that that was in fact the moneys that the Department of Public Works spent.

**MR. WALDING:** And as far as the other matter of the Churchill Complex, is the Minister now referring to the same matter that was the subject of a question in the House where he indicated that he was negotiating with the Federal Government to cost-share that? Is that the same thing?

**MR. ENNS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is precisely the matter that I raised just a few moments ago. I really cannot in all honesty put a finite figure on that. I will share with the honourable members my concern for doing so. Firstly, to have implanted firmly into our Estimates any sum of money, \$750,000 or \$1 million, you know, that would be formally approved and voted on by this Legislature, certainly would weaken my position in terms of bargaining with the Federal authorities who would take the attitude, you know, Manitoba has provided the money, we'll listen to you but not too seriously. I take it somewhat as a bargain posture as much as anything else plus the fact that we don't have, you know we have — and I plead guilty to that fact — that I have perhaps been somewhat loose in these figures.

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We have arranged with the co-operation of the Municipal Affairs Department to provide the LGD of Churchill with the necessary cash flow so that they can carry on in more or less a normal manner, send out their billings to their taxpayers without the horrendous costs of the complex imposed on them. But we do not know precisely . . . When I met with the mayor, Mayor Les Osland, a former colleague of ours, in Churchill March 30th, and the Council we asked point blank — the Deputy Minister who was with me, a representative of the Municipal Affairs was with us — We asked the town council, "Okay, how much money do you need on a month to month basis, or on a three months to three months basis?" And they talked in terms of well, you know, if you can help us out with 40 to 50 thousand dollars, it'll vary with the different times and the costs associated with that complex and that is what we agreed to. But I cannot with any clarity put the final figures down that the Department of Public Works and the Government of Manitoba has obligated itself with respect to that complex.

**MR. WALDING:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I understand the Minister's position perfectly and I don't criticize him in any way for not putting it in there. I wish him well with his negotiations with Ottawa.

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

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister made some statement that he would have a handle on moneys for leasing so that if the department came to him he would take a look at their budget and I think he is confusing the old system with the new system. Under the old system departments had money for leasing, under the new system all the money is contained within his budget.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I can only indicate to the honourable member that among many things that are being reorganized currently in the short five, six months that this government has been in office, has been that practice. I'm not placing myself in a position of being a financial expert, but on the concept that has been talked about and bandied about, zero base budgeting, where the full and true costs of a program ought to be identified, and ought to be clearly profiled so that the Ministers and the government knows at all times what the costs of any given program are and that they aren't diffused in various different jurisdictions within the workings of government, that that practice is being reviewed. I'm not prepared to suggest that in fact a change has taken place. What I believe may well take place though is that the department, the client department, will have to provide the funds and that a transfer of those funds will have to come to the Department of Public Works. In other words, we are not in the Department of Public Works anticipating or initiating possible demands by client departments. Nor will the Minister of Public Works necessarily lead the fight at management committee for additional space for the Attorney-General's department, or for the Department of Health. I see that the responsibility of the respective Ministers who want the program, who want the service.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, my point is simply that at the bottom of the page there is almost \$6 million. The Minister now has the financial control, he has the money. The departments do not have the money so he has a handle on things. I am assuming he is not going to turn back the clock and give each department its own budget for space rental and therefore they will do whatever they see fit.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I might point out to the Member for Elmwood that I believe his questioning currently would fall under (d)(2).

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, I am not really following a line of questioning, I am commenting on a comment that the Minister made, and I am indicating to him that I think he's either unfamiliar with that area or he is talking about turning the clock back.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (b)(1)—pass; (b)(2)—pass — The Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, the question here again, there is an increase in Other Expenditures. Can the Minister explain that \$13,000 increase? He's cutting the staff by five positions, 10 percent, down \$70,000, but the other expenditures are going up 10 percent.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, these increases provide for the normal rise in cost of fees, supplies, computer costs, etc., and no allowance has been included for the costs associated with the Minister's and Deputy Minister's offices. There has been allowance included here for the posting of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers Conference that I think is to take place in June or July of this year, or August of this year.

**MR. DOERN:** How much is asked?

**MR. ENNS:** Ten thousand.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (b)(2)—pass.

**MR. ENNS:** Page by page, Mr. Chairman?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (c)(1)—pass.

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, a number of questions here. Project Managements. First question is, it's down — Salaries are down \$2,600 — can that be explained?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, that is because there has been no position made for renewal of contract of a contract draftsman in a construction supervisor position.

**MR. DOERN:** So that means there is two SMYs less?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised that the same situation prevails, that while the SMY positions remain, no provision has been made for filling these positions in the current fiscal year, so the dollars are less.

**MR. DOERN:** And what are the positions last year to this year? How many?

**MR. ENNS:** Twenty-eight, and no change.

**MR. DOE:** But there are two vacancies.

**MR. ENNS:** Two vacancies.

**MR. DOERN:** Okay. Now I have a major question here I think, and that is what are these people doing? For example, under Project Management, there is a score of projects handled in the department, the department seems to be doing very little. I gather that the staff in some areas is really just marking time, there is no major construction taking place, all sorts of projects have been frozen. I assume that in terms of quantity there is a reduction of dozens or hundreds of projects. Can the Minister explain what the staff is doing?

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, to the Honourable Member for Elmwood, admittedly the Department of Public Works currently perhaps doesn't have the high profile that it had a little while ago when we were erecting buildings like the Woodsworth Building above and beyond the legal height limits as set down by the City of Winnipeg ordinances, but I remind the honourable member that the Department of Public Works did not in effect have a major impact or a role to play in the major projects. The Department of Works is carrying on in the normal functions of work with all departments of government, certainly one of the major ones being the carrying out and the work associated with the Fire Commissioner's recommendations. Considerable effort is being directed in that area by staff at the moment and other than that I can only assure the honourable member . . . Is he suggesting that this government has shown perhaps at least a preparedness to release staff that in fact we felt weren't fulfilling useful function, that this staff is not, you know, fulfilling a function, and perhaps ought to be released?

**MR. DOERN:** Well, you know, Mr. Chairman, I raise an interesting question. If the Minister's staff has things to do and are given appropriate direction and appropriate funds, they can perform useful work, but it's a well known fact that there is a freeze on construction, there appears to be a reluctance to undertake many other or additional activities. I assume that there is some reduction in the number of projects. Maybe the Minister could tell us how many projects are on the books or whether he has reduced the number of projects that are on the books.

**MR. ENNS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to indicate to the honourable member that firstly the functions of this staff of course isn't totally related to the actual construction of a particular project. It relates to the operations of the senior administration, it operates to the space planning and the inventory control, it relates to space acquisition, contract administration, contract inspection. Much of this kind of work is totally untouched by whether or not the government per se is involved in a heightened construction program itself or not. These staff positions would be carrying on these kind of functions with or without any major building program.

Now in addition to that, the Department of Public Works has a concern in a number of projects such as the completion of the Dauphin office building. We are just completing the facilities at Gimli, the CNR facilities at Industrial Park. We are working on the Berens River situation, school additions and alterations. We are of course working with Winnipeg and that work has resumed on the major environmental lab. In addition to that, work is ongoing at the Land Titles Buildings, some changes and renovations are taking place at the Woodsworth Building to accommodate additional staff, particularly on the 15th floor and work is undergoing or being contracted and planned for at Gimli in terms of reconstruction of the Sewage Treatment Plant. And, you know, we have already listed the rather major drive that the department will be involved with and I particularly pointed out where house staff is involved in terms of the Fire Commissioner's work at Portage and at the Headingley Correctional Institute. In addition to that we have a contract obligation to work on the Stedman School situation and of course an ongoing reassessment of the work and perhaps the renovation of

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either the old provincial garage to install a wind tunnel that my friend and colleague, the Honourable Minister for Mines and Resources, would like to use that building for, or whatever reasons or simply to maintain the services that are presently being carried out there.

Mr. Chairman, the simple fact that we are not building skyscrapers in the City of Winnipeg currently or elsewhere in the province, doesn't mean that this staff isn't being properly and effectively employed.

**MR. DOE:** Can the Minister quantify the number of projects that are on the books; can he give us a figure of X number of projects that there are? Is there such a figure?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I just read out some of the principal ones. I would ask the honourable member to accept that question as notice and allow staff to give me a more definitive list, but I am advised just now that we have some 196 actual projects underway throughout the province.

**MR. DOERN:** And can the Minister indicate how many projects were on the books six months ago?

**MR. ENNS:** Well again, Mr. Chairman, I would have to take notice for that question but I can indicate and highlight to him some of the major programs that have been deferred and which undoubtedly are well known to the honourable member. But for the record, certainly the question, there is a deferment of a major project at The Pas, The Pas correctional facilities including the court house. There has been a deferment of the proposed project at Flin Flon. There has been a deferment of course of the major project that involved the MIPC building whether that included a combination of the Motor Vehicle Branch or not. There are certain phases of renovations taking place presently at the Law Courts Building, but at the moment plans are being reconsidered and the project has been deferred in terms of the major redevelopment or rebuilding of the Law Courts facilities.

**MR. DOERN:** Could the Minister be more specific there. There is the existing Law Courts, which is a renovation, and there is a proposed new Provincial Judges building. Could he indicate which one he is speaking about?

**MR. ENNS:** I am speaking about the renovation to the existing facility.

**MR. DOERN:** The renovations.

**MR. ENNS:** That's right.

**MR. DOERN:** You have deferred that.

**MR. ENNS:** No, the renovation is proceeding right at the moment with the installation of elevators, that's phase one. Whether or not it was phased into several phases, the decision to complete the renovations has been deferred, but work is currently under way in the installation of elevators, etc. at the Law Courts building .

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there are some 28 employees in this particular division, Project Management. Again I say to the Minister that unless he frees up some of the projects that are frozen or introduced as new projects, that some of the staff is going to have to be either let go or they are going to have to spin their wheels. And the same will apply outside of the department, namely in the private firms, the architects and engineers in Manitoba who are having I understand some problems in terms of finding work. So I am saying to the does he have any plans at the moment to attempt to undertake any of these projects that he has frozen in relation to his internal staff and in relation to outside consultants?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I think again perhaps this general question can be asked and answered more fully under the . Minister's We are dealing here with the question of 28 SMY positions in the Projects Management Division. The staff has indicated to the member that we have some 196 on-going projects. We have several major projects, \$6 million projects onstream that we are working at. I am assured by the Assistant Deputy Minister that that on top of the pressures placed on the department to fulfill the requirements of the Fire Commissioner's Code — and let me qualify that — at least begin to fulfill those s, requirement that the staff will not be spinning their wheels, the staff will be fully occupied and indeed very busy.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (c)(1)—pass . . .

**MR. DOERN:** Well, the Minister is a saying then that this particular division will proceed at 26 SMYs and there is sufficient work to occupy the staff fully for the next fiscal year.

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

**MR. DOERN:** Mr. Chairman, just there again . . .



**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (c)(2)?

**MR. DOERN:** That amount is up \$6,000 and that . . .

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, that increase of some \$7,000 provides for general salary increase and annual merit increment. No provision is made for two engineering aid positions.

**MR. DOERN:** Those are the vacancies you mean?

**MR. ENNS:** Are we on (d), Design Services?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, (c)(2).

**MR. ENNS:** (c)(2)? I'm sorry. Okay, here we are, Other Expenditures, an increase of some \$5,800 provides for the rise and cost of travelling and related expenditures as well as increased costs associated with the function of the project managers.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (c)(2)—pass; (d) Design Services: (d)(1) Salaries.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, there again, there is some winding down of the activity. First of all, could the Minister explain the \$2,000 drop? How many SMYs and how many vacancies?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am advised that there are no change in the SMYs. The total provision is for 53 SMYs. The relatively modest increase of \$7,000 provides for the general salary increase and annual merit increment. As indicated earlier, there has been no provision made for two engineering aid positions that I suppose had been contemplated in this provision.

**MR. DOERN:** So its 53 SMYs proposed and two vacancies?

**MR. ENNS:** Two vacancies, that's correct.

**MR. DOERN:** Now again the question is what are these s, people doing There has been a reduction again apparently in some of the activity, or at least in the capital, so what are these people doing to keep busy? Has there been any reduction in their workload? Has there been any reduction in the number of projects they are handling?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, again I repeat what I said on the other appropriation. The kind of provisions of capital moneys do not influence the complement staffing of this division. Mr. Chairman, I will repeat it I suppose a few more times during these Estimates, that what these Estimates basically require and ask for and provide for is the 99 percent of the blood and guts work that the Department of Public Works does, which is responding to requests of other departments for the regular maintenance, plus our own maintenance — you know, we have a responsibility as building managers for the level of maintenance that is maintained. The addition or deletion of major capital projects has little bearing on staff requirements; the Minister would be aware and he should be aware that on major projects it is virtually all contracted out.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, you know, my impression is that there is some shrinkage in activity within the department. I would ask the Minister whether he feels that he is equally accessible to Public Works problems and is giving direction to Public Works personnel as equally as to Highways. For example, is his ADM taking up half the time of his DM and when his DM reports to him are they spending a roughly comparable amount of time tackling these problems? Could he indicate that?

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I would be the very first to admit that there is a certain cyclical rythm to the demands of Minister's time in different departments, and that certainly is true in the Department of Highways. There was a very heavy demand on the Minister's time in the consideration and preparation for the Highways Estimates, but more important for the development of the coming highway construction program. That program now being virtually in place, I believe will leave me the kind of time that I'm quite ready to admit in front of DPW staff that DPW staff requires and deserves. I would be less than candid if I didn't indicate to honourable members of the committee that certainly partly because of the way and the nature of our work in Highways, that the period of say January to March is a particularly heavy period for a Minister of Highways to devote and allocate his time to when we are rushing to get a program approved either through the first steps first with the department through Cabinet, through the House and through the Legislature; and more important the actual physical work of working with the cooperation of caucus members meeting delegations from the city, from northern Manitoba, from the rural municipalities, the actual physical visiting of some sites, but that workload, and I speak with some brief experience in Highways, decreases notably once that program is in place.

After all I have now the authority to commit some \$75 million for highway construction that is now being busily committed, and I would say in a month's time will be committed, and all I can tell my callers and visitors that wish consideration for future highway projects to call on me next year. I

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would throw this other little bargain to my dear friend, the Member for Elmwood, I expect to take that time that he otherwise spent in inspecting art work in and around the province of Manitoba and devote that time to the Department of Public Works, and perhaps the two will balance each other out.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

**MR. DOERN:** Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister will skip his coffee break once a week, that should cover that assignment. Could the Minister indicate, because I gather that rather than giving half his time to direction in the Department of Public Works, he has probably been giving about 10 percent of his time, would he care to estimate how much of the past six months he has devoted to Public Works as opposed to Highways?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Minister of Public Works.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, if I may beg the indulgence of the committee and you, Sir, to remind members that we are dealing with design. I suppose it can be stretched that we are designing the time for the Minister and his allocation to his various responsibilities. Let me firstly indicate that we do not allocate on a unilateral way, half day for this person, half day for that department or 50 percent for this thing. I suppose I could also say it's a commendation to the staff of DPW that manage to run the department with the time that I'm giving them. Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be facetious about this matter. I am well aware that the load is onerous and all I can ask is the committee's indulgence, indeed the people of Manitoba's indulgence, that they will make known to the Premier, who after all appoints Ministers or doesn't appoint Ministers, and allocates responsibilities to them as to whether or not a particular function is being carried out to the satisfaction of the Premier and ultimately to the people of Manitoba.

**MR. DOERN:** That wasn't my question, Mr. Chairman, my question is this. If the Minister who is under a lot of pressure in terms of workload is only devoting a small part of his time to Public Works, and I gather from what he says that it is on a crisis basis — like if you have a crisis he would say to his two ADMs, get in touch with the Deputy and then if there is a crisis, the Deputy will screen it and go to the Minister, because basically Highways is what's being run. Here is what I'm interested in. There is one of two alternatives here. One is that there is a danger that the staff is waiting for direction from the Minister which they cannot get because he is preoccupied with Highways, or else he's simply leaving the department up to them and they are running the department without reference to the Minister. Can he indicate which it is?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I might again mention to the members of the committee, and I would think that this is about the fourth time I've done it tonight, I would think that last question posed by the Member for Elmwood could be debated and discussed under Item 1.(a) Minister's Compensation. We have agreed from the outset that there will be full scale debate at that point and I would ask members again that we are under (d) Design Services.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, I am breaking your own rule but I will conclude this remarks by indicating to the Honourable Member for Elmwood that we don't have crisis in the Department of Highways, we don't have crisis in the Department of Public Works. For identification of the honourable member, I will admit that I go to bed often dreaming of the Department of Public Works and their concerns and I come to work often in the mornings with a fresh mind to tackle those problems.

**MR. DOERN:** But you didn't solve them in the meantime.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Transcona on (d) Design Services.

**MR. PARASIUK:** Mr. Chairman, I would hate to break the rule that you have allowed the Minister of Public Works to break often in not sticking to a particular item, and when he raises these other points, then of course people feel that they should comment on the points that he has just raised as well and I think that that is fair. If he can break the rules, surely the questioner can break the rules too.

**MR. MINAKER:** How do you go to bed, Willy?

**MR. PARASIUK:** I go to bed easily. I don't know, I guess you don't. I don't have to worry about simple things like not having toilet paper or hot water or things like that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Member for Transcona, back on Item (d).

**MR. PARASIUK:** In fact, I want to just conclude that maybe the Minister should stay up a bit later and do a bit more work in these areas and not go to bed so early, but maybe he is a country boy and he needs 10 hours of sleep at night, I guess.

But anyway, he did raise the point that he himself admitted that he didn't have sufficient time to adequately deal with the department but he felt that he would be getting more time now. Given that

not only he but his Deputy is covering off two departments, does he feel that perhaps his Deputy has had the same type of strain that he has and that his Deputy hasn't been able to devote sufficient time to the department? Unless of course the poor Deputy isn't getting any sleep at all while the Minister is contently dreaming about other pastimes.

I ask this question seriously in that in public administrative terms, if the Minister can't devote sufficient time to the department, usually what happens is that he is often given an extra Deputy Minister to handle that. But here we have got a situation where not only do you have a Minister covering off two departments, but you have a Deputy as well, and I hope that the Minister isn't neglecting the department too much by forcing the Minister to cover off two very large departments in terms of the number of items and the number of particular decisions that you have to make. Because you have to make a large number of decisions, probably a larger number of decisions than you might have to make if you were Minister of Education where you have a whole set of large block grants being transferred.

I would like to get an explanation from the Minister as to what type of work do people in 1.(d) Design Services do.

**MR. ENNS:** Mr. Chairman, this in general provides for the professional technical design services for in-house design, construction and occupancy of new and existing government accommodations. The division has four basic programs: Administration, Architecture, Engineering, and Interior Design. The division management consists of a director, an architectural branch manager, an engineering branch manager, and an interior design branch manager. The activity in Design is to build and to occupy, orientate it. It is generally multidisciplined to the extent that individual branch activities are not separate and distinct unto themselves. The division does not generate activity on its own initiative but responds to the needs as identified by others. Do you want me to carry on with the well-prepared staff notes that I have?

**MR. PARASIUK:** No, I was going to commend your department, in fact, obviously the staff has prepared a house book.

**MR. ENNS:** Obviously the staff has, without the access that you suggest they have to me, have done their job well. Whether I do my job well will remain to be seen.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (d)(1)—pass; (d)(2)—pass; (d)—pass. —(Interjection)— All right, what is the wish of the Committee?

**MEMBERS:** Committee rise.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Well, we can't pass the major item because even though there is no money in the slot for the Minister's Salary, it is agreed upon between the Member for Elmwood and I that I will hold back that item until the tail-end. —(Interjection)— What is the wish of the Committee?

**MR. WALDING:** Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I move that the Committee rise. It is a non-debatable motion; would you please put it to the Committee.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All right, Committee rise.

## SUPPLY — EDUCATION

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would direct the honourable members to Page 26, the Department of Education. We are on Clause 4.(e) Vocational Education, (1) Salaries. (e)(1)—pass; (2)—pass; (3)—pass — the Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister can give us an explanation of what the Assistance consists of and why the reduction of approximately \$67,000.00.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe I was dealing with this just before we broke from the last Session. I had mentioned that the manner of funding Alternative Delivery Systems had been now transferred or incorporated into the regular operations of the Public Schools Finance Board and the existing grant structure that exists there, so this separate Fund for Assistance is no longer required. However, the \$35.5 that members will notice in the appropriation represents the amount to fulfill equipments that existed under the former program, before the transfer.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (3)—pass; (e)—pass. (f)(1) Salaries—pass; (2)—pass — the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

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**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, this is a new heading, Measurement and Evaluation. How does this compare with what line in last year's Estimates? There was nothing called that.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I don't believe there was anything that's actually comparable in last year's Estimates that we could use under this particular heading.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, there may not be but there is an amount shown for 1977-78, almost an identical amount, \$35,100, and \$120,000 on the left-hand side. That's why I asked if there was anything comparable. Since an amount was shown on the last year's column, would the Minister then tell us where these figures came from and what is the nature of the program?

**MR. COSENS:** Yes. The equivalent there, Mr. Chairman, would have to be the moneys allocated for the Mathematics Student Assessment Program that existed last year under the heading of ERPA, which no longer is found in the Estimates this year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. BEN HANUSCHAK:** Would the Honourable Minister then explain what will be contained within this item for the forthcoming year, the type of Measurement and Evaluation he proposes to do for the total of \$157,000? I'm not going to make specific reference to the \$157,000 or the \$37,000, because we're still on the Salaries item. Could the Honourable Minister indicate the type of Measurement and Evaluation projects that he proposes to undertake during the forthcoming fiscal year?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, a growing controversy has developed in recent years about the quality of education, focusing particularly on standards, and without available data the criticisms can neither be accepted nor rejected.

Unfortunately data available at the provincial level has either been non-existent or, at best, fragmentary. While the situation at the local level varies from one jurisdiction to another, many parents seem to have a limited understanding of school programs, their objectives and the way in which their children are evaluated.

Measurement in itself is a process that relates to the collection of data, whereas evaluation involves the application of valued judgments to data that has been collected. Thus, when we speak of Measurement and Evaluation in terms of curriculum and instruction, we are addressing ourselves to the review of student performance and instructional practices in a variety of curriculum areas.

Evaluation, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, is a shared responsibility. The primary responsibility for assessing student performance rests at the local level, with the teacher, the school and the school board.

It is not the function of the province to become involved in the regular ongoing evaluation of the individual pupil's work which clearly is best carried out in the classroom and school. It is, however, the province's responsibility to gather data that will provide information on the operation of the educational system as a whole, in order to assist the overall decision-making processes.

In the areas of Curriculum and Instruction there is a particular need to provide the general public, professional educators and the various levels of government, on a continuing basis with information that will help determine how well educational programs in schools are meeting the needs of students. Over the longer term, therefore, the purposes of a Provincial Learning Assessment Program would be:

No. 1, the systematic gathering of data on a selective basis over a period of years that would provide information to interested public as to the level of student achievement in various areas of the school curriculum that would support the overall decision-making process in curriculum development. The task of identifying and designing resource material, the development of appropriate pre-service and in-service training programs and the allocation of resources generally.

No. 2. The identification and/or design and development of evaluation models and support instruments that could be utilized at local school board discretion to assess the level of student achievement and improve the quality of instruction at the classroom level. It is anticipated that there will exist a close relationship between the evaluation process, which will span a long period, and the curriculum, which will like continue to change and develop during this period.

Thus, feedback from assessment activities conducted on the basis of what schools are actually doing in a particular area, closely relates to curriculum development brought about by changing needs in society and increased knowledge about how children learn, which in turn requires the development of new methods of assessment. Thus the goals and objectives established in the provincial curriculum provide the underpinnings for the provincial evaluation process. Co-operative planning will be necessary to co-ordinate provincial and local measures to improve the overall learning process. Provincial data will not be used by the province to compare school with school and division with division. In order to provide for the meaningful utilization of program information obtained at the provincial level, however, school boards will need to take the necessary steps to assess the extent to which learning assessment findings are applicable to their schools and students. Responsibility for this lies with the board, with the department's role being one of support.

The provincial evaluation program will need time to develop information that can be meaningfully

interpreted. Initial assessments will be designed to collect base line data against which student performance on future assessments can be measured. Methods of measurement will vary from one area to another. The precise methods by which data is to be collected will need to be decided as the program develops. It is expected that the experience gained in the experimental Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment Program conducted in 1978 will be of assistance in determining future directions.

Decisions will need to be made in due course concerning those areas of the curriculum to be assessed. At what grade levels, with what frequency, by what methods. These kinds of decisions at both the planning and utilization stages will be taken with the involvement of the major educational interest groups, the Manitoba Teachers Society, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, the post-secondary institutions and others. Work in the area of student assessment will be closely articulated with the work of the general program review structure in the Department of Education itself.

To ensure a comprehensive approach to evaluation and to avoid confinement to narrow goals, the reorganized Department of Education has assigned a collective responsibility to three branches that will work closely together: (1), the Research Directorate (2), the Program Directorate which includes a section having particular responsibilities for evaluation and measurement; also, the External Administrative Support Unit. Much of the work during the 1978/79 fiscal year will be devoted to preparation and planning. It is also anticipated that some aspects of the operational program will get under way during this period.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (f)(1)—pass — The Honourable Member for Logan.

**MR. JENKINS:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. This afternoon we were able to determine from the Minister some of the computer services that are used by the department. I want to give the Minister notice now. First, I want to ask him this item. Are there any computer services in this item?

Secondly, would he undertake sometime before we get to the his Salary to give us a breakdown of all the departments in the Estimates here of Computer Services, and who holds the contract for those services?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (f)(1)—pass; (2)—pass — the Honourable Minister.

**MR. COSENS:** To answer the Member for Logan, I just wanted to make a note of his request. No. 1, no. The answer is no, there are not Computer Services as such in this Department, they would utilize the Computer Services available in that section of the Department. And yes, we will endeavour to provide him with that information before we finish these Estimates.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (f)(2)—pass; (f)—pass; (g) Bureau de l'Education Francaise, (1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, again I would like to get these figures straightened out. Last year's Estimates shown here, 472 under Salaries; last year's print was 445, and I can see that would probably be the same because of the general salary increase that was allocated.

Other Expenditures — 559,600, whereas last year's printed vote showed 954,000. So I would like an explanation of that.

Bilingual Agreements, there was 534,000 shown this year; there was nothing in the printed Estimates last year. Is it because the agreement was signed after the Estimates came in — is that the reason for it?

As well, the Salary increase this year, which is slightly ahead of last year. I don't know if that is because more people are involved, or whether that's — I would really like an explanation between the 472 and the 503.

On the Other Expenditures, I see it has dropped. It has dropped over what they estimated last year by a considerable amount and has dropped over the printed 1978 column by close to \$80,000.00.

The big increase is in the third one, the Bilingual Agreements. Is that because of the new Federal Agreement that was signed during the course of the last year in the field of bilingualism?

I see where the recoveries from Canada are up considerably than what was anticipated — about 400,000. Am I right in assuming that the general increase in this appropriation is because more money is flowing from Canada? In fact, the increase therefore can be attributed to the fact that Canada is contributing more to this program than they have in the past? So it is a series of questions.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I will deal with some of the questions posed by the Member for Seven Oaks immediately; perhaps there are one or two of them that I don't have sufficient information on; I will come back to them.

His first question in regard to Salaries. There is no change in the number of people involved in this particular category. The change possibly could be found in the fact that there were eight and two-thirds contracts last year, five and one-third this year. There are six secondments this year as opposed to three last year. The difference comes in in the types of people who are being employed in that department at this time; it doesn't represent an increase in manpower.

Under Other Expenditures, the Member for Seven Oaks points out the difference between last year and this year. Most of this is accounted for because of some over-budgeting last year in this area

and the fact that these amounts were not spend completely, particularly in the area of curriculum development. The estimate of what was going to be required there apparently was not utilized and, as a result, there has been some considerable diminution there and also in the Research and Evaluation field, a matter again of over-budgeting last year in relation to what was spent. We've cut back generally in those areas where they found that the budget was not completely utilized last year.

**MR. MILLER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, whether it's been utilized or not, when it's print over print, it doesn't necessarily indicate the amount expended. The left-hand column, the printed column in this year's book would indicate that the vote, unless there was a transfer out of that vote elsewhere, but the fact that less was expended, will simply mean that the money will lapse at the end of the year. That's it, unless it's used elsewhere in this Item 4, Program Development and Support Services, so that the explanation that there was an over-budgeting of estimate and the fact that it wasn't achieved wouldn't account for the fact that the figure has dropped from \$954,000 to \$559,000 as between the two printed Estimates.

**MR. COSENS:** I have some problem, Mr. Chairman, in finding the \$954,000 that the member is referring to here under Other Expenditures. It's \$559,000 on the left-hand side in my figures and \$478,000 on the right-hand side.

**MR. MILLER:** I guess I didn't make myself clear. I'm also looking at last year's Estimate Book, 1977-78, where on the right-hand side which was the Estimates passed last year, for Other Expenditure there was \$954,200.00. Taking that last year's print and looking at the left-hand column this year, then there should be a similarity unless there was a transference out because certain programs had been transferred elsewhere into the system. Otherwise, the numbers should be the same and if there's going to be a lapsing because the money isn't expended, it will lapse; the print should be the same unless there is a transference out elsewhere into this section.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the last year's book with me. I was working from this one and the figure that I have on the left-hand side for the money expended is \$559,600 and the money provided this year, \$478,700.00. Now if the Member for Seven Oaks has another figure, I would suggest that perhaps that money wasn't used. I'm not aware of what happened to that particular sum.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, I don't expect that the Minister would have that information on hand but certainly staff will know what I mean. If last year an Estimate was passed of \$954,200, if that same figure doesn't now show on the left-hand side, it has nothing to do with expenditures, nothing to do with cash flow because we could be sitting here in February and working on these Estimates — we happen to be a little later this year and the 1977-78 year would still be with us — so it's the printed Estimate vote over the printed Estimate vote and the figure I'm referring to is \$954,200 voted Estimate last year with only \$559,600 shown this year in the 1978 column. It can only be if there is a transference out for other purposes and I don't expect the Minister to have this but I think his staff certainly should be able to find that and explain to us why there is so much less shown than what was estimated last year and whether that amount has been transferred. If it has been transferred, then why it wasn't shown in its original form and it would just lapse at the end of the year.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, we'll attempt to reconcile that figure for the Member for Seven Oaks. He's quite right, I don't have that material with me and we'll have our officials check it out for him.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, in the process of checking that out, I think the committee would appreciate it if the Honourable Minister would also take note of the fact that in the Estimates Book before us, in showing the Estimates approved for the fiscal year just ended, March 31st, 1978, there are two lines after Salaries, Other Expenditures of \$559,600; and Bilingual Agreements, \$534,600.00. The previous year's Estimates Book showed only one line, Other Expenditures, \$954,200.00. But be that as it may, Mr. Chairman, that figure doesn't square with the total of the two shown in this year's Estimates Book. There is a difference of well over \$100,000, somewhere in the order of \$130,000, so perhaps the Honourable Minister could offer some explanation for that difference.

If the Honourable Minister doesn't have the answer for that, perhaps that could be obtained as we are continuing with the consideration of the Estimates.

But I would like the Honourable Minister at this point in time to express his assessment, his analysis of the needs within this particular program, the needs for the future as they may develop. I'm referring particularly to a school such as Sacre Coeur and I would like the Honourable Minister to comment upon the enrolment in it as compared with the enrolment of the previous year. Is the enrolment increasing or not; if the enrolment is increasing, is there any evidence that may indicate to the Minister the need to establish other schools of a similar kind to meet a similar need? Also, the enrolment in general that comes under this category, is it levelling off, is it increasing, and what the future needs may be in the whole area of bilingual education?

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, in reply to the Member for Burrows, I would inform him that there are some 82,000 students taking French as a second language. Of that figure, some 2,000 are involved in immersion programs. He asked for the enrolment in Sacre Coeur; I don't have that figure immediately available but I can get that for him. There are a certain number of people involved in the French first language program, some 2,000 in the immersion, as I mentioned, and in the French first language, some 8,500. So we have the three areas, then, within the French Language Department: 82,000 students who are taking French as a second language, as I mentioned; some 2,000 in the immersion program; and some 8,500 in French as a first language.

The member asked for the situation on enrolment and I can inform him at this time, on the information that we have, that there seems to be a tendency towards a levelling off in this area with a certain increased interest possibly, if in any one of the three areas that I have mentioned to him, in the immersion program area. Of the three areas, the increase in interest would appear to be there. In the other two areas, a noticeable levelling off at this time.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Would the Honourable Minister also comment upon the post secondary programs that fall within this appropriation because I believe that there are some programs offered at St. Boniface College and my concern or the matter of interest to me is, Mr. Chairman, is the government contemplating expanding the post secondary Francais program into other areas? I am thinking more of the community college type of courses, for example, the secretarial science course which had been instituted at St. Boniface College within the past short while. Are there others that the Honourable Minister may be contemplating of a similar kind of instituting at St. Boniface College?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, certainly we will be evaluating and have been evaluating the courses offered in the community college area at St. Boniface College. As the need develops, we will be prepared to address it.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I believe in the secretarial area, if my memory serves me correctly, there are probably a couple of distinct and separate courses being offered, one of a longer duration and the other somewhat shorter. Does the Honourable Minister know what experience the graduates have had from that course or those courses in securing employment in the Province of Manitoba?

**MR. COSENS:** I understand that the graduates of those particular courses, Mr. Chairman, have had no problem whatsoever in finding employment.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (g)(1)—pass; (2)—pass; (3)—pass — the Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Yes, before we come to Item (3), Recoveries from Canada, is it the intention of the Minister, in his organizational structure, to retain the Assistant Deputy Ministerial status for the position of the individual heading up this particular branch, or is he contemplating any changes?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, at this time we are contemplating no changes. (3)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** —pass; (g)—pass — The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, before we pass (g), could the Honourable Minister explain, in view of the fact that even though this is not shown as an expenditure but nevertheless it is shown as an Item within the Estimates book, a Recovery from Canada for the fiscal year, the Estimates for which are being considered at the present time, a figure of \$1.23 million is shown and Recoveries for the fiscal year just ended were \$872,000 — a difference of some \$350,000 — could the Honourable Minister explain the somewhat significant increase in Recovery from the Federal Government? In other words, is it the launching of certain types of programs or what?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, just while we are gathering the information for the Member for Burrows, I would like to go back to the question I believe that was posed by the Member for Seven Oaks regarding the number of lines and so on under this appropriation. Last year, again I say I understand that there were only two lines and this year we have three, the reason being that the bilingual agreement expenditures are shown as a third line this year, and the other fact being that St. Boniface Community College programs were in student aid last year, and they have been transferred to BEF, and they amount to, I believe, some \$143,000 which I believe would reconcile that particular set of figures.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (g)—pass; (h)(1) Salaries—pass; (2) — The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** How does the enrolment at the Manitoba School for the Deaf for the current school year compare with that for the previous year?

**MR. COSENS:** For 1977-78, Mr. Chairman, 121; 1976-77, 119.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Well perhaps, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister may want to explain what appears then to be somewhat of a reduction in the appropriation, on a per capita basis, in relation to the enrolment, in view of the fact that the enrolment has only decreased by two students — by less than 2 percent. —(Interjection)— No, I believe it has decreased. . . I'm sorry, perhaps the Honourable Minister could assist me. I was of the impression that the enrolment had decreased by two, or is it the other way around?

**MR. COSENS:** Up.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Very well then, that strengthens the point that I wish to make, Mr. Chairman. In view of the fact that the enrolment has increased, be it very slightly, but I note that the salary appropriation is essentially the same, you know, a difference of \$5,000 on \$1 million which is something in the order of one-half of one percent. It would appear, then, Mr. Chairman, that this may reflect some reduction in . level of service?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, on the contrary, there is no reduction in service. I believe I mentioned in the House that we would be engaging two staff that have been vacant, I understand, in the past year, and had been filled in by substitute individuals, and we are endeavouring to have those two permanent individuals as of September, to fill those two vacant positions. So, certainly, no reduction in this area whatsoever.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (h)(2)—pass; (h)—pass — The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, can the Honourable Minister enlighten us on whether there is any new thrust that will take place in this area in the forthcoming year? Are there any new program developments in connection with the Manitoba School for the Deaf in everything it may or can do in our educational system?

**MR. COSENS:** I think the program that is being carried out at the Manitoba School for the Deaf, Mr. Chairman, has several directions, and I certainly agree with what is happening there. In vocational education the school has considerable commitment there to integrate students into regular vocational technical schools where possible and quite a concentrated effort, I understand, is being made in that direction. They are considering expanding that particular program, that integration in the months ahead and, of course, this puts some demand on support services, but they tell me that this is possible with the types of supports that do now exist.

**MR. EVANS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To what extent does the Manitoba School for the Deaf reach out into the broader educational community, and assist various school divisions in coping with the deaf children — I don't mean totally deaf, but of course perhaps partially deaf people or students — who may exist in the various school divisions around the province?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East, I think I should clarify that the School for the Deaf is an institution in itself. Its Outreach Services, I believe is what he would be referring to, are not one of its primary directions at all. It operates as a school with the students either living in residence or coming to it as a Day School. That type of service that you are referring to, we will certainly be considering under 4.(j) Child Development Services, if we are talking about the rural areas and the northern areas of the province.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Honourable Minister if he would comment on the effect that the implementation of Bill 58 may have upon the enrolment of the School for the Deaf, the program offered there, because I'm sure that the Honourable Minister would agree that one of the reasons for having enacted Bill 58, having passed it, and one of the reason will eventually, I'm sure, for the proclamation of the Bill, would be to provide for the integration of children suffering from a variety of handicaps, I would suspect not excluding the type suffered by children enrolled in the School for the Deaf in a normal classroom setting. After all, if it's possible at the present time to enroll multiple-handicapped children in a normal classroom setting — with additional support staff, granted — nevertheless, they are found there. I believe that the program is still continuing in Brandon School Division — I'm not sure — but it has been in operation there for two or three years, and perhaps elsewhere.

Well, let us to say that if the implementation of Bill 58 were to attract some of the students who normally would be candidates for the School for the Deaf into a normal classroom situation, then no doubt it would have some effect on the enrolment at the School for the Deaf and on the program offered there. Has the Minister taken that into account, and has he any plans to deal with that situation as it inevitably will occur, if the government is going to be sincere in the implementation of Bill 58?



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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Burrows, I think he well realizes that there are degrees of impairment as far as hearing is concerned. There are some hearing-impaired children who can operate in the ordinary classroom, and can be integrated very easily into that situation. There are others who require a certain modified type of classroom, with certain equipment, and I think there we would be referring them to the Gladstone Oral Deaf program. But the Manitoba School for the Deaf I think, regardless of what efforts the school system may make to integrate students with hearing impairment into the regular classes, will still function for those who require total communication of a non-oral type. Now I think, as I mentioned earlier to the Member for Brandon East, there is a very real and ongoing effort being made by the School for the Deaf to integrate those children as much as possible, into what we would call the regular type of school, particularly in the vocational area. They are accompanied by support people whenever they attend this type of institution, but the idea that we will see the eventual phasing out or the time when we will no longer need the type of facility that the Manitoba School for the Deaf offers, I would suggest to the Member for Burrows, is a great distance in the future.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (h)—pass; (j)(l) Salaries—pass — The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, in this particular one, Child Development Services, is this comparable to what was called Child Development and Support Services last year?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes.

**MR. MILLER:** This year, I notice there are two lines: one for Salaries and one for Other Expenditures. The one for Assistance seems to have disappeared — oh, I can see there was nothing voted last year, and that's the reason for it. It just wasn't there. This is comparable in dollars.

Is there any change in the program at all? Was the expansion that is planned and conceived for 1977-78 carried through? I'm thinking in terms of two more staff in the northern region, that's to work in the Frontier School Division I believe; and there was staff in the Pelly Trail and Birdtail Divisions, and then I believe there was an attempt going to be made to combine or to get some services into Agassiz, Pine Falls, Selkirk, and one other, I forget the school district. Can the Minister tell us whether these programs have gone forward, whether they were stopped since they've taken office, or whether they failed to take off even before the present Minister took office? What I'm seeking to find out is whether there is meaningful expansion being planned here; that although there are more dollars being voted, this may simply reflect the inflation rather than the expansion of services.?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can assure the Member for Seven Oaks, that there has been no diminution in this program. I think there is almost universal agreement through rural Manitoba in particular that this is a service that is very much needed, it is very well accepted, and it's unfortunate that it can't be increased to a much greater extent. Although there is not a huge staff through the province, the work that they do and their dedication to their task, I think, is almost unequalled. They spend many many hours, do a great deal of travelling, and cover a great deal of territory. I've had the pleasure, as a person in the classroom and in the schools, of having worked with these people, and I can assure honourable members that the type of work they're doing certainly is some of the finest in the province.

And the Member for Seven Oaks was wondering what expansion may have taken place in the program. We are adding one position to provide services to the eastern section of Frontier School Division, where I understand no services existed, and also one itinerant teacher of the hearing impaired, and one itinerant teacher for the visually impaired. I think the Member for Seven Oaks realizes that this section reflects one aspect of the Child Development and Support Services.

The other areas that he was referring to are in the other aspect of the services, where the school divisions themselves receive the grant and hire the personnel. This is the other side of the service, where the people are employed by the Provincial Government, Department of Education.

**MR. MILLER:** So this is the area where the clinical Support Services are provided to schools, that is the audiologists, the psychologists — and I'm saying this for the benefit of my colleague for Brandon East who is wanting to talk about people with hearing impairments — this is the section where this particular

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't pretend to be very knowledgeable in this area, nor by any means have any expert or special knowledge, but I do believe that we had, over the last few years, engaged in some experimental types of programs to assist children with hearing impairments, and I know in the Brandon area there have been some efforts made in this respect. I wonder if the Honourable Minister could update us on current programs? I'm particularly interested in that area, but also elsewhere in the province where programs may be undertaken to help children with hearing impairment. There was some experimentation done in this area, I believe, in the past couple of years. is referring to the

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East. I think he is referring to the hearing screening and vision screening projects that have continued and will continue as a joint effort with the Department of Health and Social Development, and these, of course, have as their purpose to identify children at an early age with visual and auditory impairments. In addition to resource teachers, a maximum of use is made — and here we come to the favourite topic of the Member for Burrows — of volunteer people, who are trained to do a great deal of this screening by professional people.

**MR. EVANS:** Yes, could the Honourable Minister give us an estimate of the amount of money involved this year compared with last year in this particular program?

**MR. COSENS:** I don't have that figure readily available, Mr. Chairman, but I can assure the honourable member that there is no cutback in this particular program.

**MR. EVANS:** I'd like to ask the Minister if he could advise the House on progress that he sees being made in the implementation of Section 465, Subsection 22 of Bill 58, that is the Bill dealing with education for children with special needs. The legislation was passed by the Legislature last year or the year before, at any rate it hasn't been proclaimed, and I do believe that there is an Inter-Agency committee that has been dealing with this type of legislation for some two and one-half years, and they are very concerned with the early implementation of what this Amendment to that particular Bill stands for; the pertinent Amendment being and I'm quoting from the Amendment to Bill 58: "Every School Board shall provide or make provision for the education of all resident persons, who have the right to attend school and who require special programs for their education." And as I understand, this pertains to every child whether they be mentally retarded, physically handicapped, or gifted.

This particular inter-agency committee that was established believed that it was the intent of the Amendment that each child should be in the least restrictive educational environment possible, consistent with various needs of the child, whether they be physical, emotional, social or educational needs, and also considering the needs of the other pupils in the learning environment, considering the resources available to the school district, and whatever other reasonable considerations there should be.

This is a matter that the Canadian Association of the Mentally Retarded has been very interested in, is very interested in, and I realize too that there is a lot of — it's not an easy matter, it is a very complicated area, and I don't think anybody is expecting implementation in a matter of months, or what have you. But I'm just wondering if the Minister could advise the House or advise the committee, whether there is some plan, long term plan, or one-year plan, or two-year plan, or three-year plan of implementation, and therefore proclamation of this particular Bill 58?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East. I think it was perhaps yesterday evening that I dealt with this topic at some length, and went into the whole area of funding for special needs, or special education as it flows from the government and from other levels of government in Manitoba. However, I will come back to it briefly for the Member for Brandon East.

I can assure him that I am absolutely positive that all members on both sides of this House are concerned with children who have special needs, and I am sure that they are also concerned that these children would be in the best learning environment possible. And I can also assure the Member for Brandon East that if he looks through the appropriations that we have in these Estimates in this area of whether it be Child Development Services or grants back under 3.(a), he will notice that we have not really cut down in total in the amount of moneys that we are putting into this whole special education area.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, we are proceeding in this area with the school buildings that are being built, are being built with certainly consideration of the needs of children with any number of different handicaps, and other considerations that may accommodate children with special needs, are being taken into our consideration. The different parts of the educational system that have concern with this whole implementation of Bill 58 are being consulted with, not only through the advisory committee on Bill 58 that reports to the Minister, and I must mention that this committee has done some very worthwhile work and received a report from them I believe it was very early in the new year.

However, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the Member for Brandon East can appreciate several of the problems that any government faces in the implementation of this legislation. I have been looking lately at what has been happening in certain other provinces; some have implemented this type of legislation before the resources, both human and financial, were available, and with rather negative results; and others, like ourselves, are proceeding gradually towards that particular goal as human resources and as financial resources become available.

Those are the major road-blocks that we face at this time, Mr. Chairman, financial and human resources. As these develop, then we can proceed towards this particular goal. There are many other smaller problems but I am sure that as we move along, these can be overcome. It's a matter of having trained personnel available in the schools of the province to deal with special type needs of these children, and of course more personnel cost more money. It's a requirement for more materials and more equipment, through the schools of the province, and as the Member for Brandon East fully realizes, that also means more fiscal resources.

So at this time I can assure him, and I know there are many interested groups who I have been in contact with on this topic, that we are proceeding in that direction as resources are available.

**MR. EVANS:** I appreciate the remarks of the Honourable Minister and I do understand, as I think I indicated in my own remarks, that it is a very complicated area and these types of programs in Support Services cannot be brought in very quickly without perhaps many inefficiencies and perhaps some harm.

The Minister refers to the lack of human resources I believe the terms was, and I wonder if he could elaborate on that? I am wondering if he is telling us the type of teachers or councillors or whatever the professional title may be, that those persons simply do not exist for us to obtain or is he saying that we do not have the funds, or he doesn't feel that he can find the money or obtain the funds to hire such people. I find it rather strange in this day and age of high unemployment among youth, and particularly high unemployment among young people who have graduated from our universities from our faculties of education who hold in some cases, not one or two, in some cases three degrees and cannot find employment. I appreciate that these young people might not have the necessary training to handle special needs children.

I wonder therefore, if we have this area of concern in our educational system, why we cannot somehow or other ensure that that type of personnel is trained in our faculties of education and I think it's a matter of real regret to find so many young people today who have graduated from our universities, idle in the province of Manitoba simply cannot — you know, this is a large number of people, I don't know what the number is — but I know personally of a few. They are good people, they are wanting to work. They are the most frustrated people perhaps in this province today, well trained young men and women in the teaching profession, who cannot find work as teachers. I find it therefore difficult to understand why we can't have the required human resources to cope with this problem. I appreciate these people who may be unemployed are not trained for this kind of work but the point I'm making is that surely there is a plentiful supply of young talent in our province, and it is a shame that we allow that talent, we allow human resources to go under-utilized because we're all the poorer for that.

So, I am perhaps stating a little bit of bewilderment here, but I can't see why the lack of human resources should be a serious problem.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate the remarks of the Member for Brandon East because to some extent I share his concern in this area. It becomes more obvious when we attempt to hire personnel in our child development services whether they be audiologists or people who work in remedial reading or speech therapy or educational psychologists. We are finding, Mr. Chairman, that in many cases, the only area we can find these people is in the country to the south of us.

I think it's a rather deplorable condition that we don't have young people in our particular society training in these areas because, as I say, right at the present time to try to staff our child development services and certainly that is not a huge staff and nowhere near the number of trained people that we are talking about, if we are talking about implementation of a complete special needs program, the people just haven't been trained, and of course the training institutions are apparently few and far between in this country. I am not sure, I believe that British Columbia has some type of training. I think that's the closest training institution. I am not sure what exists in Ontario in this form. As the Member for Brandon East realizes we have special opportunity bursaries for young people who are interested in this type of training, but we had to this point, for some reason there have not been enough people interested in this area and I suppose one of the problems is the geography that's involved. If they are going to take this training they have to leave the province and go to some other province or perhaps to one of the United States to take it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (j)(1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I have been instructed by the Member for Seven Oaks to take a full 40 minutes on this item as part of my quota. He has to make a phone call so I promised him that I would take the full time, but I probably won't take that long but there are several comments and questions I want to raise in this area, some of which I think bear upon the particular state of education that exist. I also appreciate the Minister's remarks. He has been very appreciative of all the comments being made by Members of the Opposition. I appreciate the fact that he is appreciative of all these things but I wish he would do something more about it, than simply express his appreciation and sympathy.

He talked about the problem which is a very real one, of the serious lack of teachers in the special needs areas, who have special skills to deal with children, schools that have particular educational or pedagogical problems. And yet what is interesting, Mr. Chairman, is that if you look and talk to students coming out of the faculty of education today are those which have received their training in special schools in North Dakota, Michigan and other places, who I have talked to, there are no jobs for them when they come back to Manitoba, so what are we talking about.

We are simply talking about the lack of incentive for people going into the field of education to take training with any certainty that they are going to be employed once they finish. So it doesn't seem to me particularly constructive to be talking about the need for all these specialized kinds of training when there are — I can give an example of one school division in the City of Winnipeg where there was a remedial teaching job in English open and there was something like 150 applications for it. All

those who applied had a particular training or skill in respect of that particular need and we are basically being told that it is not available and that the supply of teachers in these areas far exceeds the demand because of the severe and harsh cutbacks in a number of the school programs, and the programs that are cut back first and foremost are those which cater to specialized, particular educational requirements but aren't necessarily in the mainstream of

You know, education does work on the supply- demand factor and students going into the field are aware of what their job prospects are two or three years down the road and if they feel that there is a substantial cutback in these fields, the opportunities are non-existent they are not going to take that specialized training because once you develop a specialized track, then you want to pursue that profession and that specialty and if you don't have the opportunity, then you pick up and go elsewhere.

So, Mr. Chairman, I suggest there's a degree of double standard or perhaps even a subterfuge going on where we can be particularly kind and considerate about expressing the needs but when you are closing the door to those opportunities and not offering them to them it doesn't really succeed very much. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that if the Minister is to do much more than express his concern, then he

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So I think that in the question of Child Development Services there is a tremendous vacuum in this province of planning and development for the range of services that may be required and to take account of the fact that the schools are going through some major transformations in the quality and kind of education they're going to have to offer and they're not getting many signals from the Department of Education as to where to go in this. Spending a little bit of time this morning talking with people that I know in the educational field they basically indicate that the Department of Education has become a neuter. There is no signal at all coming out. It's going to become mummified, if you like, in the sense of it, you know, "See no evil. Hear no evil. Speak no evil." Nothing is coming forward. There is no direction, no set of incentives being given, no sense of here's where we want to go. Whatever the direction may be, let's presume it's different from the previous government, but there is no signal in that. It's almost as if they've gone into a fetal crouch waiting somehow for some great sort of tidal wave to pass and that somehow or other when the millenniums come they'll be able to emerge from that.

But Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to the Minister he very soon is going to have to start providing some very clear-cut directions in the style and quality of education in the province because I think that after six months that's time enough to get your kind of, you know, read the reports and talk to your advisors and officials and find out what the state of affairs are and within that period of time you're going to have to start providing some more clearcut directions to where to go.

I think the school divisions are really in a state of ambivalence and perhaps even confusion right now in terms of the thrust that they should be taking in the special education fields because they haven't been receiving any really firm, positive, affirmative sense of what the purpose and goals of this new government are in the field of education. They really have retreated into kind of a capsule and haven't really reached out to it. So I don't think it's sufficient for us to accept in these Estimates the statement of the Minister that it's just, look, I'm sympathetic and appreciative, and I'm concerned. I think that these Estimates should have been the opportunity to present something more definite than those kinds of sentiments. I think that if he doesn't express those then the different school divisions and school boards and the educational faculties, all those constituents of the system, are going to be really at a loss as to what, where and how to proceed. In the meantime you've got a lot of people going through faculty. You're going to have, I don't know, thousands, I suppose, maybe

certainly in the hundreds of unemployed educational graduates this year. At the same time the Minister is saying, "Gee, I think we should be doing more in the child development field." I think he would recognize that there is an inherent contradiction in those kinds of statement versus fact and, while maybe some of them are prepared to weather a short storm or this peculiar aberration called restraint that we're going through at this time, I think that they've got to have something beyond that to reach for. They've got to have some expectations of where we're going in the future, not simply a stony silence which is what they've received so far.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Fort Rouge. This is the first time that I've heard him speak on this particular topic although I read his remarks in last year's Education Estimates and if I remember correctly, there's a great similarity between what he said this evening and what he said last year. Of course, I think it's very easy for the Member for Fort Rouge to be very critical in this situation and say, "Well, there's no such thing as restraint and what are you talking about not moving ahead and putting absolute millions of dollars into this program and why aren't you coming out and doing this, that, and the other thing?" I suppose you can do that if you're not in government or there's no danger of you becoming government. But I would suggest to the Member for Fort Rouge that I would like to know where all these graduates are with these particular qualifications because I would tell him that since we have been trying to engage this type of trained personnel in the last few months and I understand the pattern has existed for the last couple of years anyway from talking to officials in the department. We can't find them. We have to get them in the United States. So if they're available and if they're walking the streets, then I would urge him when he is talking to them to tell them to apply. I think the salaries are reasonably enticing, the working conditions are comparable to what they would find in most situations, and we would be very, very pleased to be able to avail ourselves of their services for the type of personnel that we're requiring even at this time — and I speak of the school for the deaf where we require two teachers for the hearing impaired and have had great difficulty and will probably end up having to hire people from the United States.

And I speak also of the people we have out in the Child Development Support Services through the country where, again, I would hesitate to give the percentage of people with a particular nationality but I would suggest quite conservatively, as he can appreciate, that over half of those people are not Canadians or Canadian trained, and the problem is certainly not getting any simpler, so if those people exist it is rather strange that we haven't been able to find them.

I would suggest also to the Member for Fort Rouge that we have shown our commitments to school divisions, perhaps not to the same extent as he would like to see and perhaps not to the same extent as we would like to see either, but whether he realizes it or not, we are in a period of restraint and the number of dollars available to us in Education are spread over a large number of areas. I make no particular apology for the fact that our increases in the whole area of special education, I think, have been rather considerable in relation to the increases in other areas of the educational picture and I believe, in relation to what's been happening in budgeting this particular year, that our commitment in this area has been positive and once again certainly not having gone as far as I would like to see and certainly not having gone as far as the Member for Fort Rouge would like to see. But when he says we're doing nothing, we're standing still — "neuter" I believe is the word he used — I would suggest to him if we're adding three personnel in the Child Development Support Services in this province, along with the other hundreds of thousands of dollars we're adding, if we're putting a Special Ed person into the eastern part of Frontier School Division, we're not standing still. We are doing something. We are doing more. Those are new people. They aren't old people that didn't exist in the system.

So I have some trouble, Mr. Chairman, understanding why the Member for Fort Rouge is taking this position but, as I say, I read his remarks in the Education Estimates last year. It sounded very, very similar, so I suppose it's the annual speech on this particular topic and I can appreciate his concern. I know it's a real concern and I don't take issue with that at all. As I've said earlier I know it's one shared by everyone in this particular House, but by the same token until the funding is available, and with that funding goes trained personnel, the implementation of that bill would result in absolute chaos and harm — more harm to those children than they certainly are receiving at this time. I have had parents contact me since I've been in office and say that if you move to take my child out of the Special Ed class that he's in now and put him into a regular classroom without the proper type of trained personnel there then I will protest that and I will protest it strongly, and that has not been one letter, Mr. Chairman, not one, countless who have that concern, and that's a real concern I would suggest to the Member for Fort Rouge.

So it's just great, Mr. Chairman, to jump on the bandwagon and say yea, here we go, but until we have that money and we can guarantee that no child will suffer from being shoved into a situation with untrained, unskilled personnel, I would suggest to him we would be practising a greater cruelty than moving slowly and gradually to that goal.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to see that the Minister of Education has aroused himself to some degree of commitment and I'm also glad to see that the Honourable House Leader has woken up sufficiently to take interest in debates other than in procedure because they have a strange kind of phobia that everything is equated, of course, with dollars. You see, this is the problem of coming down and applying the accountants' principle to government, that you don't deal

just in the area of human or personal services, you simply deal about — what's the jargon that the Minister's opposite now like to use in almost every second statement? The "bottom line" seems to be their favourite jargon word that's now been adopted by the Conservatives, you know.

Mr. Chairman, I'm reminded as I hear Ministers opposite speak of a small story of a new government that came into power and was going to implement all these new cutback programs and restraint programs and as they set this thing in motion they set things up to say that they were doing everything by a cost-efficient, cost-effective method. Someone was walking down the street in the afternoon and saw one of their public servants, perhaps in the Department of Education or somewhere — maybe more like public works — standing in the middle of the street. Someone asked him what he was doing and he said he was on elephant patrol. And the person asked him what does someone do on elephant patrol and he said he was there to keep the elephants off the street. And he said well, what are you talking about? There's no elephants on the street. And he says, that shows how effective I've been. Well, you know, that becomes part of the problem, Mr. Chairman, we're talking in double-speak in this government. They're pretending that they are effective when there is no problem there to begin with.

The question really is this issue — the Minister says we're doing all we can. I disagree. I don't think he's doing all he can, because if he is concerned about the future implementation of Child Development Services in the schools and in the implementation of Bill 58 then they could be instituting now with the Faculty of Education the kind of training programs that would allow a proper supply and sufficient number of teachers coming onstream to do that job. Now I have not read anything — you know, the Minister reads my old speeches — I read his new ones, and I haven't read anything about the Minister saying to the Faculty of Education in this province that we are short of these kinds of specialities. We are wanting to implement Bill 58 down the road when money becomes available. In order to implement it we're going to need these kinds of teachers so why don't we start setting up the kind of training and professionalization so when the time comes that the program can be implemented we'll have the people to do it.

Now I haven't read the Minister saying anything like that and if he has then I apologize, but I haven't seen it, and that's the kind of leadership — it's not, you know, the mumblings of the Honourable House Leader, "Well, it's all money." That's not money. That's called planning. That's called anticipating. That's called setting things in motion. That's called looking forward into problems. Well, you know, that might be too much to expect by members opposite because I know that they look through rear-view mirrors not through front-view windows, and that may be the difficulty.

So if it is simply a matter of saying, "Okay, the First Minister has decided through his peculiar crystal ball that everything in the Province of Manitoba has to be adjusted to a 2.9 formula and therefore nothing can go ahead," well, that's his business. He's the Premier. I mean I'm not going to argue with that. But presumably the Minister of Education should be looking further beyond those short term kinds of calculations and be saying, "I've got a strong commitment to this bill." If you don't have a commitment then get rid of it and say so, but if you have a commitment to the program and you know it's going to have to be implemented, and you know that the people aren't in place to do it, then start putting in motion the steps that will allow you to have the sufficient supply of teachers with those skills to do it and sit down and give those particular kinds of signals or directions to the training facilities in the province to allow it to happen, that's all. You know, I'm not asking you to come with a big basket of dollar bills and throw them into the Faculty of Education on the Fort Garry campus and say, "Hey, let's have a party." I'm simply saying, "Look, I've got a problem. You're telling me — you just told me your problem. You say you don't have enough people. Well, I think you have got people there. I just don't think that they're being utilized or allocated the right way.

Somehow the marketing system which everyone likes to laud and applaud is not working in that direction because a lot of school divisions are getting some over supply. The St. James School Board just knocked off 16 teachers last week. That doesn't strike me as being something that's making room for new services and a child development program, not when you're knocking off 16 teachers, that doesn't sound to me like you are saying, "Boy, there's lots of opportunity and incentive here in education in the province." And other school divisions are going through the same thing, and I can tell the Minister categorically that there all kinds of school divisions who are either forestalling plans for the introduction of special needs programs, the development programs, or in fact cutting back on those, because they don't have the funds to do it with. Okay? So the Minister says that's the way the world is at the present time. It may not be the way my world is because I don't necessarily agree with the priorities of this government. I think they are wrong, I think they will be proven to be wrong, but that's another argument for another place.

c98-01 But even let's take their premise as being the accepted one and taking the Minister's statement as being what he intends to do. The one I am afraid we are going to get into is the old *manana* game, is that every year he's going to come back and say, "I can't implement the program because I don't have the people to implement it with," when what he should be doing in his Estimates of 1978 is at least sitting down and working out through discussion and negotiation with our educational faculties in this province, the means of supplying those teachers, doing in-service training. There are a lot of teachers in the schools right now who would dearly love to have the opportunity to go back and take special training in these areas, to do some kind of retraining in it.

I can only point to him by example the new school for behavioural education in North Dakota which is doing this kind of thing, where they have a very explicit program, where they will take teachers who have been in the field for ten years, they will bring them back out of the field, back into

the new faculty for special education needs and fill that slot with someone coming out of the faculty. So they're giving young teachers in the educational faculty a chance to get their first teaching job and get some experience. In the meantime they are bringing more experienced teachers back in for some re-training and special needs education, so it's a revolving door in that both sides of that equation are benefiting from it.

But that's not a big cost program, it just shows a little imagination and creativity in the field of education, and that's what I am asking for. I mean you're a new government, you're supposed to be fresh and alive and all filled with the new world that you're going to provide. I'm waiting for the revelation, that's all, and I just want to see it happen. Within the next short time, at least within the next couple of weeks I don't expect to be entering the portals of government but the fact of the matter is that you are the ones that got the job, not me, you should be the ones — the real way these estimates should be going is that we should be responding to programs and initiatives, not responding to a kind of a foggy haze. And I would feel much happier, Mr. Chairman, and I'd even change my speeches I suppose, if the Minister of Education would come forward with some very specific set of priorities of "here's what I am going to do in these cases over the next couple of years, and this is how I intend to proceed with it," then we can talk about substance. But when we simply get the kind of, "I'll check the record or I'm going to go back or I'm sorry," those *mea culpas* don't satisfy me.

I think we need something more in the field of education at this stage because if we don't do that we are simply going to be reserving problems for future generations and I've got some news for the Minister — that the longer he waits, the more he puts these things in a shell, the more expensive they are going to get, the more costly they are going to become. And the longer we wait dealing with these problems and handling them, then all the kind of tirades that we hear from the First Minister and others about the efficiencies of this government, will simply go up like so much cotton candy. They will simply not be real because you're not really being cost efficient, what you're simply doing is forestalling needed programs in the future when they're going to be twice the cost than they are now. If you start putting them into effect, moderating them and modulating them according to your own pace, that's fine, but at least start something, get into the business, don't simply pretend that they don't exist or that somehow someone else is going to take care of them.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (j)(1)—pass; 2.—pass; (j)—pass; (k)(1)Salaries —pass — The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, would the Honourable Minister please explain — I note that the amount shown for the fiscal year just ended with reference to salary is \$623,600.00 The amount shown in last year's Estimates book was \$1,027, 300 which appears to be a decrease of roughly \$400,000.00. Could the Honourable Minister please explain where that difference of \$400,000 is contained?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I always find myself at some disadvantage in dealing with last year but in order to try to bring about that reconciliation for the Honourable Member for Burrows, he mentions a figure of \$1,912.3 and I believe the Correspondence Branch was included in that figure of some \$653.2. There was some advertising money, some 2.0 thousand plus one professional at 25.0 and less one professional 26.5, so if you take the subtraction of the correspondence branch and reconcile those two professionals, the one addition and the one subtraction, the figure comes to 1,255,600.00.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I want to thank the Honourable Minister for his explanation but I think, Mr. Chairman, that it should be pointed out for the record that if the Honourable Minister is having difficulty in reconciling this year's estimates with last year's estimates then he certainly can't blame us because it was he and his government that was responsible for making the changes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (k)(1)—pass; (2)—pass — The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, I believe in this area, Instructional Media Services, we have the departmental library, and I believe there is a very fine library in the City of Winnipeg. Would the Minister advise us whether there are regional branches of this library and if they don't exist, whether he would consider setting up regional branches of the Department of Education library. — (Interjection)— Well, such progressive communities as Brandon, Brandon East. First of all, I wonder if the Minister could answer the question. What is the situation? Is the departmental library only located in the City of Winnipeg? .

**MR. COSENS:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. EVANS:** Would the Honourable Minister give consideration to decentralizing some of the departmental library throughout regional centres of the province? I am not suggesting you destroy in any way, shape or form, or subtract or detract or cause to be deteriorated, the excellent library in the City of Winnipeg, but could the Minister consider or would he consider some type of regional branch system if you will, of the library because those teachers, unless I suppose they could subscribe or borrow books by mail or what have you but those teachers that live I would submit beyond a radius of 35, 40, maybe even 50 miles from Winnipeg, are at a disadvantage. And it's one thing to getting your

car and drive to Winnipeg in an hour and go to the library or take a bus, it's another thing if you happen to be teaching in Swan River or near The Pas, or whatever. If you're in Virden or Melita, you know, if you're a teacher out there you just don't have the same opportunity, you don't have the same access to this library. So I would like to know whether the Minister would consider some sort of a decentralization thrust so that these materials would be more accessible to teachers who are beyond say a radius of 30, 35 miles from Winnipeg.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Brandon East, an attempt has been made through the years and I think with some success to meet the type of need that he's talking about for teachers who find themselves not within driving distance of the City of Winnipeg and I have found myself in that category and the attempt that has been made to meet that particular kind of need is a toll free line where they can phone in to the educational library and particular titles are mailed out to them. And people who are doing research or who are doing particular papers or perhaps taking correspondence courses or who wish to prepare some particular type of project, utilize this type of service. The suggestion that he makes on branch libraries or at least some dispersment of the total number of titles within the educational libraries of the province, I am sure this has been considered in past years and probably given careful consideration. I would be willing to undertake consideration of your suggestion.

**MR. EVANS:** Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to hear the Minister's words that he would consider this suggestion, and while I appreciate the advantages of the toll free service and so forth, there is no substitute for being able to peruse books and for being able to look at the books and examine them at first hand and make selections and so on. And I am glad to note that he agrees with me that those teachers who are not within easy driving distance of the City of Winnipeg are at a disadvantage compared with their counterparts who are within a reasonable radius of the City of Winnipeg.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** (k)(1)—pass; (2)—pass; (k)—pass; (l)(1)—pass — The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

**MR. BOYCE:** Mr. Chairman, this item is usually passed without much discussion, but I think the records should show that, through you, Mr. Chairman, I hopes the Minister conveys to the staff of this component, the appreciation of the people of the Province of Manitoba. It's a very low profile and the people who are employed in this particular program in dealing with students on correspondence courses, I imagine with very, very little recognition and while not having been trained in psychology, nevertheless they have done an excellent job over the years and I know some people who have taken courses from them. I don't know how many people have seen the lessons that go out and come back and are marked and if you pause for a moment to think of such things as mathematics and English, how difficult it is to encourage a person, yet offer constructive criticisms. And another thing, it's all written in excellent penmanship. I don't know how many of them are still around that seem to come from that school that took penmanship and took it with some pride, but they meticulously do their job and without much fanfare. I assume the modest increase that the Minister is asking for in this area will meet the demand, but nevertheless I don't think we should pass this item without expressing the appreciation of the House to the people that are involved in the delivering of this program with very, very little recognition, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** l(1)—pass. Resolution 44: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty — the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** I have one question, Mr. Chairman. Is it correct that there are no Capital expenditures in Resolution 44? is that right?

**MR. COSENS:** That is a correct assumption, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I had an enquiry during the dinner hour with respect to Resolution 44 which I was unable to answer. The caller had compared the Estimates for this fiscal year and the previous one, and looking at Program Development and Support Services, and I would imagine, Mr. Chairman, that whatever the Minister plans to do within the area that he likes to refer to as a new direction to education, a new thrust — No, I don't think he used the expression "thrust" — he used "direction," he used another expression which escapes me at the moment. Well, Mr. Chairman, so I looked at the Estimates Book and this item containing the whole host of programs within which — and I would think that if this Minister is going to bring about any change, that the change will certainly be reflected, or ought to be reflected most in the programs under this appropriation as opposed to some of the previous resolutions, General Administration, Statutory Boards and the Teacher Certification and that sort of thing.

Well, reading the explanatory notes about what Program Development and Support Services is all about, it reads as follows: Consists of activities aimed at providing support for the development of



educational programs including special assistance in the areas of française and children with learning disabilities. Additional means are made available for teacher upgrading, the provision of consultant services, instructional media, and development of educational opportunities for native peoples.

Mr. Chairman, if you are following me in the Estimates Book, you will have noticed that I had omitted only one phrase, "correspondence instruction," which was added in this year's Estimates Book, because I was reading from last year's Estimates Book.

So, really, the description of programs is exactly the same and once again I must ask the Minister, and he was asked yesterday by my Leader and this evening and no doubt this afternoon — could the Minister indicate some of the new directions that he intends to inject into his education program. When he spoke a few days ago about the education vehicle teetering on the brink of a ravine and about to go over that cliff, could he give some description of the route that it is headed on now because by and large, I have noticed, Mr. Chairman, and I regret that I was not able to be present during the debate of the first three or four items under this particular appropriation, but certainly from Vocational Education on, I did not detect any significant change in the government's Education Program. Really, Mr. Chairman, I must ask the Minister again, the people of Manitoba want to know, in what way is the Education Program being delivered by this government — how is it going to differ from that which was offered to the people of Manitoba for the past eight years?

The Faculty of Education student wants to know, the one who will be receiving his diploma within the next three weeks. He wants to know what sort of an education system he can hope to find employment in — or she. The high school graduate intending to enroll in the Faculty of Education wants to know, upon completion of the course of studies, what type of educational environment would there be employment opportunities. The parent of the child about to enroll in school next fall wants to know what type of an education program is that five-year old enrolling in kindergarten going to be enrolled. In what way will that program differ from the programs of past years?

So I think that the Honourable Minister owes it to the people of Manitoba, and certainly under this item where he can be very specific and precise and point out the exact differences and changes which during the past five and a half or six months he has brought about, and the changes that he is considering bringing about during the 11 months remaining of this fiscal year.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Would the Minister care to answer that or would you rather handle it under 1.(a)?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think that if the Member for Burrows had been here this afternoon, some of the concerns that he has would have been answered. Unfortunately he wasn't in his seat during the consideration of those topics. I would rather go into the philosophical area when we get into the 1.(a) category because I understand this is where it is most usually dealt with and I would be quite prepared to pursue it at that time and debate some of these philosophical issues with the member when we get to that point.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Resolution 44: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty — the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, I will try to restrain myself from becoming philosophical because I know that this is not the time nor place for it. But let me perhaps ask some specific questions of the Minister concerning the whole question of Curriculum Development. I guess that if there has been any particular hint of change in direction that he has suggested throughout is first that there will be a greater centralization and control over school boards in the development of curriculum, the development of program. Certainly that was the major thrust of the Task Force Report which I know we are not supposed to debate but it is the only time that we have to debate it. I would therefore put to him the specific question: Does he intend as part of his mandate to begin establishing more centralization within the Department of Education over the question of curriculum development? Does he intend, as a result of that, to establish, again as I believe he has been stated as saying . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order please. Curriculum Development has been discussed under 4.(b). If there is anything more under that, I would suggest that it be brought under 1.(a) Minister's Salary when that comes up.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, by Rules of the House, we are now discussing the total appropriation for Section 44. Therefore we have a right to raise questions about the overall program under this area of Program Development and Support Services and that is what I am attempting to ascertain.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSON:** On the point of order that you have raised, the manner in which the rules were structured were designed to provide an opportunity for those members who either were not here at a time a particular item was being discussed, or wanted to recapitulate, a time was provided for those members to do that under 1.(a). In the past it was not intended that we were going to be able to recapitulate every vote because to do that means that you are going to have repetition twice — you

are going to do it here and when we get to the first item you are going to do it again. What we were attempting to do when the rules were designed was to avoid that kind of repetition. Now, my honourable friend is either going to be here when the particular items are discussed, or he is going to have to wait until we get to 1.(a) and that is the proper time to recapitulate on these items, not on each vote as it comes up. That was never done in the past and what my honourable friend is doing now is embarking on an entirely new practice that in my view was never carried on in the last two or three years that the Estimates have been structured in the way they have and it was not intended as a part of our practices in discussing Estimates. They were designed to make sure that members would have an opportunity to recapitulate, but at the same time to avoid repetition.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, in dealing with the Estimates, as we approach each resolution, we go through it line by line and we attempt to limit our debate to that particular line. You, as Chairman, certainly do your level best to enforce that rule. But surely, Mr. Chairman, when you have called out Resolution No. 44, that at that point in time there ought to be an opportunity for Members of the Committee to debate Resolution No. 44 in total, not with particular reference to Item (a)(2) or (b)(3) of it, or whatever, but Resolution No. 44 in total.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Government House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSON:** What my honourable friend is doing is to deal specifically with Curriculum Development which is an item that was dealt with when we went through the vote. And I'm sure that is what the Chairman of the Committee has called his attention to.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** I agree with the Honourable House Leader about the line-by-line approach. What I was attempting to raise with this particular order was not a specific element but tried to ascertain from the Minister his total approach to this whole area of program development which he has indicated as a total thrust. I think it would be wrong for us to raise this issue line-by-line because it does indicate perhaps one of the few new directions or alternate directions that the Department of Education is going in. In terms of the overall development of the program, I want to know exactly how the Department of Education is proceeding in its relationship to the overall area of program development in the schools and the kinds of way in which they hope to administer and manage that. That is what I was doing.

If I made the error of using the word "curriculum" as opposed to "program," I'll correct myself but I was attempting to ascertain, really, the management approach that is now being used in terms of the relationship between the Department of Education and the individual school boards in relation to this general topic of program development.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would suggest that when I was listening to the line of questioning, that it seemed quite familiar to what I had heard before and rather than allow the repetition to carry on under this section is why I made reference that if you could hold your question until 1.(a), you would still have a chance to ask your questions.

Resolution 44: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$10,061,500 for Education - Program Development and Support Services \$10,061,500.00—pass.

Resolution 45, Clause 5. Community Colleges, 5.(a)(1) Salaries—pass — the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose.

**MR. ADAM:** On a point of clarification, under what item can we discuss the continuing education program? Would it be under this item or under Item 47.(f) The Parklands Continuing Education Program?

**MR. COSENS:** Community Education, Mr. Chairman, comes under 7.(f). The title of the appropriation is "Community Education."

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** 5.(a)(1)—pass — the Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, here again I would ask the Honourable Minister if he would indicate to the committee the new thrust and new direction that would be exerted by him and by his department in this particular area with reference to Community Colleges, because once again, when I read the first four lines as contained within the Estimates Book, it is identical to what appeared under the previous administration, with one change that we had made reference to, "and extension and community services," which was deleted. But the rest which applies specifically to community colleges is identical. So, really, that in itself does not enlighten the people of Manitoba to any extent as to the nature of this new direction in the operation and in the types of services programs that will be delivered by the community colleges. So would the Honourable Minister under the first item, under Division of Administration, which is the branch that is responsible for the overall operations of community colleges give us some indication of the nature of this new direction in which the

community colleges program will move during this year as compared with the previous years.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Burrows has a considerable obsession with direction and that is — I notice this is a concern of his in practically every area and that's certainly a concern that I would address myself to. I would suggest to the Member for Burrows that as far as new direction is concerned in the community college division that if he expects to find it in the way that the Estimates are set out that probably there would be no indication of any new direction there. I would suggest to him that if there is a new direction that becomes apparent here, it would perhaps be in the area of greater efficiency and at a higher quality of services.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Well, Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Minister states that I am the one that has an obsession about a new direction, but Mr. Chairman, it is this Minister who has used that expression on a number of occasions, both inside this House and outside in speaking to teachers, trustees and other groups, and those are two that I definitely know of, if the newspapers accounts are at least reasonably correct of what he had said. It is this Minister, Mr. Chairman, who appears to be obsessed with that expression and uses it time and time again, so he, being in the habit of using that expression, and in fact you will recall very well, Mr. Chairman, when the Honourable Minister, you know, compared the education program to an automobile, and you know he got into this automobile just at the nick of time and steered it in some other direction. Well, we want to know what direction it is that he steered it in and let him describe the course along which he is steering it.

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

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, once again to the Member for Burrows, I at no time can remember having made any statement that our community colleges would be heading in a different direction. If he can show me some indication where I have said that there would be some radical change in our community colleges, that we would be reprogramming them and changing them around, I would like him to be able to produce that statement. I know that this statement may have been made to trustees and some other people in regard to other aspects of the educational system but I, at no time, can remember having made that statement as far as the community colleges are concerned. I would like the Member for Burrows to tell me where I have made that particular statement.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I will be happy to. The Honourable Minister during the first 60 seconds of his introduction of this department's Estimates spoke of a new direction in the educational program that his government would be undertaking. And he did not exclude any particular branch of his department. He was referring to the Department of Education. At the present time, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education includes community colleges, it includes our public schools, it includes the University Grants Commission, Manpower Planning and Development and whatever else is contained within the Estimates. So, therefore, Mr. Chairman, in his introductory statement, having spoken of a new direction, we can only assume that he was making reference to the entire education program at all levels.

Now, the Honourable Minister without Portfolio, No. — which one? . . .

**MR. JOHNSTON:** I don't really care if you don't remember my name.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** . . . who recently said he has a department and it surprised us, when he made reference to wanting to check something with his department because —(Interjection)— The Honourable Minister responsible for MHRC is attempting to speak from his seat again as he is accustomed to, and I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, that you are not paying any attention to him.

But, I must say to the Honourable Minister, that when he spoke in introducing his Estimates, and in making reference to a new direction in the education program, he did not exclude any program within his department, so one can only assume that he included it all. So, therefore we certainly would appreciate knowing what new direction, new thrust will this Minister exert in the education program as it relates to the community colleges.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** May I draw the members of the committee's attention that the item that we are dealing with is Community Colleges, and I fail to hear the word raised in the last few comments that have been raised back and forth. We are dealing with Item (a) Salaries.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I am sorry, I will make myself clearer. And I'm sure that if you will check Hansard whenever it's published, you will find that the last two words of the statement that I concluded making just before I took my seat, were the words "community colleges."

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, it's new directions that the Member for Burrows is after and I would suggest to him that in the community colleges as they respond to the needs of the labour

market and the needs of society generally that they are constantly moving in new directions and I would assure him that we will be following those new directions as we proceed along with the community college program.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Will the Minister be good enough to indicate to the committee, what was it that he had found within the community college program which struck him as being on the verge of disaster because you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that he spoke of getting into that education vehicle and grabbing hold of that steering wheel, and avoiding the catastrophe by steering it onto some course unknown to us. So, would the Honourable Minister please indicate what was that catastrophic state of affairs that he had found the community colleges program in as of six months ago, namely on October 24, 1977?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I think to put the Member for Burrow's mind at ease, that if he feels that statement was all-encompassing I would certainly like to clarify the matter with him. I was not including the community colleges in that particular statement at all. On the brief association that I've had with the community colleges and their operation, I find little that I would take any umbrage with at all. I think they have been offering a very excellent program to the children of this province over the years since their inception and if this is the particular statement that is upsetting the Member for Burrows, I would reassure him that the community colleges as far as I am concerned, do not fall into that category where I would feel that there would need to be any great change in direction at all other than the type of changes that I suppose we all accept as absolutely necessary in any system that is changing along with the society in which it exists.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that the Honourable Minister wouldn't want to leave a cloud hanging over various other programs within his department and he would want to complete the statement which he had made when he had indicated that that did not apply to community colleges. Then I am sure that he would want to tell us and I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that you would allow the Honourable Minister that latitude, by taking a moment or two to indicate to the committee which particular branches of his department that statement did in fact apply to.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Members of the committee again, let's refer to community colleges. We are not dealing with all facets of the Department of Education. If the members will bear with me, we are dealing with Community Colleges, (a)(1) Salaries, \$962,400.00. Please deal with that matter. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I will be conscious of a need to refer to specific community colleges, and I will refer to the Minister's own report, page 19, which indicates: "The major review of programs was conducted during the year on community colleges. They were going to develop new approaches to planning, discuss how the colleges could be better articulated programs, report where the recommendations had gone to the Deputy Minister for study. The number of recommendations will be utilized to develop operational long-range plans for the colleges."

Now we hear there are no such plans, recommendations or anything of the like. I would like to know therefore, Mr. Chairman, what has happened to this major thorough ongoing review of college programs, its recommendations. Did the Deputy Minister hide the report? Or in fact, has the Minister read it? Does he dismiss it, or what does he intend to do about it

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

**MR. COSENS:** I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Fort Rouge, that these are the very directions that I referred to earlier in talking to the Member for Burrows, when I said that the community colleges would be attempting to follow those directions that respond to the needs of the society in which those institutions exist, and to the labour requirements and the employment requirements of that particular society. The topics that he refers to certainly focus on that particular area.

**MR. AXWORTH:** Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister would let us in on a little secret. Is he is talking about these great societal changes that are overwhelming us? Could he let us in on what they are? And could he let us know therefore how the community colleges intend to respond to themn, ? I mea when the Minister gets up and says there are great changes going on in society and the community colleges are going to respond to them, that sounds like the opening line from Genesis, you know, that there is going to be a great change in the world. I think the Estimates are designed to give us a little bit more information than simply to provide us with some impending sense of Armageddon or something, that we need to know what were the basic findings of that review of the community colleges — how, point No. 1, did the committee that reviewed these programs assess what the changes would be? Are we going to have to change the apprenticeship programs? Are we going to have to change the vocational training? Are we going to have to introduce new fields? Are we going to get the work study program? What is it that the committee found to be the changes that should take place? What kind of recommendations came forward, and to what extent is the Minister — has he

been prepared to enunciate or accept these recommendations; perhaps he will let us know exactly what they are. Please, Mr. Chairman, no more great societal changes. Can we get back to community colleges?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I believe the term "great societal changes", are the words of the Member for Fort Rouge. I didn't say "great societal changes". I said changes in society that require changes in the community college programs, and that is what the planning and devaluation department or the program department of the colleges is all about. That is Item (b) — if the Member for Fort Rouge wishes to get into that now, we can look at some of the recommendations that would come up under that particular area, but I thought we were still on (a) Division Administration, Mr. Chairman.<sup>3</sup>

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm not going to be difficult as to where we discuss it, I simply want to know what happened to it, and if the Minister doesn't — you know, I mean, if he wants to discuss the changes in society as opposed to great societal changes, that's his option to do so. I would simply like to know if he wants to discuss it here or later — what in fact of that review of the community colleges enunciate, what recommendations were put forward; what recommendations does the Minister intend to implement in terms of these community colleges under the review undertaken by his own department? That's all I'm asking and perhaps we could get an answer to it.

**MR. COSENS:** I will be very pleased, Mr. Chairman, to answer that question in detail if the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge can wait till we get to (b) on Planning. I'll certainly be pleased to accommodate him.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Minister and the Committee for their consideration that that item should be under Salaries. The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** You know, we could start on this and then somewhere halfway . . . I suggest that it being 10:00 o'clock, the other committee is risen, I move the Committee rise.

**MR. JORGENSON:** I think that we can carry on a bit further. I don't intend that the House should sit as late as it did last night, but I wonder if we could sit until about 10:30?

**MR. MILLER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, in that case, if that's the desire . . . Firstly, this is one area where there is capital and will the Minister as he has indicated inform us what the capital amounts are, the amounts actually expended, the amounts authorized or allocated, and I assume you'll have this information for us because there has to be capital in this group?

The other question I have, are there any grants in lieu of taxes referred to in the reconciliation page of \$6.5 million transferred to Municipal Affairs, is any of that from the community colleges? It's all universities, I see. The grants in lieu of taxes paid for community colleges — are they paid through the department? They aren't paid through the department, they never were. Okay. And we get that out of the way.

Then, is the Minister in a position now to give us some of the capital figures?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I would rather bring those forth tomorrow, if that's all right with the Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we have a slight problem here. The Minister, I know, would be anxious to proceed from one item on to the next before 10:30, but bearing in mind your admonition that since this item has to do with community colleges that we would be well-advised to stick to community colleges. But I couldn't help but notice, Sir, last evening when I spoke, I think at some length on several occasions last evening on these Estimates, the Minister intimated that with respect to the generality of the philosophy of education, and more particularly with respect to the method and mode by which our school system was proceeding, that the results were gratifying enough, impressive enough, and therefore it left one with the impression that it must be in some other part of education, some other domain, probably in our post-secondary institutions or in our community colleges that the greater malaise lies. Because surely there must be somewhere in this department that we can ascertain from the Minister where lies this great sense of dissatisfaction that was uttered so glibly at the time of the last election, and prior to that. The Conservative pamphlets, in the last election, make it clear that, in their opinion, there was need for new direction, new sense of direction, and that may be. But now then is our opportunity to ask what precisely is that new sense of direction — if not in our elementary and secondary schools, then in our community colleges — but somewhere there must be some sense of new direction which they are now ready to articulate, because if that is not so, then what were those statements in the election pamphlets all about, or are they to be now simply ignored as having been so much sound and dust, signifying nothing?

I am trying to evoke a response. I indicated last night from the Conservative pamphlets that there was some indication by the Conservative Party that our educational system needed a new sense of direction, significant changes with respect to administrative procedures, and if it is not in respect to the generality of our primary and secondary school system, then presumably it has to do with our community colleges, but somewhere there has to be some indication of something tangibly and significantly different. I'd like to know what it is?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, we are discussing the community college division at the time, and I think as I answered to the Member for Burrows, I would reiterate for the Leader of the Opposition, that in the area of community colleges, I think there has been very little criticism forthcoming from the Progressive Conservative Party, either in the past or in recent months, or in fact from my person at any time. As I've mentioned to the Member for Burrows, I feel the colleges have been supplying a very very valuable educational service to the people of this province, and will continue to do so, and I believe will increase in importance as the demand for the particular types of training that they offer increases, and as we move into a more technical society, and a society that requires more of the type of skills that are being offered by the community colleges, I am sure that importance will mount.

I am also sure that members opposite will share as much pride, as we do, in the achievements of those colleges in our province. I believe they rank well with similar institutions across the country and are well regarded by people who hire the graduates, and I really can come forth with no criticism of the community college system at this time, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. SCHREYER:** Well, Mr. Chairman, it is of course impossible and indeed pointless to try to evoke from the Minister a statement which he doesn't care to make, and frankly I am quite pleased that he should see fit — I heard him the first time, a few minutes ago — I'm pleased that he should see fit to indicate that insofar as he can tell to the best of his judgment and perspective that our community colleges are there to carry out a very important function in our educational system in preparing young people for the acquisition of skills both to their own individual benefit and advantage, and to those of society as a whole. Certainly it is almost trite to say that as our country becomes more industrialized, there is a need for greater emphasis by degree each year, on providing current up-to-date familiarity on the part of the young people with changing technology and the changing skills that go with it.

I would like to come back to that in just a couple of minutes, but I must pause now to say that if obviously the Minister does not find cause for taking any umbrage with the operation and scope of our community colleges, then it must be with respect to some other part of our educational system, and as I tried to evoke last night some indication, some greater definition and precision as to precisely what areas in education have given cause for umbrage and criticism, I was unable to do so last evening.

Now, somewhere during the course of the next few days, I serve notice that I really intend to evoke a response, because I for one do not take lightly the dissemination of pamphlets by the thousands which talk in terms, not talk but which refer in printed fashion to our educational system requiring a new sense of direction. I really must find out what that new sense of direction is. Clearly, it has nothing to do with our community colleges.

Now with respect to our community colleges, even though it is apparent that the Minister of Education is well inclined and well disposed towards them, and to their relevance, I suggest to him that he may well want to take under very close advisement and scrutiny such questions as whether our community colleges are receiving proportionately adequate consideration or relative to other post-secondary institutions, and I refer rather more specifically to the universities themselves. It is suggested by some, who have looked closely at post-secondary education, that while we may not be in any serious imbalance, that there is rather a danger that we could become so, because while we have made fair progress — I'll put it that way — with respect to the establishment of and expansion of community and technical colleges, the simple fact of North American life that we must face is that sociologically and in terms of social attitudes, there is still a large social stratification facing those who graduate from community colleges as opposed to those who graduate from our professional faculties of our universities.

Now the question of social stratification is one which we tend to want to put to the side because we like to think, I daresay, on both sides of this House, and for many years, that North America was less of a socially stratified society than that of, let us say the United Kingdom, or parts of the old world. But indeed when one looks more closely, even at North American society, we see that indeed with respect to those who graduate with professional sheepskins or degrees, that there is somewhat of a totally different social ambience, as compared to those who carry some of the most necessary of technological and technical and vocational mechanical skills that our country really needs considerably.

So it is rather an irony that in many ways and on more than a few occasions, we find ourselves having to look to the induced immigration of people from other parts of the world because we are short, at one time or another, of technical or mechanical or vocational skills because, in this country, historically for sure, but even in very contemporary times, we just have not had an adequate apprenticeship training and/or vocational or community college program.

Now we've made great strides since 1966 or thereabouts in Canada, but that doesn't mean to say that we have really plumbed the depths of this problem and it's not one that can be solved by any kind of simple administrative actions, but the problem of the relative social values that are attached to professionalism versus technical and vocational trade skills.

In the long run, there could be no doubt that from time-to-time a country's balance as between the numbers graduating in professional skills may at times be well matched, at times it may be excessive in relation to need, while at the same time we have been hurting or lacking in terms of numbers of young people coming out of post-secondary institutions with well-advanced good qualifications in the trade and technical skills. Sure, we can do quite a bit and we have with respect to expanding

physical plant, taking on additional instructional staff, making sure we change and up-date the nature of the courses offered so that we do not end up with anomalies where we are graduating more people in given vocational skills than the economy needs. I think we've done a fair job of avoiding mismatching although cases of mismatching have occurred from one year to another. But that kind of mismatching I regard as a lesser problem than the mismatching that has occurred as between numbers of persons graduating with professional and liberal arts educational background at a time when our country may well be actually hurting a bit because, despite our best efforts, we haven't been graduating enough millwrights, precision lathesmen, precision this, and good precision mechanical that.

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, certainly I don't rise to debate the statement of the Leader of the Opposition. I find that he has certainly stated a condition that exists in our society, and one that has existed for some considerable time. The only remark that I would make in this particular area is that I think there are encouraging signs that that type of imbalance that he mentions between the university professional trained graduates as opposed to the graduates of schools of technology is starting to disappear, and there is a gradual movement in the other direction. I think that is encouraging, and supposedly as the years progress, we will see a greater increase in this area. I think we are looking at attitudes that have been with us for some time. It takes a great deal of time to break down particular attitudes and I believe that the current situation in our country as far as unemployment is concerned and so on, will in itself cause a breakdown of some of these attitudes. Of course there will be a time during these Estimates where we can get into the discussions that pertain to the university situation and I won't go into that at this time. But I would suggest that the training one receives at university is not always directed towards a particular job but in some cases is education for its own intrinsic value and the idea that has started to prevail and probably has prevailed for some time and I suppose governments of every kind have been guilty of this — I can remember some years ago where we had media advertisements that said that each year you stay in school will mean X number of dollars more in your income and each year you go to college will mean X dollars more. That type of promotion resulted in the feeling and the idea and the attitude that university training was certainly directed towards jobs and employment and that the other aspect that universities address themselves to was certainly underplayed. Perhaps we are suffering from some aspects of that particular attitude that has been fostered over the years.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Burrows.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, with reference to Division Administration, could the Honourable Minister assure the Committee that when the tuition fees for the certificate courses will be increased from \$7.00 to \$27.00 a month, which is a 286 percent increase, that this increase will not in any way adversely affect the recipients of Manpower Training Agreements, that whatever allowance they are presently receiving, that they will continue to receive them but that this increase will not be paid out of their own pockets.

**MR. COSENS:** I believe the amount, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Burrows mentions is \$21.00, not \$27.00.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** I'm sorry, was it announced already as \$21.00?

**MR. COSENS:** The Member for Burrows mentioned \$27.00.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** A \$21.00 increase? Does the Honourable Minister mean a \$21.00 increase?

**MR. COSENS:** The Member for Burrows, I believe, stated that the increase was some \$27.00.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Mr. Chairman, I really meant that the fees would be increased from \$7.00 to \$27.00. I wasn't aware that they were going to be increased, in fact, \$1.00 higher, from \$27.00 to \$28.00.

**MR. COSENS:** To clarify that issue, it increased from \$7.00 to \$21.00, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. HANUSCHAK:** Very well, then from \$7.00 to \$21.00 which is a 200 percent increase and not a 286 percent increase as I had indicated. —(Interjection)— Well, per month, and it works out, if it is a 10-month course, it works out proportionately on an annual basis.

Could the Honourable Minister assure us that this would not adversely affect the recipients of Manpower training allowances in the sense that this increase will not have to be borne by the students themselves but that the province, the department, the Minister will negotiate this with the Federal Government?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am rather surprised that the Member for Burrows is not aware that these people would not be affected by this tuition change. The Federal Government buys places and training days so this certainly reflects in no way on any fee increase.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister is right in that regard but my concern is this: With the increase in tuition fees which the Federal Government will now be purchasing, the spaces that they will be purchasing, they will have to pay more for those spaces and since the Federal Government has already announced a three-year commitment in the amount they are going to be purchasing — I believe it is \$12 million this year — to the extent that the tuition fee is increased by approximately \$16.00 a month for 10 months, \$160.00 — will that not limit the number of placements that can be made by Canada Manpower? Because if they have fixed the amount that they are going to be spending, in total, and if the tuition fees have been increased, they are obviously going to be able to place less students. And that is my concern, that because of the tuition fee increase which the Federal Government will pay, because they have a ceiling on their commitment, and we know what that is now, I believe \$12 million, that in fact less students will be sponsored by Canada Manpower and therefore less students will be able to take advantage of the necessary training, whether they be underemployed or unemployed and require upgrading.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Seven Oaks, I would suggest again that what the Federal people are buying are training days and this will to no extent be reflected in the fee increases.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, when they buy training days, do they not then pay the tuition to Red River Community College or to any of the colleges? Isn't that part of the training days? When they are buying training days, they are paying the cost for training those students, which includes the tuition fee. Am I right in that or not?

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I think I understand what the Member for Seven Oaks is alluding to here and of course what they are doing is buying training days that amount to so much cost per day. Now, if he is suggesting that an increase in tuition fees would in some way increase that cost, then I would suggest, no. It will increase the cost that the provincial entry students would pay but certainly not in this regard.

**MR. MILLER:** So the Minister is saying that even though the increase in fees has been announced to \$21 per month, that in fact this will not reduce the number of students which Canada Manpower can place within their announced budget of \$12 million and that tuition fee increase doesn't affect the Government of Canada at all. So the increase in tuition fees doesn't cost the Federal Treasury a nickel, it doesn't make any difference to them whatsoever.

**MR. COSENS:** It's my understanding, Mr. Chairman, in reply to the Member for Seven Oaks that this will not in any way decrease the number.

**MR. MILLER:** So the increase in tuition fees will simply affect the Manitoba students who go on their own and will simply pay the considerable increase of about 200 percent or more, from \$7.00 to \$21.00. Is the Minister not concerned that in community colleges, those students who are seeking this one year course, the certificate courses, that that kind of fee increase from \$7.00 to \$21.00, which is a 300 percent increase, is in fact going to inhibit many students from going, and even though there is the Student Aid Program, which has already been announced and which has been established, that this will inhibit many students from going because of the fear that they haven't got the funds, and/or that the threshold in order to earn a bursary is now so high that they are not going to qualify. And is he not concerned that he's going to dissuade and discourage a lot of students from going to community college that did go to the community colleges before because of the excellent programs and the feeling that the community colleges of Manitoba certainly were offering the kind of programs that led to jobs and the kind of people that are attracted to these courses are those who are job oriented and are skills oriented. Is he not concerned that the 300 percent increase is a pretty vicious increase in one year?

**MR. COSENS:** Well, Mr. Chairman, I would mention to the Member for Seven Oaks that these fees bring the community colleges in this province in line with our sister provinces in the fees that they are charging, and I don't think that they have noticed any significant drop in enrolment and I would suggest to the Member for Seven Oaks that in relation to the cost of other educational institutions, that these fees are not out of line at all.

**MR. MILLER:** Mr. Chairman, I get a kick out of his argument, "It brings us in line with. . ." You know, we were ahead and I wanted Manitoba to stay ahead and to say that he hasn't seen a significant decrease elsewhere in other provinces, is no way of measuring because they didn't have these low fee structures that we did, and there is no way of measuring the mix of kinds of students that go to the community college when the fee was \$7.00 a month versus a fee of \$21.00 a month. So to say that's in line with other provinces, is no argument as far as I am concerned. I feel the imposition of this kind of very severe increase aimed at an element that need the community colleges desperately, is going to discourage and inhibit, and it's going to make it in some cases almost impossible for certain types of students to go. There is always going to be students going and because they have always had more applications than they have had spaces for, and certainly they will be able to fill their school. But I am



wondering about the mix of students. We were proud of the fact that the community colleges we had were able to attract into those schools, people from every walk of life and from every age group. And my concern that I am expressing is that we are now going to discourage that and what I would hate to see happen is the community colleges end up again as the universities are for those who are better off, the community colleges start moving in that direction, aiming for the middle class and satisfying the middle class needs, rather than hitting that part of the population which really needs this kind of educational facility and has in the past benefited most from this kind of facility.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, just in line with the same question about the deterrents that students who are eligible for community college training are facing because of the fee increase. Has the Minister at this stage undertaken any commitment to begin supplying the housing needs of those students? I think he has in his possession a report that was drafted by the Red River Student Association<sup>8</sup> which point out that one of the major problems facing community college students is the lack of proper housing, particularly in areas adjacent to the college because of its location out in Keewatin. There is virtually no housing in that immediate area that's available to them, so many of them are forced by necessity to travel long distances with a shrinkage of all other kinds of available housing for students because there is no one building or supplying housing in that area. Their recommendation is obviously that the Department of Education in combination perhaps with Manitoba Housing and with the community college itself, begin to engage in some programs to supply housing as a way of relieving the pressure on pricing and costs. And I would be interested in knowing if the Minister has made a decision to provide or to at least to encourage his colleague, the Minister of Housing, to begin moving into this area in providing some form of housing for students in the community college area as well as the university areas, which seems to be one of the ways of relieving the kind of cost pressures that they are beginning to face.

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I can say to the Member for Fort Rouge that this is an area where I have considerable interest as well and I have received the housing submission from the Red River Community College students, and we have been carrying forth some study in that area looking at the different alternatives that might be considered and might be pursued. We have had no amount of success at all through the Federal Government in this area, in fact I believe the students had written three letters and have not even received an acknowledgement of those letters in the federal area. We are now pursuing alternatives at the provincial level and I would hope that this whole area of student housing is one that we will be able to resolve in the months ahead. Mind you, I would add the proviso that when I say months ahead, I don't put a deadline on it because I realize that in talking to the students and people involved in this particular area, that this whole problem has been one that has been under consideration for some time and a hasty solution is one that may or may not be forthcoming. But I can assure the Member for Fort Rouge that we are pursuing the alternatives at this time.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, again, I find the Minister's sentiments welcome. I would provide as a way of advice that the new housing program that the Federal Government has provided which his colleagues as yet have not been prepared to acknowledge exists, but does, will enable them to provide housing at a 2 percent interest rate for students. I would suggest that the sooner that he and his other members and colleagues in the Treasury Bench get their act together, they can start providing housing. Construction could probably start this spring if they so desired. If they were less interested in calling Federal-Provincial conferences and more interested in building housing, then they could take up that initiative and begin moving on it.

So I would suggest that the answer is now available if the Minister wants to use it. It would be simply a matter of providing the kind of front-end support from the department, primarily in the terms of initial investment capital to provide that equity to get it started and get the motion moving.

In combination with that, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to put forward the following proposition, perhaps question, to the Minister. In the Housing Study that was provided by the Community College students, one of the interesting facts that came to life was that a substantial number of the students involved are now travelling very large distances to come to the Community College. It leads one to again perhaps speculate that there may be need very soon for the construction of a new community college facility in the City of Winnipeg, perhaps in the south or the southwest corner of the city to provide for those needs, either in terms of a satellite of the Red River Community College which would provide specialized programs, or to set up its own particular facility. I take into mind, and I think it was the Leader of the Opposition who talked about the OECD Study at some length in the past two evenings, pointing out that within five years the great problem in Canada is not going to be unemployment but it will be a lack of trained skills. Again, it is a matter of anticipating those needs.

I wonder if the Minister could indicate whether there is any inclination at this stage to begin looking at the planning and development of alternative community college facilities in the city so that the one facility which is now working at capacity in its own location could be decentralized to some extent and provide for a more balanced approach, particularly if you look at the population growth in the City of Winnipeg — it is primarily in the south and the southwest corners of the city where the population is growing and extending — whether he would be prepared, as part of his new look and his new thrust, to look at the possibility of providing for relocation of a satellite system or beginning the planning of a new community college site on the south or southwest corner of the city?

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

**MR. COSENS:** Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to hear that the Federal Government has a housing plan that may accommodate the students' particular needs. As I say, in three letters that they had forwarded, they had not even received an acknowledgement and I find that somewhat strange. However, there may be some explanation for that.

The other point that the Member for Fort Rouge brings forth, the future planning to supply community college needs, I think is one where there have been discussions under way but I can inform him at this time, certainly no concrete plans for the future have been forthcoming. It is an area that we have to continue to monitor and as the demand increases to the point where I think it would validate or suggest that further construction be considered, then I would suggest that we would be carrying it forth as soon as the demand indicates that the need that such a type of structure is necessary.

**MR. AXWORTHY:** Mr. Chairman, just one final comment in that area. Without necessarily advocating brand new construction, a thought struck me that we could perhaps combine Committee meetings with the Minister of Public Works next time around and suggest that if he wants to look for a use for his Public Works garage, he might find a good use for it in terms of providing that empty space for facilities in the central part of the city for new community education programs. Rather than putting that couple of hundred thousand dollars in heating bills, he might provide a number of training programs and community education programs in that site alone. I would hasten to add that there are other kinds of sites available which are not being used that have spaces in them. I would say that it would probably be of substantial cost saving to the students involved if we were to be able to provide certain specified educational programs, sponsored or operated through the Red River Community College system, in the city in alternative locations throughout the city so to cut down on both travel time and travel expenses, as well as to cut down on the housing costs so that they could relocate in the areas where there may be housing available. I would really ask the Minister to consider that as an alternative.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Honourable House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Chairman, it looks as though my honourable friends are not prepared to pass this item yet so I wonder if the Committee shouldn't rise.

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

*The Chairman reported upon the Committee's deliberations to Mr. Speaker and requested leave to sit again.*

#### IN SESSION

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

**MR. MCKENZIE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rock Lake, that the report of the Committee be received.

**MOTION presented and carried.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Honourable House Leader.

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Burrows that the House do now adjourn.

**MOTION presented and carried** and the House adjourned until 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.