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of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Thursday, April 19, 1979

Time 8:00 p.m.

SUPPLY — AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee come to order. Continuation of Resolution 11, Item 6.(c)(1). The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to rise on a point of privilege. When we left Committee at 4:30, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture indicated that it was my statements that had indicated that we wished to nationalize the grain companies. Mr. Chairman, I made no such statements; I spoke about the railroad beds, and my statements on the railroad beds stand; but I made no statements with respect to the grain companies, whatsoever.

I wish that to be clear on the record, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Fine. (c)(1)—pass — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: The Minister, before we got up for the dinner hour, was having us believe that he would not want to see any of the rails continue, or something to that effect, where there was losses on branch lines. I would say that most of the branch lines, or perhaps all of the branch lines that were ever constructed were never intended to show a profit, were never able to show a profit, in my opinion. And he would have us believe that because they are unable to make a profit now, that that would be a logical reason to discontinue the lines. I would say most emphatically that, as far as I'm concerned, most of the branch lines were never intended to show a profit. If they could it was fine, if not, I'm sure that most of the branch lines were not intended to show a profit, and that is the reason, Mr. Chairman, that the subsidies were paid to the railroad companies.

By 1905, which goes beyond the Minister's time and my time as well, and I believe most of the people in this room, by 1905 more than 55 million acres of land had been so pledged to the railroad for the very reason —(Interjection)— well, it has to do . . . we are talking about the cost of transporting grain and the loss of branch lines. And the Minister said, before supper, that he didn't think that maybe we should continue branch lines if they were showing a loss, and I don't think that that's a valid argument, because they were never intended to show a profit in the first place. The proof right here is that 55 million acres by 1905 had already been transferred over to the railways. So I just can't accept the argument today that now these branch lines are not showing a profit and we have to do away with all of them, because they were never intended to do that in the first place. They were constructed to provide the service, to open up the country, to bring in people to come and live in those areas and pioneer the lands. That was the intent of expanding the railroads to all areas of the province.

Now one of the things that I think that the PRAC recommendations are saying is that . . . Another thing the Minister said before supper is that he wanted to provide good service. And by increasing the rates and showing a profit to the railroads that somehow we are going to get a better service. The Statutes of Canada today, it's under Section 106 and Section 259, that the railways are legally bound to provide service to wherever they have lines. Sections 262 and 266 as well, make the railways legally responsible for providing rolling stock, motive power and rail capacity to move grain to meet sales opportunity and commitment. This is by the law of the land that the railways are legally bound to do that.

But what has happened is that we have had a succession of governments that have allowed the railways to slough it off and not to live up to their responsibilities. So I want to put that on the record, Mr. Chairman, that we should not, that the taxpayer should not have to repair boxcars. We should not have to do that because the railways have taken depreciation on these boxcars. They have been subsidized on those lines that they have lost money on, and they have not used that money to keep those lines up to the original standards of 177,000 pounds. They have allowed the railways just to fade away.

As far as I am concerned, when I see that in my constituency we are going to lose two branch lines from Winnipegosis to Ste. Rose, I have to object most vociferously as I can and to criticize

the government for their stand at Prince Rupert for not speaking up in defense of the farmer here insofar as rail abandonment is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we on this side definitely do have to take issue with some of the statements that have been made by our honourable friends across the way. First would be that we are not doing anything about the retention of our branch lines. I think that we possibly have as good a program as has been created. It certainly is one, and is a program, and that is quite a lot more than we can say for our friends across the way when they were in government. I think that the first thing that has to be done, of course, is a retention committee has to be formed and that normally is done by the local people. Then, in co-operation with government, whatever assistance can be supplied is and we go from there. Most of the lines up for abandonment now, will be due in 1980. We do have a couple of years to work on them and consequently, I think that in many cases we will be able to retain many of these branch lines.

It's been quite a free wheeling business of rail line abandonment. The railways are getting a lot of the blame and the elevators haven't been getting, I don't think, quite as much as they should be getting. In many cases, they felt that if they could close their plants, why, there would have to be an amalgamation or a central delivery point. We're seeing the tip of the iceberg now, and the fact that in many elevators in my area last year, on towards the end of the crop year, there were line-ups of 40 and 50 trucks, and people were delivering about two loads of grain a day. Well, this certainly can't be tolerated and I think a concentrated effort has got to be made on all sides to do something to alleviate this situation.

We're quite aware also that in our areas, that we are going to have to develop cash flow. Many of our young farmers and anyone else that's in the business are borrowing up to any amount of money, and they're paying a very high interest on it. And when you start taking 13 percent off the top and probably a few other extra expenses thrown in that weren't figured in to start with, why, we find that farming becomes a very hazardous and dangerous occupation to become involved in.

And even the President of Manitoba Pool Elevators, Mr. Chairman, a statement in today's paper that the farm leader says that agricultural organizations should initiate negotiation and changes to Crowsnest Pass rates before a settlement is forced upon us by government. The Member for Ste. Rose stated that under federal statutes the railways were supposedly tied in to providing a service to the public, and that of course, they are attempting to do. But, Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that if any operation is operating a business that there is not sufficient income to warrant expansion of it, or keeping the rolling trade up to a standard, the service is not going to be supplied. And certainly, we can criticize, we can do whatever we like, but they can say, well, this is all we can do and therefore we are not getting the services.

I would also like to point out that we are paying between \$30 and \$35 million a year on demurrage charges. I think I would far sooner see this money, if it's possible at all, go into — I'm not saying to do away with the Crowsnest Pass rates, that definitely is not going to come about, I'm not supporting that position at all — but I am supporting a position that that money might have been far better applied to up-dating the inventory of our railroads possibly in whatever manner we have to do to ensure that we, at least, are showing that we are willing to participate in upgrading the thing, trying to get the thing up to a standard and supplying the service to us.

Now, we're committed at the present time to spend \$90 million out of Canadian Wheat Board funds to buy boxcars. I can't say that I'm overwhelmed with this approach. I don't agree with it at all particularly, but here again it is at least showing that we're willing to put our money where our mouth is and try to develop something to service our own industry and I think possibly it was a very good move and agree that we're running into a position now whereby there is a demand all over the North American continent for rolling stock. If that order possibly hadn't been placed when it was, it might have been a year or eighteen months waiting period to get the show on the road.

Another thing that we're going to have to take a look at in grain transportation and marketing, I think it is in a north-south trade whereby trucking is going to become quite an important factor in the movement of our oil seeds and our sunflowers, our rape, flax, etc., into possibly Duluth and Minneapolis markets for processing. I think also that we should at this time take a pretty good long hard look at what's going to happen in the producer-car arena. We find that in 1974-75, there were 96 producer cars applied for; 1978-79 there were 2,816. Now this is basically .03 to 1.3 percent of the total railway fleet. But I think this also shows something, Mr. Chairman, that hasn't really received as much attention as it should, and that is the fact that if our Wheat Board was doing the job that they are supposed to be doing, the services of producer cars would not be required

because there's no problem at all getting a producer car, making a direct sale to an eastern feeder and completing the transaction, etc. Now the Wheat Board have done a considerable amount of complaining about the fact that we're plugging the lines and we're upsetting the orderly market, etc., etc., etc., but I find that in many cases our elevators find it much more profitable to become full and then make no effort whatever to move that product, whereby someone that is doing their own merchandising and making their own deals is quite anxious to move a product and get the cash flow going.

I think, Mr. Chairman, this is about all I have to say at this time, but I do point out that if it wasn't for the oil seeds and the offboard grains to create a cash flow this year, agriculture would have been in a completely disastrous position because this is where the money is and I don't really think that our Wheat Board is doing the job. I would hope that more meetings will follow the type that took place here in Winnipeg, the one that took place in Prince George, that we will be in a position to have more storage and more facilities at Prince Rupert.

We're in a very unfortunate position that we do only really have one all-weather port at the present time and that is Vancouver, with the addition of Prince Rupert. I think that the potential is there and if we're going to captivate these markets and hold the ones we've got, we certainly have got to have co-operation from all forms of government and whatever other methods that have to be taken to ensure that we are going to deliver our produce I really believe that a start has been made. All segments of the industry have met and talked, which is always a good thing, and I think that we are on the right track and I think that our government has shown the leadership.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to hear the Member for Gladstone at least not supporting the Conservative policy of reevaluating the Crowsnest rates, that he doesn't support that policy by his statements today. —(Interjection)— So we don't know, at least he doesn't want them to go, so he doesn't support the review of them. But he certainly, rather than attacking the root of the problem of making sure that the service is provided, he is prepared to attack the orderly marketing system of grain as being part of the root of the problem, that they are not doing the job.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture, when we left off at 4:30 indicated that it was not their position to review the Crowsnest rates, that they were supporting the Crowsnest rate. Mr. Chairman, the minister should recall that the other three western premiers were totally opposed to the position of Manitoba, with respect to the review of the Crowsnest rates. All that one has to do is read the paper, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Chairman, Alberta Premier, Peter Lougheed and I quote from the Winnipeg Tribune, March 27, "Peter Lougheed and B.C. Premier, Bill Bennett echoed Mr. Blakeney's opposition to the proposed study of rates which were guaranteed in 1897 to the grain farmers in perpetuity by the federal government." Mr. Chairman, the Premier of Saskatchewan indicated and I quote, "The proposal by Manitoba disagrees with virtually every statement on the crowrates and grain transportation that Saskatchewan has ever issued."

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Manitoba, under this minister and the premier of this province certainly are prepared to place the interests of the railways ahead of the interests of the farmers of Manitoba. They are prepared to allow the review of the Crowsnest rates on the assumption that if a better system follows, that they are prepared to give it up, Mr. Chairman. That's what they have stated; that's what the premier has stated; that's what this minister has stated. Mr. Chairman, the minister tried to paint a red herring, that I was prepared to nationalize everything in the hope that service would be improved. Mr. Chairman, I did indicate what our position was and I indicated again, that the roadbed should become a public utility right across this country, so that transportation would be a national responsibility and should be used as a tool for overcoming regional disparities.

Mr. Chairman, as well, the making of the roadbed and making the roadbed to be able to be used by both railways, we should, as a national policy, eliminate competition as the principal governing present as part of a national transportation policy. That the roadbed and the railways, we, in Canada, should use that policy as the basis of providing a service and that all the people of this country should contribute to that policy.

Well, Mr. Chairman, you know, many areas in the transportation field are subsidized nationally by all taxpayers of this country. We have the marine transport revenues, and I am told that they pay only 20 percent of the costs. In other words, the rates on marine transport only pay 20 percent of the costs of the services. If the Conservative policy of user-pay were to be instituted, the road transport revenues, which pay only 64 percent of the road costs, you know, they'd have to be increased immensely. Air transport revenues, which pay only about 31 percent of the cost, they

would have to be increased immensely. Mr. Chairman, rail transport revenues pay only 70 percent of the cost. If your policy of user-pay and the re-examination of the crowrates — and that's really the user-pay — your position is really, if they are examined, they should be increased and the railways should get their moneys on a competitive basis and they should be able to supply the service.

Mr. Chairman, over the years we know that the railways have abandoned the principle of providing service. We know in many rural communities that the railways have deliberately moved away from the hauling of goods, because they could make greater profits on the main lines and they were not interested in the business on the smaller lines. And all that one has to look at, and I have several examples from my own area, in the community of Arborg, regularly a number of years ago, fuel was hauled into that community by the railways by the car; today, today there isn't one car of fuel being hauled because the communities and the dealers in fuel cannot depend on the service provided by the railways when the fuel is to be delivered.

The quarries at Steep Rock, we find today, that there about a dozen semi-trailers knocking the heck out of No. 6 Highway, hauling crushed stone approximately 200 miles, making two trips a day, when there is a railway going right into that quarry, Mr. Chairman. It is a deliberate move, over the years by the railways to neglect the service to those communities and to those industries, thus indicating that because they are losing money on those branch lines, that they are not profitable, they're just neglecting the service. And that is one of the reasons why they can show the losses, the huge losses that they show on the branch lines and it is really because of their neglect of service, Mr. Chairman.

But this government, this government in its position to the Western Premiers' Conference, has certainly placed the producers of grain in this province at a very awkward position on the basis of their proposals. And I believe that they will examine, as they've said, and they will agree, they will even agree with the statements that have been made by the President of Manitoba Pool. Like the Member for Gladstone indicated, the President of Manitoba Pool has indicated that we should renegotiate the Crowsrates.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the moment that you start indicating that you renegotiate you are prepared to move somewhere. I ask this Minister of Agriculture, can the farmers of this province, can each farmer of this province afford, off his income today, \$3,000 annually from the sale of grain the additional costs that he would have to pay if the Crowsrates were brought up to compensatory rates, because that's what would happen in the province of Manitoba.

You are prepared to study it. You indicated that we did nothing in terms of reviewing the costs that would be passed on to the farmers. Mr. Chairman, if it wasn't for the Member for Lac du Bonnet pushing you into that position by asking you what studies you have done since you have taken office a year and a half ago, you would not have appointed, I believe you would not have appointed the investigation by the professor from the University of Manitoba to do that, Mr. Chairman. That's where you have stood on this issue, and I believe that the farmers of this province, and of western Canada, will certainly be the losers on the basis of the policy that you propose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Highways.

MR. ENNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well Mr. Chairman, I can't let the Honourable Member for St. George read into the records such inconsistencies as he has just done. When we speak about the railways, we have first of all a very fine example of both public and private interests at work in the transportation industry here in this country of Canada. To accuse and to treat them both in the same light, you know, there's a basic contradiction. Is he saying on the one hand that the CNR as a public enterprise, owned and operated hopefully for the benefit of all Canadians, by Canadians, for Canadians, that it is oblivious to the needs of Canadians? I would expect that, of course, for him to make that charge to the CPR, but when he suggests that the CPR for the pecuniary interests of its shareholders is not interested in doing things that earn them a dollar, a dividend on their share, you know that's a basic inconsistency that the honourable member chooses to overlook.

And when he brings in such homilies as to why the CPR Railroad doesn't deliver fuel any more in tanker carloads to such a fine community such as Arborg, the fact of the matter simply is that you have a competitive trucking industry that has in many instances very successfully challenged some of the more traditional modes of transportation in this country; that you have the receivers of this commodity choosing to have a tanker truck come and roll up into their service lots and put the product right into their storage tanks on location, rather than having a duplication of that little trucking service, somebody pumping out of a tanker siding and then driving it up 2 or 3 miles or half a mile to the various service lots. This is what's happened. You know, I pass no particular

judgment about this. I pass no particular judgment as to whether it's right or wrong, but that's what's been happening in the development of a more modern sophisticated transportation system. And by the way, a system with all its faults, that nonetheless moves goods and services pretty well across this country.

There are anomalies, and grain being one of them, and the manner and the service afforded to farmers in the movement of grain is certainly one that this government and this Minister of Agriculture need take no back seat to. In fact, if ever there was a Minister of Agriculture to be accorded a particular accolade, it was at his insistence — and by the way, Mr. Chairman, I think it's fair to put on the record that it was the Minister of Agriculture that insisted on the January meeting. Sure ed by it's okay the Premier of this province, but it was the Minister of Agriculture that initiated and made this possible.

The Honourable Member for St. George can talk all he wanted about whether it's desirable to have trucks hauling crushed rock down No. 6 Highway or not. The fact of the matter is, as the Minister responsible for the Motor Vehicle Branch, you know, these trucks don't run for nothing. I charge them a pretty hefty fee in terms of licensing them to haul any given number of thousand pounds over a given piece of road. I have to accept the professional advice that my engineers give me that a load is capable of being carried on a highway that we've constructed. We put, from time to time, limitations as we are now putting limitations on our roads, because we think damage is being done and that is not in the public interest. But I suppose it points up the really considerable gulf in the distance between my honourable friend from St. George and myself and this government when he leaves the impression that economies aside, personal preference or convenience of trade aside, he wishes to have a government agency decide how goods should be delivered, on what basis, whether there are dollars to be saved or not, and just refuses to acknowledge what's happening in the development of a transportation system within the private sector.

Mr. Chairman, I happen to agree with part of his concern with respect to railways. I believe we should nationalize the railbeds, and I believe that we should treat the railbeds, we should treat the railbeds in the same way as we treat the National Harbour's Commission who provide and build the harbours and maintains them for all users, all shippers of grain by oceangoing or inner country boats. I believe in the same sense that just as we in the public provide and build the major international air terminals, whether it's in Winnipeg or Mirabel or Dorval or Vancouver, and then charge the appropriate fees for CP or Air Canada or Lufthansa or SAS or whoever, Pan Am to come and use those facilities I think there could be a great deal of rationalization of the total utilization of the investment within the railbed, if in fact we move in this direction. And I know the Minister in private conversation has had some discussions on this matter and has a fair amount of interest in this matter but that is a whale of a difference from talking about the kind of overall governmental control that the Honourable Member for St. George is talking about.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted the Honourable Member for St. George to know that there was possibly a reason why the Esso dealer or the Co-op dealer in Arborg chose to phone Paul's Trucking and have gasoline delivered to his yard rather than wait for it to come at a railway siding that he then has to find or keep and maintain a truck to transfer it that half mile from the railway siding into his facility. These are the kind of things that work themselves out so nicely and so economically in the private sector, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Just from one point for the committee's clarification sake, Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. George tried to leave the impression that the only reason we entered into any form of a study was because of pressure from the Member for Lac du Bonnet which is totally an absurd kind of a statement because we entered into an agreement with the —(Interjection)— well, Mr. Chairman, we entered into an agreement last September before any discussion was ever taken place from the opposition. Again I go back and say they had nothing on the record, there was nothing in the files to do with anything and all at once they felt there should be something, and because they asked us a question on it that we immediately jump to do it. In fact, the records will show that that question was asked some time when this session started, so in fact we were well on the way to having some type of information, some research work done far in excess of when they thought they had made great headway, and again they had eight years to do it and it seems that now because they ask us a question they thought we really jump to do that. Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify that for the committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Member for St. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the members of the government are debating some points that

need to be challenged and the Minister of Highways claims that the CPR has to be treated differently than the CNR and you know, I want to say to the Minister that this free enterprise entity the CPR has been taking subsidies from the Crown since the early 1900s and probably prior to that. And you know, what kind of free enterprise system is that? I wouldn't let that statement go unchallenged because they have been taking money from the Crown and not spending it on the roads that they are losing money on. They have been taking depreciation and subsidies on lines and the cars should have been repaired and up to scratch as they were intended. They should not be now saying that the Crown has to fix up these cars or repair them.

But the main reason I wanted to speak at this time is because of the comments from the Member for Gladstone in which he states that the Wheat Board is not doing a good job. And he repeated that several times. I want to say that I believe the Wheat Board is doing an excellent job, particularly since they have to deal with the railroad that doesn't move the grain. They have been doing an excellent job. In 1977 - 1978 the railroads didn't haul 2.9 million bushels of grain that had been committed and sold but never was transported to the terminal for export market. In addition to that, Mr. Chairman, they could have picked up another 3 million tonnes had the railroads been able to move that grain and the 2.9 million was not bushels, it was tonnes. So that's a lot of grain. That is why the farmers had to pay \$25 million worth of demurrage in 1977 - 1978.

Now to say, well we're going to try to get the grain there and there's no assurance.
—(Interjections)—

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

MR. ADAM: We really appreciate members getting into the debate, Mr. Chairman. We hear what they have to say but the fact of the matter is that the Wheat Board has been doing a good job. It could have sold close to 6 million tonnes more and delivered it if the railways would have been able to move it. The railways, by law, they have to provide rolling stock, motor power, to get that grain to market, and they haven't done it. At the same time they are taking subsidies right and left from the Crown and they have allowed the tracks to deteriorate — and the road beds. There is nothing wrong with the road beds and I'm very happy the Minister of Highways is supporting our position that he would be willing to nationalize the road beds. I'm very happy to hear him. At least if he can convince the Minister of Agriculture to that way of thinking, maybe we'll get somewhere. —(Interjections)—

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Swan River.

MR. DOUG GOURLAY (Swan River): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some comments with respect to the comments made by the Member for St. George with respect to the fact that our Premier had requested a complete study, not only of the crowsnest rates, but grain handling and transportation in general. The crowsnest was only a very small part of it. I think that this was a very timely suggestion. The Member for St. George really questioned this and also said that the Premiers of Saskatchewan and Alberta and I believe, B. C. had objected to this. I have just recently learned that both the Alberta and Saskatchewan governments have already got subsidies, just about finalized if they haven't been finalized, to help producers move grain. And if they have already got programs in effect, this would indicate to me that they have already taken an evaluation of, not only the crowsnest rates, but the total transportation system.

A MEMBER: It's already broken.

MR. GOURLAY: So why wouldn't why these provinces want to join in with the Province of Manitoba to look at the complete study of the handling and movement of grain. Certainly we, in the Province of Manitoba, cannot compete with any subsidy program that Alberta could offer the grain producers in Alberta or the grain producers in Saskatchewan. There's no way that we can compete. When we get into a subsidy program with Saskatchewan and Alberta, we're going to get into that kind of a game. And why wouldn't we, as three prairie provinces, take a look at this together? If further compensation has to be made, maybe this is what has to be done. But I think at the same time, we also have to get a guarantee from the railways that we will get good service if we do put more money into it. Heavens knows, we're already subsidizing in many areas now whether we like it or not. There's going to be more and more of this. So I think it was a very timely suggestion on the part of our Premier that we take a real good look at the movement of grain and the handling of grain at this time and especially the three prairie provinces should be part and parcel to any new programs that might be implemented involving further subsidies in grain transportation.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I'm glad that the Member for Swan River, Sir, was prepared to raise the issue of the grain handling and transportation. I would have to agree with the Member for Swan River if the Premier at this conference had raised the issue of grain handling in terms of providing better service in terms of handling, but he raised it in one context only; in the context — and I will read the paragraph from his submission again, Mr. Chairman. I'll read the paragraphs previous to that because I think it will give the Member for Swan River a clearer understanding of what the thrust of the Premier's of this province's t argument was. And I quote from Page 9 and 10 of his document, and that is his statement, not my statement, Mr. Chairman: "I believe we have a clear understanding now of the key role, the cost revenue shortfall experienced by the railways plays in the inadequacies of our grain transportation system. There's been a growing awareness of the significance of this cost revenue deficit in recent months. Discussions focusing on the needs for some form of compensatory rates are now being heard among producer and industry groups.

The major questions still unresolved is — who should pay such compensatory rates assuming as the Snavely Report finds there was agreement that they are required if we are to have a modern rail transportation system? There is agreement that the crowrate has allowed western agriculture to expand and prosper. It has permitted the farmer to stabilize a portion of the costs he faces. During the ups and downs of the agricultural cycle, the crowrate has remained constant. Over the decades the western farmer has enjoyed the benefits of the crow and I maintain that in no way can the farmers of western Canada be expected to give up those benefits unless it can be demonstrated that a superior system will result. All of those benefits, as well as the detriments of statutory rates must be specifically identified so we know that we stand to gain and lose in any discussions of compensatory rates." Unquote.

Mr. Chairman, the Member —(Interjection)—.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, would you not care to read on? Maybe you'd like to read it all into the record. Maybe that should be done.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister wants to read further, by all means. When he takes the floor, he can certainly read on from the statement and continue to make his contribution.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the Premier of this province did not talk about service. He talked specifically about compensatory rates and that the railways need revenue, that they are losing revenue, and one way to examine this, to overcome this revenue, was to look at the Crowsnest rates. That's what he was saying. And our position is, that in no way should the western producer be subjected to an increased cost in freights. He cannot now afford that cost. Little can he afford . . . and I ask this Minister whether he could tell us whether the producers of Manitoba, each producer could afford to pay \$3,000 more a year in increased freight costs on the basis of the grain that. . . —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Minnedosa talks about a mythical figure. Let him. . . Mr. Chairman, the Saskatchewan figure is even higher and our figure probably is higher than that. I'm using a very conservative figure, to put it mildly. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, if the Minister of Agriculture of this province has a figure . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. URUSKI: . . . that is more accurate than mine, let him put it on the record. I challenge him to tell the producers of the province that it will not cost every producer more than \$3,000 a year. Mr. Chairman, the producers require the transportation system but they cannot well afford to pay an additional \$3,000 a year, at least per producer in terms of the increased costs that giving up the crowrate is going to do.

The Minister of Highways, the Member for Lakeside, who has conveniently left after he made his remarks, knew so much about the Community of Arborg, and indicated, well, that the railways — in his usual red herring form, brought out the matter, the issue that the local bulk dealers would have to employ another truck to pump the fuel from the railway to the storage tanks. He should know the Community of Arborg a little better. I am sure he's been there a number of times. The bulk stations of every major oil dealer are located adjacent to the railway. There is no need to employ any other vehicles in the pumping of fuel from the cars to the railways.

The Minister of Highways indicates that yes, he doesn't mind the trucks using our roads and knocking the heck out of them, they pay enough licence fees, Mr. Chairman. What he conveniently forgets is that transportation by the railways is at least seventeen times as efficient than transportation by truck, that the use of our fossil fuels, the use of those fuels, and the cost of transporting by truck is so much more expensive than transporting by rail, Mr. Chairman, and the

efficiency of the specifics that I gave from the Community of Steep Rock is just in my mind with the railways being there, they do haul part of the time, but there still is about I believe, close to a dozen trucks trying to make two trips a day. That means an 800-mile, or close to an 800-mile trip per trucker a day hauling this crushed stone . to the, I believe, the foundries in Fort Whyte and other places in Winnipeg, which just doesn't make sense in terms of the service that is provided.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Highways does acknowledge that the public does support and does subsidize our roads, our marine transportation. He made note of our airports. It really does subsidize it, and at least he has a sense of indicating that a roadbed should become a public utility. But this Minister of Agriculture doesn't even want to even think about that, doesn't want to make our railways the same public utility that we make of the airports, and we subsidize the airlines by providing them those airports, our roads, we subsidize all transportation by providing those roads. We do not recoup enough revenues from our licence fees to pay for the construction of roads, I don't believe, I don't believe we do, Mr. Chairman, so that there is no doubt that this government and especially the Premier of this province, who, the Minister of Highways wants to give credit to the Minister of Agriculture for calling the meeting on transportation. I hope that they did resolve something and accomplished something by having that conference here. But I really think that most issues that they discussed at the conference were being dealt with and being persued by earlier conferences and earlier agreements and it was really, as was stated, an upstaging of the Minister of Transportation. And if that's not the case, let him tell me what was accomplished in addition to what was announced and talked about by all facets of the industry, some of whom were having a hard time to be here because of their annual meetings and the like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I go back again to say the purpose for the meeting that the Premier instigated, the meeting which was held in January because of the fact that the Wheat Board itself said there were some \$350,000 (sic) in lost sales because of the inability of the internal system to provide the grain for those markets; \$350 million (sic) worth of sales that were in fact lost. And when the presentation was made to the western Premiers, which the Member for St. George would like the people of Manitoba to believe that in fact it was our proposal to sit down and to jeopardize the position of the western farmers on discussing statutory rates, it just goes to show you how much he is out of touch.

There has been in fact indication from two major grain companies, presidents who are farmer organizations, who say exactly the same thing, that they do have to sit down and discuss the whole compensatory rate issue, with the whole thing brought into perspective. The things that were accomplished by the January meeting was the commitment from the Premier of Alberta to supply funding for expansion of the Prince Rupert port, the interchange of cars between two railroads, which would supply the grain to that new port, the fact that there had to be more upgrading of rail cars, the older type cars, and just firmly convince the people of Manitoba, as far as the Premier of Manitoba is concerned, that he is interested in the well-being of the rural people and that the total people in Manitoba, because of the effect the agricultural economy has on the well-being of all.

And the Member for St. George cannot dispute that, particularly when we take the position that there would be no changes agreed to unless there can be truly demonstrated, a superior system to the entire community, the agriculture community. That, Mr. Chairman, speaks for itself, particularly when the Premier, the Premier of Saskatchewan agreed that there had to be a looking at. And let's go back to that Premiers Meeting in Western Canada, which I was fortunate enough to be a part of. They sat down as premiers coming out of that meeting, saying that there had to be committee put together to discuss a common position of Western Provinces, after in fact, we had a federal minister, who after May 22 we hope will have some kind of long-term range policy that will effectively move our product.

And if the Member for St. George wants to discuss agriculture economics, you know, to bring him into the real world of what is taking place with farmers today in rural Manitoba. Let us look at the farmer who is sitting with possibly a section of land. He's probably sitting with . . . the average size of farms in Manitoba, are something like five to seven hundred acres, so we'll say that the average grain farmer probably has a six hundred acre base, of which would gross him a return of somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$100.00 an acre, which is \$60,000. Mr. Chairman, the interest on \$60,000 worth of grain sitting in his granaries is \$6,000 per year. It doesn't take too much of an economist to figure out. It doesn't take too much of a young, or of any kind of an agricultural economist, whether he have all the degrees in the world, or whether he's the grass roots individual, that a man that is sitting with \$60,000 worth of grain, sitting in his bins cost him \$6,000 a year

in interest. What kind of a picture is he trying to paint us, because in Saskatchewan — a figure he's pulled out of the air because he doesn't know, he didn't have any studies done, we are having studies done so we know where we're at, we know where the farmers are at and we can speak to that. Oh, we do know where we're at because it doesn't take much of an economist to figure out that if you have \$60,000 worth of grain sitting in your bin, if there's a market available to you sitting some place in another country, that that is \$6,000 per year it is costing you to have that grain in storage. On your farm, Mr. Chairman.

And he's saying, well, the farmer is losing \$3,000 because of some suggestions somebody's making. In fact, what is really happening is costing him \$6,000, Mr. Chairman. It is costing him \$6,000 to sit with his grain year after year, and having to go to the bank — and I would take from the Member for St. George's comments that he would far sooner see the young farmers of Manitoba pay high interest rates who are in the banking industry. He'd sooner support the banking industry; he would sooner support the banking industry with high interest . . . Mr. Chairman, can I have order, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, he would sooner support young farmers, people who are having to pay 13 and 14 percent operating money, who should have the money in their pocket today. They haven't got that money in their pocket today, Mr. Chairman, it is sitting in the granary. It is sitting in the granary because of the inability of the grain handling and transportation system to get that grain to the markets.

That, Mr. Chairman, is \$6,000 a year that it's costing them at 10 percent, not to have their grain moved. He's saying, because we want to discuss some change, it's going to cost them \$3,000, well it would appear to me if you put those figures together, he would be to the benefit of \$3,000, not to the loss of \$3,000, when you figure, Mr. Chairman, the fact that he is probably sitting with \$60,000 worth of grain, unable to be sold. And what is he doing, Mr. Chairman? He is growing crops and we are supporting that totally in our programs through the AgroMan Agreement. We are supporting him to produce crops such as grain corn, which in fact he can sell; he doesn't get a statutory rate for grain corn. What about the sunflower crops? Is he getting that, Mr. Chairman? No. He has to pay the full tariff. —(Interjection)—

Mr. Chairman, he says, "do what Saskatchewan does." So he expects that the province of Manitoba should further put a bandaid approach, and that's what it is, Mr. Chairman, it is a bandaid approach. He would sooner support the big grain companies that want to build crushing facilities. He wants us as a province to enter in paying subsidized rates for big companies to come in and crush oil seed in Manitoba and pay the subsidized rate, or the difference in the subsidized rate and the actual cost on processed goods in Manitoba?

Mr. Chairman, you know you have to come right back to basic economics, and that's where the Member for St. George really has a hard time doing. In fact, we have to look at the total grain handling and transportation system, the total costs that farmers are incurring today. They, Mr. Chairman, do not want to have their heads buried in the sand. They want to put their businesses on a sound business basis, and they want to get cash in their pockets. Because he's in the turkey business, Mr. Chairman, he should be the first one, he should be the first one in a livestock producing business to say, we want the same subsidy, we want the same subsidy, Mr. Chairman, for our raw turkey product going out of this province as the grain producer is getting.

But he's not saying that, Mr. Chairman. He won't come to grips with that. If, Mr. Chairman, you're going to subsidize the raw products out of this province, you have to subsidize the total agriculture products at the same rate, to create equality. And if you don't, Mr. Chairman, what you are in fact doing, what you are in fact doing in Manitoba and in western Canada today through the whole compensatory rate system, is exporting jobs, Mr. Chairman; exporting jobs to Japan, you're exporting jobs to all the countries, all the countries that probably don't need those jobs, because they do have, in fact, a real low rate of unemployment. But here we are, Mr. Chairman, sitting, discussing, in opposition, to a labour party, who feel that they are the great job creators, and they can come out and say, look, we want to support a program that builds a subsidy rate to export jobs out of Canada. That's what he's saying, Mr. Chairman, in saying we want to continue on and not even look at it. Not even look at the benefits to Manitoba. Not look at the benefits to the livestock producers, which he knows very well all the history of that.

Mr. Chairman, I think if we totally take hold of the problem such as has been recommended by the Premier — in fact not to look at the compensatory rate as far as taking benefits away from farm farmers — let's go through it again. We have a study taking place, to really let us know as government, and the farmers of Manitoba, really where we are at. And we are not going to give up any advantages that farmers have, in fact we are going to at least identify what those advantages

truly are. We won't accept anything unless it's as good as what we have or better at this point. We've clearly stated it; it was stated at the Western Premiers' Conference.

He, Mr. Chairman, in fact his party, at the position that they're taking at this point, would actually say that they support a program that would subsidize raw products such as rapeseed, where it should be processed right here in Manitoba, he would ship it out, where in fact if they processed that crop right here in the province, it would be job-creating, job-creating for far more people, but he can't understand that. He says it's costing the farmers \$3,000, or it would cost the farmers \$3,000 if any change were made.

Mr. Chairman, it's costing the farmers \$3,000 in interest today because their product is not moving. It's costing them \$6,000 if they're sitting with 60,000 bushels of grain. Because today, if you're a farmer, when you go out to put a crop in this year, it is going to cost you a lot of money, at 13 percent interest. Let's look at it. But he doesn't even want to look at that. He thinks we're sitting with farmers that are something, people that can't think for themselves.

Mr. Chairman, there is a feeling in the country that farmers are prepared to discuss the very things that we're talking about, the whole grain handling and transportation system. He, Mr. Chairman, will continue to bury his head in the sand and say that you can make more money with your grain sitting in the bins. At 13 percent interest. Well, we go to the Member for Ste. Rose who goes back and says, well, you know, we've had this since 1905, I think we've totally taken the leadership that has to be taken, we're in complete harmony with grain companies that are totally representing a large majority of the farmers in western Canada. They, Mr. Chairman, are not burying their heads in the sand, they're coming to grips with the real world. And we are not, in any way, jeopardizing the people of Manitoba, the farmers, in fact, what we are doing is prepared to work with them, to work with them, to come out, as far as they are concerned with a better, more efficient system of handling and transporting grain. That's the position we've taken, we'll support it totally, and I think that we've discussed this issue for several hours, we'll continue to debate it. Again, I don't want to keep going back to saying that he didn't have a study prepared, we all know that they didn't have a study prepared. They didn't have a study and they're actually proud of the fact they didn't have it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)—pass — the Member for Virden.

MR. MCGREGOR: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I guess maybe most everything has been said, but just, I know, as an active Chamber of Commerce member in my small community, we brought this question at different times to our dealers and ask, how come you're not using the box cars and getting the tanker? And they had a good answer, they were all bright beside the track, in the wintertime, it's 20, 30 below, a rail car came in, the dealer had to get out, hook up those pipes, do all the calculating, where if a highway tanker came in, he did all the work. And the local dealers just simply told us, there's no way we're going to bring it in. And they didn't.

I do think that transportation meeting here in January was a good one. It opened up a lot of things and areas that we, as individuals didn't know. And I can refer to the Palliser Wheat Growers Convention last early January in Regina, where Mr. Armstrong of the CNR stated where they could unload some 200 cars per day, and that particular morning he said there was in excess of 3,000 box cars loaded in the Vancouver area. And that would tell you, if not another box car entered B.C., they'll be three solid weeks catching that . . . And his main point was that the CNR really didn't need much more rolling stock, if indeed the turnaround time could be speeded up from 21 days, he believed it could be put down to 15 days. In other words, CNR could handle one-third more grain than they were.

He didn't blame anyone, but I think it was definitely left that the terminals were certainly not pulling their weight, because he did say they could have some 600 box cars workable space, they could load 1,000, have 1,000, but there isn't working space.

I personally liked the resolution that the United Grain Growers annual meeting last fall stating that, keep the present Crow Rate and rather than up the rate of the Crow Rate, have Ottawa subsidize the difference, rather than the complicated subsidy program out of Ottawa now, that if a branch line — and I can name one close to me that's ready for abandonment, and what did they do there all last year? — Spread ballast along there, at the taxpayers' expense. This other way, if they have to pay another 20 cents a hundredweight, that would come, and that, to me, was one of the fairer, it was getting the railroads more money in a direct way that all of us would understand.

So, I think that's it, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Amateur Sports.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of the things that has to be emphasized when we're talking about this, when 18 months ago this government took over and we started to

discuss different transportation problems within Manitoba and western Canada, dealing with grain, dealing with the problems of secondary manufacturing industries and food processors in the province, one of the first things that the Minister of Agriculture now and myself asked staff is, what effect, what impact would any changes in the Crow Rate have on the Manitoba growers. The answer was a very clear and short one, "gentlemen, we don't have any figures to be able to tell you what we're dealing with." So right now, what is happening is that the Minister of Agriculture, along with the Minister in charge of the Transportation Secretariat, is doing a study to see exactly what kind of an impact the Crow Rate has on the province of Manitoba.

You know, we can sit here, we didn't have any figure at all to relate to that particular problem. So I think that should be put on the record here. Saskatchewan has done elaborate studies on that, they know where they're going, Mr. Chairman. We had no idea. And I think that has to be laid on the table. We're doing some studies to find out exactly what impact the Crow is having on the province of Manitoba. So that's No. 1.

No. 2, in dealing with this whole problem, there has been developments in the last little while where both Saskatchewan and Alberta, if you talk specifically of the rapeseed industry, have been talking about subsidizing on the provincial level, the movement of certain commodities within that province. Manitoba, I think, is in the position of having to say that we cannot get into a transportation war with Alberta. There's just no way. If they want to start subsidizing the movement of rapeseed, I think that you're talking about is something that Manitoba, who just does not have the financial resources like Alberta, there is no way that we can start subsidizing the movement of different commodities on a provincial level like some of our richer cousins to the west can. And that's a very, very simple way of approaching it.

I think the approach that we've taken is a very rational one. We're going to have to see exactly how Manitoba is going to be affected by that, and we have made it very clear that any systems that we will be looking at will not be implemented until we know exactly what benefit and what drawbacks the Crow has had upon our system as a whole. So to say that all kinds of things are happening when we really are presently trying to solve some of the serious problems that are developing in the transportation field, I think is totally irresponsible. We cannot get into a transportation war on a provincial level. Transportation is a federal matter and has to be dealt with by the federal government, and I think that's the only place we can put it. We can't get into a subsidy program to go ahead and start subsidizing all kinds of different commodities moving around, as far as transportation is concerned. So I think that should be put on the table.

First of all, we had no idea what kind of impact the Crowrate was having on the producers of Manitoba. We are going to, hopefully, have that information in not too long a period of time and, number two, I don't think we, as the west, can start getting involved in a transportation war which will see the taxpayers of the prairies subsidizing all kinds of commodities going out east. It is a federal problem and the federal government will have to deal with it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: The Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport certainly made some interesting comments, as well as the Minister of Agriculture. At least the Minister of Agriculture now has come clean and indicated that he is prepared to see a policy of the farmer pay more for transportation. Mr. Chairman, at least he has come open and indicated that. He indicated that we've got to look at the Crowrate, Mr. Chairman, and he said, you know, we can't keep our heads in the sand. I certainly subscribe to the statements made by Presidents of farmer-owned grain companies. These are all the statements that he indicated that he believes are very accurate and should be reviewed and should be looked at.

Mr. Chairman, I do not believe that the producers of this province, or any western grain-producing province, can pay more. Mr. Chairman, there is no need, transportation costs should not be added on to the costs of the farmer and his production of grain. At least I have to agree with the Minister of Fitness that transportation is a national policy and on a national basis, the transportation subsidies, if they have to be provided, should be provided on that basis. But there is no way that the producers of Manitoba should be subjected to a review and the increased costs.

Like the — I forget who it was — Minister of Agriculture started saying about if the farmer can have \$60,000 worth of grain, or whatever the case may be, or \$60,000 worth of equipment at 10 percent it is costing him \$6,000 a year and he would be better off to sell that grain, regardless of the price that he receives, Mr. Chairman. —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, he did not say that. The fact of the matter is when you do away with the Crowrate that's what it means, Mr. Chairman, that the costs will be increased, that the price of the bushel will go down, that the cost per acre will decrease. Mr. Chairman, that is the Conservative policy.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport indicated that Manitoba can't get into

a war with Saskatchewan or Alberta on transportation. Well, Mr. Chairman, this Minister of Agriculture from Manitoba, by his statements on entering into national marketing schemes of broilers, was prepared to take on the government of Alberta by his statements, by indicating that they would not enter into a national marketing scheme unless quotas, and quotas on a national basis, were to be reviewed and Manitoba could strengthen its position in the marketplace.

Well, Mr. Chairman, what has that resulted in? That has resulted in the turkey producers of Manitoba coming into an agreement which jeopardizes all the producers' position in this province.

Mr. Chairman, you are pointing your finger about grain transportation and marketing. We're talking about marketing, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about marketing, whether it be turkeys, grain or whatever, Mr. Chairman. This Minister of Agriculture was prepared to get into a war with Alberta and his war, on the statements that he has made in the last year, have put all the producers of Manitoba who are involved in national marketing schemes in jeopardy, on the basis of the formula that was agreed to of national marketing by the Turkey Board. He now came to us last night and he said, "Look, I'm going to review it. I didn't do anything about it, but I am going to look at it and I will call them in." But he didn't indicate whether he agreed or disagreed with it at all, in the answers to our questions. So that he is prepared to take Alberta on and put the producers of all commodities in jeopardy in terms of their position in national marketing schemes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I just wonder, the political arena that we are dealing with here tonight, and this goes all across Canada on this very important subject matter which deals with the number one industry of all western Canada, and the way we're handling this debate these problems will go on forever and they will never be resolved.

On this subject matter, Mr. Chairman, I suggest to the Committee that we have got to bury our political hatred, our political axes and get back down to earth and realize that this is the number one industry and unless we can walk down the street of this city, this Legislature, hand in hand, the NDP and the Conservatives and the Liberals — unfortunately there are no Liberals here tonight — and deal with this subject matter in a much more sane and sensible manner than we're dealing with it tonight it's never ever going to be resolved.

We had the Farm Bureau Meeting downtown today; we have the Pool Elevators Meeting; we have all kinds of judgments and decisions that are on the record. I daresay we could pile them on this table so high and nobody has solved the problem. And we're never going to solve the problem, Mr. Chairman, ever, until we recognize that this is not a political matter. This is the survival of the number one industry of western Canada that's before us at this time.

I can raise all kinds of skeletons and problems of the former government. I can raise problems with the Campbell government; I can raise problems of governments all the years I have served in this House, but until on this matter, Mr. Chairman, we bury our axes, our political axes, and stand up and be counted that we are Manitobans, we're western Canadians and we're Canadians and that we go united hand and hand and bury our political axes, as I said to the Opposition, and let's help this Minister and this government. Had this subject matter come up and the crisis that is with us today was in the days of the Schreyer government I would have made the same speech, Mr. Chairman. I am very annoyed that the nit-picking debates that are going on in this Resolution that's before us has got to the level it almost makes me sick. I just can't understand any Manitoban, especially coming from a rural area, will be nit-picking on this matter. And it's so big the whole history of western Canada is on the record, and unless we can solve this serious problem of transportation to our number one industry, either to the Ports at the west or the Ports at the east, we're going to here in a jungle like they are in Africa, forever. And let's nit-pick and politic on other issues, Mr. Chairman, but on this one I say unless we can cool our political philosophies . . .

And I would suggest after this examination of the Estimates of this Minister, Mr. Chairman, that you set up a Committee of the members of the Opposition and the members of our caucus and get with this and give them some money, much more than \$85,000 as in this item, to go for the next 12 months and go with your blessing and you with them and the Leader of the NDP Opposition and work 12 hours a day, six days a week, not on double time-and-a-half on the weekends and go with Alberta, go with Saskatchewan, go with British Columbia and the eastern provinces, who are not involved in the Wheat Board, and solve this problem. Because, Mr. Chairman, as sure as we're sitting, unless we — the minimum wage won't be nothing — the people of this western breadbasket will end up being paupers unless we can solve this transportation thing.

We can grow it, we have got all the expertise; we've got the professional people; we've got the climate; we've got the quality; we've got everything. And I know there's a problem, I have been

involved in it. The eastern block don't want the grain to go east. We want it to go west or we want it to go to Churchill, and that's a roadblock. We know all those problems.

But I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the Opposition and the Minister that we should, instead of that item being \$85,000, we'd better jack that up to about \$1 million, and I suggest to you Mr. Chairman, and to the Minister, that he set up a Committee of the best agricultural people that the NDP have in their caucus, the best agricultural people you have got in your caucus, including you, and you never rest on this matter of transportation of our number one industry and our number one prime product where half the people of the world are starving and want it, and until you can come back and satisfy me and this Committee that you've done your job then I say don't come back. But I'm sure you will be back in 12 months looking for more money, but in the meantime I would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the members of the Committee will bury their political axes. And I wish there was one Liberal around here to join us in this debate, but unfortunately there isn't because he is running in the federal scene. And there are other political people, as well, but they're not elected people. We are the elected people and we're left to the jurisdiction of this very, very important matter, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope that the Opposition will bury their political hatchets and let's vote the Minister, if we could, more money. And I don't think we can do it by a committee, but I suspect it has gone on so long and if we delay it another six months or another year it's too late because some other jurisdiction, which is already happening, is going to take our markets away and we will be no longer part and parcel of the heritage which was granted to us. And we weren't number one for all those years, being the best product at the best price, at the best delivering to the Ports. Unfortunately, that hasn't happened and we can't deliver it.

But I'm sure if the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, even Ontario and the eastern, regardless of whether grain goes east or west, we don't care, or if it goes through Churchill but we've got to have it delivered on time and a good product. And I'm sure if we play it that way and bury our political axes Manitoba will be better and Canada will be better and especially western Manitoba will be better by that type of an exercise. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(1)—pass — the Member for Dauphin.

MR. JIM GALBRAITH: Mr. Chairman, I have sat back here for some nearly three hours now listening to this debate and I have come to a few conclusions, and right at the present time if I had to go to the farmers in the Dauphin constituency and say, "If you are interested in having your grain sit in your graineries year after year vote NDP." Right now it seems to me they don't really care.

I don't really believe that they don't care, but that's the impression they are leaving me here in this Committee and I would just like to say that they reconsider their position. I think that we have got to be taking a look at this whole grain situation, grain movement, grain sales, and I think we should be looking for new alternatives. We should be looking for superior methods of moving our grain, superior methods of marketing our grain, and I encourage the New Democratic Party to join the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba in trying to accomplish this major concern to our agricultural industry in this province if you are going to carry on to banter this major concern of the agricultural industry of Manitoba in this manner.

We are not wanting to do away with the crowrates; we are wanting to improve the grain marketing system in Manitoba. And unless you people are going to face up to that situation you are going to pay dearly for that in the future.

So I just say to the New Democratic Party, take a look at your position. We are not wanting to do away with the crowrates. We are not wanting to do away with or downgrade the marketing system that we have in this country; we are wanting to improve it, to make it a superior system to what it is. That's it, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I would advise the Member for Dauphin and the Member for Roblin that we are just as concerned as they are about the movement of grain, and that's what we're discussing here tonight is moving of grain to the points of embarkation or for shipment to export markets. But our position is that we don't want to do this and we don't want to solve the problem by putting it on the backs of the farmers. That is why we are discussing this tonight, so that we can get some information from both sides of the House.

I have here before me 25 or 30 submissions that I have received just in the last two or three weeks, Mr. Chairman, all to do with rail abandonment, and we are concerned about it. My people

are concerned about it and I can have them tabled if you want, they're here. There's a concern and they are talking about rail abandonment, they are talking about rail abandonment and that is the position that we feel that we should address ourselves to and I know the Premier went to Prince Rupert and his position was not accepted by the western provinces; he bombed out on both of his propositions. The Minister of Agriculture misquoted me in his remarks and I would like to set the record straight. I believe he attributed statements that I did not make in regard to how many millions of dollars had been lost, and what I did say, Mr. Chairman, was that in the 1977-78 crop year, railroads hauled 2 million, 2.9 million tonnes less than they were committed to deliver. That's what I said. They had committed to haul 2.9 million tonnes more than they actually did, and in addition to this, Mr. Chairman, the Wheat Board, Canada Wheat Board lost another additional 3 million tonnes of sales because the railways would or could not deliver and therefore, our customers went elsewhere. As far as dollars lost, Mr. Chairman, I never made any comments on how much was lost, but the figures that I have is that on the average it's \$3,000 for every permit holder during that last year collectively, and probably between \$450 million to \$750 million in income due to the failure of deliveries of grain to positions for export. We are concerned as much as the Member for Roblin, the Member for Dauphin, so I've had all I've had to say on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(1)—Pass. The Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have it put on the record that the New Democratic Party . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Member for Pembina, on a point of order. The Member concedes. The Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like the record to show that the New Democratic Party are not prepared to support us in asking for more money on this Resolution to go further and set up this committee, so therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would move that the minister set up a committee of Tories and farmers to pursue this matter at the earliest possible date and if more moneys are needed, then we go to the Premier and work on this thing twelve hours a day, six days a week until we meet 12 months hence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please. Is there a seconder for that motion?

It would be my impression to the Members of Committee that the motion is not in order. The Member for Roblin on a point of order.

MR. McKENZIE: Well, Mr. Chairman, if I'm out of order on that Resolution, then I will move that the Resolution, the \$85,000, plus the \$7,200 that we're expending of taxpayers' dollars, include a Committee of the Legislature of some MLAs and some farmers, and leave the New Democratic Party out because they don't want to be part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the benefit of the Committee, would the Member for Roblin like to repeat his motion?

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I would like under this Resolution that is before us, 6.(c) Grain Transportation and Marketing Salaries and Other Expenditures, the total Expenditure is of the taxpayers' dollars is \$85,000 for Salaries and \$7,200 for other Expenditures; that that item that we are passing now include a Committee of MLAs from the Conservative Party and legitimate farmers who have this problem who are interested in grain transportation and marketing, and that Committee be set up and they report back to this Committee twelve months hence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to ask the indulgence of the Committee while we have a short recess.

Committee come back to order please. I rule the Motion of the Member for Roblin out of order based on Section 491. The Committee may reduce the amount of a vote by the omission or reduction of Items of Expenditure of which the vote is composed. Here the power of the Committee ceases.

The Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, on your point of order and the ruling, I was not suggesting that the Resolution be increased; I just asked the minister if he would include that Committee in the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For clarification purposes, the Member for Roblin is requesting of the minister. It is not a Motion.

MR. McKENZIE: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At least now the Conservatives, in terms of their antics, can't argue that the New Democrats are holding up the work of the Committee. It's some of their own members that want to play little games and belittle the seriousness of the problem. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister on another matter. He answered a question of mine in the House yesterday dealing with the Quota Review Committee set up by the Wheat Board. I believe, and he can correct me if I'm wrong, he indicated to me that the Province of Manitoba did not make a submission because they had no time to prepare that. Am I accurate in that assumption?

MR. DOWNEY: That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, could the minister give me the dates when they received the form letter from the Wheat Board or the Review Committee, the standard form letter that he mentioned about asking the province for a submission on the reviews?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I believe the form letter that was received in the department was approximately October 17th, and I just use that for — I stand corrected by a day or two — getting that checked out. The report had to be, or any submissions had to be made within 30 days; because it was a form letter and not directed to anyone directly within the department, it was some several days or weeks later that it was brought to my attention, and were unable to get a position of government or proper review put together, or proper position, I should say, put together to have meaningful input. However, I did acknowledge the form letter as I said to the Review Committee, saying that we would not be sending in a position at this time but not meaning to say that we couldn't put one in some time later to the people in charge of the quotas for the Canadian Wheat Board.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did the minister not indicate or did the minister's office check whether a submission could be put in beyond the 30 day limit that was provided by in the letter? Were there any checks made, were there any submissions made beyond that date by other parties? Did anyone check that out?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, I think there was indication, Mr. Chairman, that there could have been a position put forward later, as there still can be. I'm sure that we live in a country where we are quite capable of being able to do that at anytime.

MR. URUSKI: Could the minister indicate when he wrote the letter to the Wheat Board indicating that they could not put a position forward?

MR. DOWNEY: I did not, Mr. Chairman, I did not say we could not put a submission forward. I indicated — Yes, Mr. Chairman, it was after the 1st of the year that the letter went back to the Review Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(1)—Pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated that he received the invitation from the Wheat Board in October, but he did not write them until the 1st of the year. Now, that's middle of October, middle of November, middle of December, and the 1st of the year — that's two and a half months later, Mr. Chairman. Was his department not able to put a submission together in two and a half months in terms of the quota review?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I believe the quota review had closed their . . . just after the end of November so, in fact, there was no time really, and the reason for the reply to the Quota Review Committee was to indicate that we had accepted it and the fact that we still might be putting a position forward at a later date; and I indicated also at that particular time in my reply yesterday

that since that Quota Review Committee or the Wheat Board have made an announcement, they have since changed that position. So, I think that this time, we are further reviewing what has taken place and will be making a statement on it very shortly.

MR. URUSKI: So the minister indicates that he is preparing a position to the Wheat Board on the quotas?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. We are preparing some, particularly in light of some of the recent announcements that were made.

MR. URUSKI: Would he favor the Members of the House with a copy of the position that he puts forward when he prepares it to the Wheat Board? I gather it will be going shortly, I presume since they indicate there's been a change.

MR. DOWNEY: I will be making a statement, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, on grain transportation. . . IA Rail now has taken over the transportation of people of both railroads across Canada — I wonder if the Honourable Minister has any records of studies that the former government did, or information that they laid on his desk or left in the records of the department from that amalgamation of the two railroads turning over the transportation of people to VIA Rail? And the reason I ask that, Mr. Chairman, is because now VIA Rail and those that are using that system and we have some in our caucus that use it on a regular basis and I use it myself, it looks that it's going to be a worse disaster than the grain transportation system, because anybody today that wants to try to travel on this VIA Rail system' he'd better be well prepared because he's never sure when he's going to leave and he's never sure when he's going to arrive and he's never sure what kind of accommodation he would get on the system.

As a couple of members of our Committee found out recently on the Easter weekend, VIA Rail finally realized at the last minute there were some 90 passengers that had booked for several months were going out on this certain night and when the train was supposed to leave the city, they had to go to Transcona and get another car to transport those 90 people. So it's quite clear that there was some deals when the members opposite, that VIA Rail was being amalgamated, the two railroads, and I'm wondering if any of those records, or the papers, or presentations of reports or studies that the former government are in the minister's office today to let us know what they did in those days.

MR. DOWNEY: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman. I'm unaware of any papers on that subject matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(1)—Pass Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you. Is this the area where we could discuss or ask questions with respect to Plant Breeders rights?

MR. DOWNEY: We passed that, Mr. Chairman. It would be in Crop Production.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (c)(1)—Pass; (c)(2)—Pass; (c)—Pass. (d)(1)—Pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I presume the Manitoba Marketing Board and The Milk Control Board would fall under this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: Not The Milk Control Board, Mr. Chairman, that was under the production division of the department. I stand corrected, I know we've discussed that. I'll just check back here. I think it was in the administration of the Department, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, it was in program 1 in the administration of the department. We've already passed that one.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister would indicate whether they are moving in the area of amalgamating the two boards as they have indicated that they were in favour of the Milk Producer's Board and The Milk Control Board into one board. Members of their party

certainly advocated that position in the last Legislature and can the Minister indicate what moves they're making in that direction?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that I as the Minister indicated that there was a move in that direction. The Milk Control Board, as he is quite aware of, is an Act of the Legislature and the Manitoba Marketing Board comes under the Natural Products Marketing Act. They are two separate Acts of government and I did not indicate that there was any intent to amalgamate those two boards.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wasn't indicating the Manitoba Marketing Board and The Milk Control Board, The Milk Producers' Marketing Board and The Milk Control Board. One being a producer marketing agency and the other being the consumer regulatory body dealing with the cost of milk and the markup and return to producers and processors. There certainly was advocated by the now Minister of Highways and I believe the Minister of Consumer Affairs, the Member for Morris, certainly made statements in that regard. I am wondering whether the Minister has any policy statement or any statements he wishes to make in that respect, whether they are moving in that way or not.

MR. DOWNEY: No we are not, Mr. Chairman, moving in that direction at this time. I think we have discussed The Milk Marketing Board, The Milk Control Board, and I indicated then I was asked if there were any changes and I said no, so I would have to indicate the only area in which we're discussing now is under the Manitoba Marketing Boards.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)(1)—pass —the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate the names of the present members of the Manitoba Marketing Board.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the chairman of the Manitoba Marketing Board is Dr. Art Wood, vice-chairman is Mr. Reg Forbes, we have Mr. Herb Andreasen, Mr. Howard Motheral, and Mr. Clayton Manness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (d)(1)—pass; (d)(2)—pass; (d)—pass Resolution 11 — Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$738,100 for Agriculture—pass; Resolution 12, Item 7, Agricultural Land and Water Development, 7.(a)(1)—pass —the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate the staff that is involved in the whole area, go through it branch by branch at the beginning and indicate the numbers of staff and the vacancies and increases or reductions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: I think we'd be just as well to go through it just one by one as we come to it and then we are in line with the way we have done the past ones I believe, Mr. Chairman. In the Administration of the Agricultural Land and Water Division we have two staff, that being the position of the Assistant Deputy-Minister and support staff to him. —(Interjection)—

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, who is the Deputy Minister of that?

MR. DOWNEY: It's still vacant, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: When is the Minister intending to make the appointment? Has he advertised or ...

MR. DOWNEY: Well again, Mr. Chairman, as the member is aware it's a Cabinet appointment and it will be done very shortly.

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

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate the changes that are in this and in the expenditure here?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in the Rural Water Development which I feel is a very important part of the total Department of Agriculture, we're looking at an increase of 5 staff. There was an increase of 5. We are sitting with 10.4 SMYs as opposed to 5.4 last year.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate the nature of the program that he is envisaging in this expenditure? The details of that?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, under the Rural Water Development program we are looking at water source development for rural Manitoba. Just to finish, Mr. Chairman, in Manitoba we are in a fortunate position of having at certain times of the year an excess of high quality water which causes problems. I feel that within rural Manitoba we have to look towards better water management programs so that we can in fact, in periods of short water, that we can work towards development of programs so that we can provide them with the needed infrastructure to develop their farm units.

We also have some interesting projects that are being developed throughout the province and that of course being in the field of irrigation. I think that we have something like a million and a half acres that are of irrigatable type soils. At this particular time we are only irrigating something like 11,000 acres but in fact we have somewhat of a large area that could in fact be irrigated and of course that being one of the limiting factors in some areas in which we could increase production in particular special crops, high value crops, so I think that is also an important aspect of it.

Another area in which I'd like to just discuss briefly and that being the development of water source for livestock units. I think that we can go to certain areas of the province where in fact the development of a livestock unit hinges totally on the availability of water and to see the numbers of water trucks, tanking trucks throughout rural Manitoba, that we have seen over the past few months certainly restrict the development of a lot of livestock units, and again it carries through that if we were to have a constant sure supply of top quality water, that we would see a development of a lot more units that would in fact use feed grains, develop their units. So I think it's a very important area in which we have to recognize.

Another area in which I feel it's very important that we participate with the Land and Water Development Division and that is in the community water source activity area. I think that over the past few years the members are quite aware that under the Water Services Board, in fact a lot of the communities of 300 or 350 of a population were able to be serviced with water and sewer and we find that a lot of the smaller communities that possibly have the desire to grow and expand have been unable to because of a government program that would work with them to supply these smaller communities with water and that is one of the other areas that we are addressing our attention to.

We also have the community well program which is a source development for communities in which they can draw upon for water in areas of short supply. So I think that another area that we are working in, this of course all relates to the source development and that is the area of connecting some of these communities with pipelines. I think that when we talk of looking for water a lot of money has been spent in the past many years in certain communities, certain farm areas that have spent endless hours and dollars in search for water under the ground and have been unable to be successful in that particular area. We feel that in working with the rural authorities, say the local government districts or the municipalities that in working with them we might be able to provide a program that can in fact facilitate the bringing of water to certain farms or communities through a program of pipelining and able to provide them with a source of water from one or two miles away through the pipeline system that could in fact make the rural development, the development of a lot of agricultural farms or agricultural community sites something of a far more attractive place and more encouraging to them to develop.

So I think that they to me are programs which are truly an area of indicated need. As far as I'm concerned it is an area where government should be emphasizing their efforts because it is the upgrading of infrastructure such as the provision of roads. It could be compared to the provision of hydro that in fact the development of rural Manitoba was somewhat inhibited without a source of electrical power. I think that to enter into a program such as we are discussing at this particular time, with the provision of water or the assistance of the provision of water through design of systems and working through the local communities that we can in fact remove one more obstacle that is possibly in the way of the development of rural farms and communities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (b)(1)—pass—the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate whether the farm sewer and water program is continuing or has that been dropped?

MR. DOWNEY: That, Mr. Chairman, was an ARDA program which is not in place any longer. —(Interjection)— Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister. Pass—the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate whether the program of providing dug out pumping, is that being continued as well?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: And dealing with drainage, farm drainage programs, is that being on farm drainage in terms of doing the surveys, is that being continued?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: At the level that it was, that there's no reduction there?

MR. DOWNEY: The same level, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the program of supplying farm dwellings and farm people with the supplies of water and plumbing supplies under the Water Services Board or Water Services Warehouse, that's also been discontinued, Mr. Chairman, am I correct?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: The Minister I believe last session indicated that he was planning to discontinue the bulk purchasing through the Water Services Board of items for rural farm families in terms of equipment at cost price and the markup of course was enough to cover the total cost of the program. Does the Minister have any reason why he discontinued the program? Was it not being used? Could he indicate whether the program was not being utilized by people in rural areas? Were purchases being made from the province or was there a fall-off of sales from the province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: I think, Mr. Chairman, we hashed this through last year's Estimates, and I think not to enter into a long, extensive debate into the reasons why I could just summarize it briefly, and that is; No. 1, that one of the concerns of us, as a government, was the fact that a lot of the installations, after being purchased through government purchasing houses, that in fact the individuals who were in the rural communities, in hardwares and plumbing businesses, were going broke, or starving to death, because they weren't getting any business. They did not feel justified in going out and servicing a unit that some government purchasing department had supplied, and it was the servicing of the product, or the equipment that was put in, that was causing a lot of concern to me and, again, the government being in that type of a business, as far as I was concerned, was in direct conflict of our philosophy and of our policy of upgrading the private sector in rural Manitoba. So I don't think the farm people were deprived of anything more than they were, in fact, I'll go back and say I think they are now totally being serviced by the local plumbers, the local suppliers of the goods, and we're back on a system where the people who sell the product are responsible, in fact, they can depend on repairs and servicing of that equipment because it is in fact purchased through local suppliers, and we as a government can concentrate our efforts in the area of development of water and working with the survey type work which has been discussed earlier in these Estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. McGregor): 7.(b)(1) — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister made a statement that I don't think is correct. I think he should reflect on what he said. He mentioned that the program of bulk purchasing for plumbing supplies was putting people — people were going broke. That isn't correct.

A MEMBER: Yes, it is.

MR. ADAM: It is not correct, Sir. I submit to you that in my area things were just booming. Plumbers business was booming because of this program. They had all kinds of trenching and backhoeing and all indoor plumbing, all indoor plumbing, the bathtubs, the toilets that the bulk purchasing didn't supply. They made a landslide business with this program, Mr. Chairman, and the fact that there were many, many hundreds of farmers, in the thousands, that took advantage of this program indicates that it was a good program, so I don't want the Minister to leave those remarks unchallenged. It was a similar program to the Drugs Program, the bulk purchasing of drugs, so for the Minister to say that that program was putting plumbers out of business is just not correct, Mr. Chairman.

But I want to ask the Minister if, in his answer to the Member for St. George on the on-farm drainage program — there was a program, I believe, where there was up to \$500 assistance, or up to \$700 assistance. Is that . . . ?

MR. DOWNEY: I don't believe there was any assistance program for drainage, Mr. Chairman. It was technical assistance and survey for the farmers.

MR. ADAM: Another question. In regard to rural communities, does this apply to remote communities as well in Northern Affairs, Mr. Chairman?

MR. DOWNEY: Pardon me. I missed the question. Would you repeat the question please?

MR. ADAM: Yes. I was asking the Minister under the Rural Water Development Program, do remote communities qualify for this program as well, or just . . . ?

MR. DOWNEY: South of 53.

MR. ADAM: South of 53 or 52.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, that would be under the Northlands Agreement. They had a program for water development in northlands and that's where that would come under — the Minister of Northern Affairs.

MR. ADAM: What areas do we cover here? From Swan River back?

MR. DOWNEY: Mainly the agricultural areas, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(1)—pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make just a couple of comments where the Minister, to myself and the Member for Ste. Rose, indicated that he has discontinued the bulk purchasing program last year. Could he tell me why if he discontinued the bulk purchasing, why he would have discontinued the program of grants to the farm community in terms of the sewer and water program?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, that fell under the ARDA Agreement which ended the end of December.

MR. URUSKI: Was there an intent to renew it or were the applications falling off and the Federal Government didn't want to continue that program any longer, or was it felt that primarily all the farm homes and yards had been serviced already in the eight or nine years of this program?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I think, as I indicated, the program ended because it was a federal ARDA Agreement. The other point that I'd like to make is the fact that, as far as I'm concerned and within the department and the government are concerned, we feel it's more important at this particular time to concentrate on source development and put our efforts into that particular area. As far as the continuing on with the ARDA Agreement, again, there are some water programs in the new agreement under the AgraMan, under the drainage part of it, and some work being done, as I said, in the area of irrigation. That, of course, will be debated under the Enabling vote so there is some moneys being made available under the Enabling vote under the Manitoba Agricultural and Canada Agreement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, just one question on that particular subject. I believe that back in 1969 about 60 percent of the farmers did not have modern conveniences, such as water and sewer, and modern facilities in their homes. This program, I know, was very popular and there are many hundreds and probably thousands of farmers that availed themselves of this program. I wonder if the Minister could advise what percentage of the farm population now still do not have modern facilities, such as water and sewer and baths and showers and toilets and what have you — sinks?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, you know, I wouldn't want to leave the impression that the program that was in place wasn't of assistance. I guess we could ask the same question — I think, in fact, there would have been improvements of those kinds of services in farm homes whether there was a program or not. I think the thing that we should say is how do we measure whether in fact the program totally did it? I would say that it did assist. I know there were certain areas that took advantage of it and it was a program that was of use. We don't have any figures. I've just been informed by the department that they have requested the update statistical figures on that particular subject; what are the numbers of farm homes with the total facilities and that particular thing. And again I go back and say the program did in fact provide certain assistance in areas of need in this particular area.

I think that it was a continuing desire of farm people to upgrade their facilities whether or not there was a program in place, but in fact it did assist them so I will say that it was a program that was of meaning to them. But I also want to say that our emphasis at this particular time — again I go back to the area of source development — I think that if the source is there that the people in the rural communities don't mind investing in that kind of infrastructure for development of that kind of service, but to continually spend money to try and find water or to continually search for water that either isn't there or is unavailable to them is a far greater hardship on them than to invest in the type of equipment that is needed to distribute it within their house or farm facilities.

MR. ADAM: Yes. Mr. Chairman, under that program I know that farm families were able to obtain up to about \$700 in grants and savings on bulk purchases which was quite an inducement between the two, up to \$300, 15 percent on purchases, with savings on bulk purchases in addition to that. It was possible to save substantial amounts of money and I believe that many, many farm families took advantage to modernize their homes with modern conveniences solely on the basis of this program. I have been personally involved in assisting many, many farms in my area to obtain benefits under this program, and I know this was a worthwhile program. Sure it has a snowballing effect; when one starts, they all start, and I think it was good. But it would be interesting to know just how many there are left, and the Minister probably could obtain that information, he shouldn't have any trouble getting that.

MR. DOWNEY: I just want to clarify. The program which the member refers, I believe the grant was up to \$300, not \$700, for a correction of the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(b) — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: I don't think that that is quite correct. I think there was savings on bulk purchases. —(Interjection)— Yes. Of course. And you could save about \$700 on the total. I figured it out many times for a lot of people.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, it depends on the total amount of the purchase, I guess, that would reflect the amount of saving if it were through the government office. Again I want to go back and clarify to the member that if, being bought through a central government office in Winnipeg and you're living in Roblin, Manitoba, then the plumber is going to certainly look twice at you and probably not even consider giving you the service that he would have given you if he'd have been involved in the sales and the installation. That's the point I tried to make, Mr. Chairman, that how do you expect the plumber in rural Manitoba to live if, in fact, he is not a part of the supplying of material and the installation and the ongoing service. Because, Mr. Chairman, the money he would have to charge for a service call would be prohibitive for the individuals to go out and employ him, and that is the break in the rural communities that was created by government being involved in the supplying of goods to farmers. You could carry it right through to the point where governments

supplied every input to the farm community and, Mr. Chairman, what do you do in that particular case is you ruin, you ruin the total infrastructure of services that are provided in rural Manitoba.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister hasn't been listening to me, or else he doesn't believe me. Probably the latter. But, Mr. Chairman, I just got done telling him that the bulk purchasing did not supply bathtubs or sinks or things in the house, just for exterior and the pressure pumps. The pressure pumps and out, the rest, all the plumbing inside was all coming from the plumbers and they made a landslide business. I know that in my own area, there were three plumbers there who couldn't keep going. The minister won't get away with that argument. He's now becoming philosophical and political in his approach but this program did work, we know it worked, and if it was there, there would be probably more farmers using it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Could I ask the minister, Mr. Chairman, what criteria did he use to discontinue that program? What was his information that led to the discontinuance of that program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. DOWNEY: The program of the purchase of materials.

MR. URUSKI: No. The Grant Program.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I go back and again say it was the end of the program of the Federal-Provincial cost sharing.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, the minister also in his remarks, indicated that it was their priority, "their" emphasis, that led them to move into looking at the water source of the programming. He did not indicate that the program could not continue had it been a priority of the government. Is the minister indicating that because of his priority and nothing else, in terms of the Conservative administration's priority, that's the reason why that program was discontinued?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I again go back and say our priority is in the source development and . . .

MR. URUSKI: At least now we know that the minister is indicating that it was a political decision, in terms of discontinuing both programs. First of all, his philosophy would not lead him to want to provide bulk purchasing supplies to rural families because it went against his grain of philosophy. Yet he could live with a bit of, not subsidy, but a bit of straddling of the fence by being able to provide veterinary supplies through bulk purchasing, that's okay in terms of a socially useful program, but in terms of plumbing supplies for the fields, septic fields and hoses and lines, that's not all right. And at least he now admits that in terms of the grant structure to the farm families that it was a political decision that it was not the Conservative government's priority to continue that program, and that is the reason why it was discontinued.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify for the member, and I clarified it when we were in the Veterinary Department. In fact, the reason that we are continuing on with that, the main reason is the fact that it is drug-controlled through the veterinarians. There is a responsibility of government to control the use of drugs that go into animal use, and which directly could affect the human beings. And that, Mr. Chairman, is the main reason, plus the fact there are some cost savings which go along with it, but in fact all indications are that I have to make the decision to continue on with that. The major consideration is because of the health factor, the health factor with the use of drugs that can directly affect the health of human beings that are being used in animal health.

Secondly, for the benefit of the Member for Ste. Rose, that if you don't have a source of water, the bathtub and the toilet aren't much good to you.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the minister can't tell me that the drugs were not available through the veterinarians and through the feed mills, and through recognized dealers throughout the province. There's no doubt that there was a saving, and a saving could be made on very large bulk purchases, which could be distributed to veterinarians, but the supply certainly was no different in terms of

drugs as it was in terms of plumbing. The control, if the minister philosophically is opposed to the government handling it, he can still have the control measures, in terms of inspection and handling, that the program now handles. Because it's being distributed through veterinarians and the drugs could be purchased before through veterinarians.

So this basically in terms of inspection and control, could have been accomplished whether he handled the drugs or not, if he wanted a way to handle it. If he can't I'd like to know why he couldn't.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(1)—pass; 7.(b)(2)—pass. . .

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, 7.(b)(2) the total program has increased substantially. Could the minister indicate what the breakdown of the funds in the various components of the program are in the increase from \$49,000 to \$263,000? What are we really talking about, in terms of the various programs?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the major increase, if I'm reading this correctly, was in the area of staff increase, the increase in the staff and expenses to cover those people.

MR. URUSKI: Primarily administrative.

MR. DOWNEY: The majority, Mr. Chairman, is staff.

MR. URUSKI: And dealing with all the sources, the livestock sources, the irrigation, these would be all specialists in their fields, community water source, pipeline connection, community well service, those would be technical staff within the department.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I did have one other question. There was some work being done in the department dealing with water source, in terms of many areas having very high salinity in the water, and what progress has been made in this respect?

MR. DOWNEY: I guess the member is referring to the injection of fresh water to remove salt water in a certain area — that research project is still continuing. It is continuing and I haven't got an update report on it, but that program is being carried on as the member refers to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(b)(2)—pass; 7.(c)(1)—pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Could the minister outline the staff commitments here, and the nature of the program?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Water Services Board, as he has been familiar with, I am sure, is the provision of water and sewer to communities in Manitoba that want to participate in an agreement with the province. There has been an increase in one staff. We are continuing with the development of water projects in Manitoba. We have something like 29 communities that will be worked with in 1979-80. It's one of the areas that is carrying on at the capacity of which the Water Services Board are able to provide this service. As I say, we have increased the staff by one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(1)—pass — the member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, of the 29 communities that the minister has indicated that will be worked with, could he indicate whether some of them are completions of projects, which are new and could he indicate what the nature of the program is going to be to these 29 communities, or if he's got a list of the communities that will be worked with, is it possible to provide that list to members, or would he want to detail it into the record? Whichever suits him.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, there are some of these communities that are having extensions put to them, if it's a subdivision to a town. I don't have that broken out precisely; some of them are entering into new agreements with sewer and water, some with just sewer or some with just water. The department have not broken that down precisely. Do you want the names of the towns, Mr. Chairman?

MR. URUSKI: Yes, I wouldn't mind and the amount of money that is estimated for the project that you're talking about.

MR. DOWNEY: Okay, Mr. Chairman, we're looking at water and sewage systems, Elm Creek; water system, Swan Lake.

MR. URUSKI: Do you have a dollar amount, please?

MR. DOWNEY: No I don't, Mr. Chairman, no I don't, Mr. Chairman. Sewer systems, Blumenort, Elm Creek. Well, Mr. Chairman, I've listed this again, it's under both water and sewer, Elm Creek was, and it's listed again under sewer systems so it's a multiple deal system. Right. Foxwarren, Ninette, Sanford. Improvements and extensions, we're looking at Altona, Arborg, Cranberry Portage, Dauphin, Deloraine, Emerson, Gimli, Grandview, Hamiota, Minnedosa, Morris, Neepawa, Oakville, Pilot Mound, Portage la Prairie, Reston, Roblin, Shoal Lake, Ste. Rose du Lac, sure we're looking after the Member for Ste. Rose du Lac too. We should've started on this part of the Estimates. Stonewall, Virden, Wawanesa and Winnipeg Beach — those were the extensions, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Could I ask the minister whether the policy of dealing with the communities is on a first-come, first-served first served basis, other than where recognized health problems might be developed and those communities then of course would be brought up to the priority list — that policy is being continued with.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7. The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Has the makeup of the board changed at all, Mr. Chairman?

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: I don't know where I got this information, but I was told that there was some organizational changes in the Water Services Board. How is the . . .

MR. DOWNEY: I don't know, Mr. Chairman, maybe it's where he got some of the other information.

MR. ADAM: Yeah. I was told that . . . is Mr. Stokes still there, or does he deal with . . . Is that him there?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman

MR. ADAM: And is still the person who deals with the municipalities at the local level.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(c)(1)—pass; 7.(c)(2)—pass; 7(d)(1) — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Can the minister detail the staff and the expenditures in this section please?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Last year we had 39.36 plus seven contracts. This year we have 46.36 permanent SMYs.

MR. URUSKI: The same amount?

MR. DOWNEY: That's right, it's the same amount, there is no change in the staff complement.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, has the minister developed the policy dealing with Crown lands? Is there a change in the policy of leasing out the Crown lands?

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1) — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the Crown lands that are being leased now, that come up for leases, are they being leased in the same basis in terms of need and size of unit and the like, being continued to be leased?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: The point system then is being utilized, along with the Crown Lands Appeal Board, is under this section as well?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate who the members of the Crown Lands Appeal Board are?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman is Mr. Doug Watt, the members are Lloyd G. Briese, from the Gladstone-Neepawa area, Emil Johnson, Harold Boerhers from the Interlake Dauphin area, Ste. Rose area, Laurier, William Tkachuk from the southeast corner of the province, and Emil Johnson from Lundar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1)— the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Yes, thank you. Could the Minister advise what is the per diem for the Appeal Board now?

MR. DOWNEY: There has been no change in the per diem rates since we have come into office, Mr. Chairman. I can get that information.

MR. ADAM: The Chairman's position, is that a per diem as well, there's no change there, or is that on a salary. That's a per diem?

MR. DOWNEY: That's a per diem, Mr. Chairman, and there is no change.

MR. ADAM: I see. The Minister has indicated that there's no change in the policy on Crown lands. The Throne Speech indicates something in regard to Crown lands. His staff, I can say, is going around the country, rightly or wrongly, intimating to people that Crown lands are going to be sold, and I don't know, the Minister — we asked him questions in the House on a number of occasions, we have asked him here again tonight — I would like to know why the staff is telling people that Crown lands, even one of his board members had a statement in the Dauphin Herald where he was intimating that very shortly lands would be sold. Now, I'm wondering why the Minister is saying that there is no change in policy, and yet the staff is going out, not only at the lower level but some at the management level are saying that. So I would like to know why, if the Minister has no policy it's in the Throne Speech, would he explain why it's in the Throne Speech if there is no policy.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, we're in the process of developing a Crown land sale policy of some of the agriculture Crown lands. There is no secret about it, it was campaigned on by many of the members of the government, and at this particular point there hasn't been a sale policy announced, but we're in the process of doing that.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I know that just during these Estimates when we were on the MACC debate, the government and the Minister was criticizing very much the policy of the land-lease program to allocate these agriculture lands on the base of from father to son and in that way. We were criticized for doing that, and I'm just wondering how the government would handle the sale of Crown lands. Would that be on a tender? Or to the highest bidder, or, the lowest bidder, the highest bidder not necessarily accepted? Will there be an appraisal made by the Land Acquisition Branch to assure that the people's assets are not flattered away such as we've seen in the other area, the MACC lands that they've been taking back?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, when the program is announced he will be able to review the type of policy we have. I am also might mention that the actual disposition of Crown lands will come under the Minister of Mines and Resources. He is the authority of disposition of Crown lands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7. (d)(1)— the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering if the Minister is delaying making a statement on government policy to wait till after the Session is over so that we can't question, intersessionally we won't be able to question it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Chairman, we have the Minister tonight indicating that there is no policy of dealing with Crown land sales as they have indicated that they would be bringing forward in this Session in the Throne Speech.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister berated the opposition that during their term of office they would use a selective system of allowing or distributing Crown lands on the basis of the point system and the basis of size of operation and the age of the operator and the nature of his operation in terms of whether or not he should lease that land. Now we have the Minister indicating that, yes, it's not such a bad policy, we're continuing with it, we're not changing it whatsoever, so that we're carrying on with what was in place when we came into office. It certainly seems that the Minister of Agriculture, who hated that policy, who wanted to have the marketplace establish the rental value, surely after 18 months he should have come up with some kind of a policy in terms of either changing the lease program in the way it's being operated, or, as the Minister of Mines, at least come to this committee and indicate what the policy is.

I know we questioned the Minister of Mines, in his Estimates, and although during his Estimates he indicated that he answered the questions with respect to policy and I went back to Hansard and I checked his remarks, and there certainly was no policy stated. —(Interjection)— That's who it was, he indicated that he answered all the questions with respect to government policy and there is no government policy, the Minister hasn't come up with a policy and was not prepared to indicate what their intentions are, other than to say that they are intending to sell, but they're prepared to acknowledge that the system that was put into place wasn't such a bad system, Mr. Chairman, because if they were prepared to change it, they could have changed it overnight in terms of leasing the land out to the highest bidder, the same way as they had it when we came into office in 1969.

So that although they criticized the method of leasing at as it is today, they're not prepared to change it as yet, — at least that's what they keep saying. They've had 18 months and they are not prepared to change it. This Minister is going to sit in the bushes, hide till the Session is over, and then maybe he will come out and announce a policy on the Crown lands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I would like to say at this stage of the game, and I'd like to encourage the Minister very strongly that he encourage the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources to proceed with his policy in terms of selling of Crown lands. In my area, and with some of the people I've met even today, are very strongly in favour of getting a program in place and I think we should proceed posthaste and I agree with the Member for St. George who says that we should work on something along these lines. I certainly want to encourage that. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1) — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I have just the one question to ask the Minister. He indicated that perhaps these questions should be addressed to the Minister of Mines, that he would be allocating Crown lands, or selling them if ever they were sold. If that is the case, I would ask the Minister why is his staff, who are not staff members of the Minister of Mines, why is his staff going out and telling people, yes, we're going to be selling land any day now. This is the question that I asked the Minister, why? Has he instructed his staff to do that? To prepare them? Or what is the reason for that?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there has been no instructions go out to staff to say whether we

were selling Crown lands or not. I think it's been a public statement that had been made by many members of our government, and they do work for the same government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.(d)(1)sspass; 7.(d)(2)—pass — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: I want (e).

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. 7.(e)(1)—pass - the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: There has been a study made, I believe a report tabled in the House at the last Session. Could the Minister give us an overview of what is the policy on land utilization?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The area which we're discussing now covers the area of soil survey. The individuals that are employed are field staff, lab technologists, agrologists, draftsman, people who are involved in the overall survey of our agricultural lands. The staff this year is 16.28 as permanent staff, as opposed to 11.28 plus 8 ½ contracts last year.

MR. ADAM: 8 ½?

MR. DOWNEY: 8 ½ contracts have been converted.

MR. URUSKI: That's a decrease.

MR. DOWNEY: There is a decrease, yes, Mr. Chairman. A decrease of 3 ½.

MR. URUSKI: Were those decreases, were those vacant positions?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Driedger): . . . pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Is this the area where the department handles all the Crown lands development, in terms of development?

MR. DOWNEY: We've passed that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the development program was handled under the . . . Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate if he wants us to do it on his Salary or now with respect to the amounts of lands that are anticipated to be opened this year, and has the policy changed?

MR. DOWNEY: Several hundreds of acres, Mr. Chairman, and the policy has not changed.

MR. URUSKI: When the Minister indicates several hundreds, could he be more specific than that, you know, that could mean 200 or 900 acres. Is there an indication of the program?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as he is well aware and I'm sure many people of the agriculture community are well aware, the season has quite a lot to do with the numbers of acres that are able to be cleared and the availability of equipment. We are looking at upwards of, could clear up to 10,000 acres as the approximate figure.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, now we've had a figure of several hundreds, and now we have a figure of up to 10,000.

MR. DOWNEY: That's several hundreds.

MR. URUSKI: That's several thousands now, we have. Well, Mr. Chairman, it sounds like the comment of what's a million? Could the Minister indicate what kind of money is within the budget for land clearing?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. \$800,000.00.

MR. URUSKI: And that is within the acquisition and construction of physical assets?

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman, that was in the Crown lands, Other Expenditures.

MR. URUSKI: \$800,000.00.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Under this program the allowances that the department makes, because there have been actual increases in terms of inflation, what is the per acre allowance that the department provides and how many acres would that provide?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The policy is the same. The numbers of dollars per acre I believe is \$35 per acre for knock-down and piling, \$15 per acre for breaking and \$15 per acre for seeding to tame forage. I don't have the conversion figures for hectares, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Yes. Is there any change in policy in regard to how many acres can be opened on any one quarter? I know that the Minister of Mines would be concerned about this in regard to protecting a habitat for wildlife. I know the policy was in the past that we would only open maybe 40 acres on one particular quarter and I was just wondering what the policy is in that regard, if there has been any change here.

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there is no change in the policy. There can be up to 120 acres cleared per quarter section and no more than 160.

MR. ADAM: Well, the Minister is trying to be funny, so I'm just wondering, is it 120 acres?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ADAM: And not 160?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, it's 120 acres, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (e)(1)—pass; (e)(2)—pass; (e)—pass; (f)(1)—pass; (f)(2)—pass—the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister indicate the number of sales and transactions that have been handled through the Farmlands Protection Board in this last year?

MR. DOWNEY: Just as soon as Frank gets here, we will give you that information. Just over 5,000, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: 5,000 transactions that have been processed?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Of those transactions, Mr. Chairman, how many were done by corporations?

MR. DOWNEY: About 5 percent, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate the size of the those 5 percent, the size of purchases that are involved? Are there acreages involved, and could he give us the average size of purchase that is involved?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I don't have that detail with me, and I really don't know what benefit it would be to the Committee. That information is available to him through the Land Titles Office if he wants to check the sales of land in Manitoba.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicates that that information is available. Is it possible under the present legislation to set up a corporation by anyone in the world, to set up a Canadian

corporation under the laws of Canada?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the member is asking me a legal question. I would have to refer it to the Attorney-General.

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

MR. DOWNEY: Well, just to further clarify it as the Act reads 51 percent of the shares in the corporation have to be owned by a Canadian.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, of the corporations that are involved in the purchases, does the department have the information with respect to shareholder content?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, they have the capacity to get it.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, while they have the capacity to get it, do they request it when the applications are made?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, that again goes to the Board and I am told that yes, they do.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, of those 5 percent of the 5,000 corporations that have purchased the land, how many of them have foreign shareholders?

MR. DOWNEY: I don't know, Mr. Chairman, right offhand. It would take a lot of research, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the information is requested by the Agricultural Lands Protection Board, then would it be very difficult for the Minister to request that information and provide it to members of the Committee?

MR. DOWNEY: The member is asking for how many corporate purchases have shares owned by non-resident Canadians; is that what he is asking for?

MR. URUSKI: That is correct. Of the number of sales where he indicated 5 percent of 5,000, which would be roughly 250 purchases were made by corporations, is it possible to ascertain the breakdown — and it only goes on the percentage basis; I would presume that that's what information is supplied to the Board — the nature of the makeup of the shareholders by Canadians and non-Canadians? I don't think any other information is requested with respect to Manitobans or non-Manitobans, or is it?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I would definitely want to check. There are third parties involved here and I wouldn't want to put myself or the government in the position of disclosing information that I am not able to do. Again, I go back, if that member wants to . . . —(Interjection)— Well, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't give him the assurance tonight without checking further with the Board and . . .

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has the Chairman of the Board beside him. I am not asking for names of the corporations who made the land purchases, I am merely asking for the statistical breakdown and if he can provide the information on the acreages that have been purchased. Is there a record kept of the number of acres that have been purchased by individuals and corporations?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I again go back that the Board is in an ongoing process of examining the sales and I think it would be unfair for me to tonight, because of some of the involvement of the Board, to disclose information that is being requested. I, again, want to say that we are in a position of ongoing transactions and some investigations and I don't think that because of the operations of the Board and the position we are in as a government, that I am at liberty to disclose that.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I was taken away here for a second. Is the Minister prepared to supply an annual statistical report to the Legislature with respect to the workings of the Agricultural Lands Protection Board? Is there a statistical analysis in a report that would be published to the Legislature?

i believe, I am not certain whether the Act requires it or not. I am not even certain whether that has been published. That may be even a legal requirement. I have not checked the Act but I believe that should be made available, if it is not.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there is an annual report that has to be tabled.

MR. URUSKI: Maybe I didn't check my records. There has been an annual report tabled for the year 1978 or for what period of time?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, there was for last year.

MR. URUSKI: For 1978?

MR. DOWNEY: For the year ending March, 1978.

MR. URUSKI: We are now through another full year at this point in time. I am not asking that a report be tabled, but surely there would be records available or compiled since the year is a month or 19 days over and the statistical analysis if it's not complete shouldn't be far away, and whether that information . . . It doesn't have to be provided tonight. Or is the Minister not prepared to provide us with that information with respect to the numbers of purchases, the size of purchases, the corporate purchases, in terms of the shareholders' statistics and that information?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Act requires that the report has to be tabled by June 30th.

MR. URUSKI: That information will be contained within the report that I am requesting?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't want to say that everything that he has asked me here is in there, in case there was one or two things that wasn't. I am given the information that that type of information is in there and I would not want to say that everything that he has asked for is in case there was one or two items that wasn't and would have reservations on giving him that assurance, but I think that the majority of what he said will be in that report.

MR. URUSKI: Of the 5,000 purchases, Mr. Chairman, that have been processed through the Board, how many of those are made by foreigners that are intending to farm in the Manitoba area? Would that information be available?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the individuals that he is referring to that are purchasing land have to have landed immigrant status and there are some coming into Manitoba with a landed immigrant status.

MR. URUSKI: Does the Minister have any statistics with respect to, say, March from '78 to now, for example, or any period of time that he is talking about? There must be differences in terms of months of the year as when there are greater volumes of sales and when there are less volumes of sales. I would presume that there are or have sales of land been pretty steady throughout the year?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, it has been indicated to me that there are approximately 20 from the first of January to the end of March with landed immigrant status.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Minister would perhaps reconsider his advice to me when I asked him a question in regard to the purchase of land and he advised me to go to the Land Titles Office. The Minister advised me to go and get the information from the Land Titles Office that he has now said should be tabled in the House, and he knows very well that I can't get that information from the Land Titles Office without knowing the names or the sections or the description of the lands that have been sold. I am wondering why he gave me that advice. I am sure that that advice is not correct. It should not have been . . .

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, I really wasn't sure of what information the member was requiring when he initially asked this question, but in discussion with the Director of the Farmlands Protection

Board he has indicated to me that there is an Annual Report, or that type of information will be provided in the Annual Report.

MR. ADAM: Yes, how effective is this particular Agricultural Land Protection Act now? I understand, recently I read some press reports that there were some grave concerns as to the amount of land that is being purchased from non-resident, non-Canadian purchasers of land. In fact, I think it was just this week that I read it, or last week, and I'm just wondering if changing the Act to allow Canadian corporations to purchase land has not made this more possible for non-residents to buy land. Could the Minister tell us what is happening there?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I can indicate to the Committee that in discussion with the Director they feel they have it under control. The press that the member is probably referring to is the same one that I had read, that in fact it has only been in effect since July 20th of 1978, but in fact the farm organization that was bringing this to the attention in the press I believe were going to try to document in fact if there were individuals that were in contravention of the Act. The onus of responsibility is on those individuals that are purchasing and if there is a contravention the Board has the authority to prosecute or keep it under control. —(Interjection)— That's right.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman. How many cases are under investigation at the present time?

MR. DOWNEY: There are several, Mr. Chairman, approximately in the neighbourhood of 15, I believe has been indicated to me by the Director.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (f)(1)—pass; (f)(2) — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Of those approximately 15 cases that are being investigated by the Board could the Minister indicate what types of purchases are they? Are they primarily all individual purchases where statutory declarations are being varified, and the like, and being investigated?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'd just as soon not, when they are being under investigation by the Board, I would just as soon not disclose anything that might jeopardize the position of the Board in their work.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, I am not not asking for details with respect to individuals or names or anything like that, but certainly the nature of the investigation, the nature of the type of infraction that is being investigated should be able to be commented upon as to what appears to be the common problem of, say, the 15; is there a common element of violation that is being investigated, or apparent violation or at least alleged violation that is being investigated?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, again, Mr. Chairman, it is under the control of a board, who has been appointed, and I feel confident that the reasons in which they are investigating are within their jurisdiction to proceed; I do not know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I would wonder if the Minister could advise who the Board members are that . . . ?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Chairman of the Farmlands Protection Board is Harold Sneath. The Members are Mr. Cram from Morden, Mr. Allan Rose from Carroll, and John Harms from Steinbach.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister indicate, since he doesn't want to give a general commentary on the basis of the infractions that are there, will commentary be made within the report of the nature and type of investigations that were conducted with respect to land sales?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, I don't believe that is required, Mr. Chairman, in the report but I guess, you

know, when we're looking at 15 things, there could be a varied number of reasons, Mr. Chairman, why they're investigating and I don't know any specifics in that area, and I feel that they are a qualified Board performing their job.

MR. URUSKI: I will be more specific, Mr. Chairman. In the event that there is a nullification of sale, will commentary be made in the report in terms of whether prosecution was taken and whether a nullification has been made or whatever action has been taken because of an infraction? Will that be commented upon?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm sure that if there is a contravention of the Act that it would be knowledge of the public the same as any other contravention of an Act.

MR. URUSKI: Well, Mr. Chairman, not always do you pick these things up in the press and not always do the press report on matters that go before the courts, if they are before the courts or decisions being made, so that, you know, that information isn't always made public. And while the Minister can have all the confidence in the Board he likes, not necessarily will we be aware of what is going on. Unless, if he indicates that, yes, once the infraction has been proved and an action is taken, surely it could be commented upon within the report and then it will be documented. I don't want the names or whatever; I want the nature of the type of offence. You know, we do that in other areas in terms of the insurance portfolio where the general manager comes here and indicates what type of fraud takes place, what type of general cases, how many they have investigated throughout the year. That is given out to members of the Committee and is commented upon. I don't think this type of information is any different in terms of handling of the investigation after it's complete. I'm not asking for detailed information.

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, the member surprises me; he has been quoting from the press all day. I'm sure that he must keep a pretty close eye on it. But, again, it will be public knowledge if in fact there is an infraction. But as far as saying that it has to be in the report, I don't believe it has to be, that's it's compelled or compulsory. I would think it could be possible to put it in the report.

MR. ADAM: Yes, would the Minister advise what are the penalties for an infraction against the Act, under this Act? What are the penalties involved, in event of an infraction?

MR. DOWNEY: I can get that information for the member. It's in the Act. The Act number is . . . He can look it up. That's information that's available to him. There is a fine of not more than \$15,000 per individual or Director of a corporation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (f)(1)—pass — the Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, if there is an infraction and a conviction, the person who is guilty has to divest himself of the land within what two years, one year?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, he would have to divest himself within two years of acquisition of that property.

MR. ADAM: He can take the profit and pay his fine, and he is okay.

MR. .

CHAIRMAN: (f)(1)—pass; (f)(2)—pass; (f)—pass Resolution 12: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,323,000 for Agriculture—pass.

Resolution 13: Item 8, Acquisition—pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: No, Mr. Chairman. I'd like the Minister to detail a breakdown of the \$6.1 million in Capital.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. In the Acquisition of Physical Assets and Construction we have \$6,100,000; under the Manitoba Water Services Board we have \$3 million; under the Water Development Programs we have \$1,100,000; under Veterinary Clinic Renovations we have \$100,000; under Community Pastures we have \$100,000; the Semen Distribution we have \$300,000; and under the Veterinary Drug Purchases we have \$1,500,000.00.

MR. URUSKI: Mr. Chairman, the \$3 million under the Water Services Board would be utilized for the communities that the Minister earlier gave us the list of; is that correct?

MR. DOWNEY: Pardon?

MR. URUSKI: The \$3 million under the Water Services Board will be for the extensions and certain water programs of the communities that he has listed?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Could the Minister indicate the \$1.1 million in Water Development; is there a breakdown for the various types of programs that he is talking about, for dugouts and whatever? Is there a breakdown of that \$1.1 million?

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman. We're working on Program Development and there isn't a breakdown, specifically, at this particular point. But we are working. There are dugout filling programs and water source development, community well development programs, and it is not detailed at this particular time.

MR. URUSKI: Well, to what extent? Surely in developing a budget of \$1.1 million there must be some indication or some rough ballpark figure, that you've got an approximate figure now and that you will be working from. There must be at least some ballpark detail.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I didn't want to get into specifics on it but I can give him some rounded out figures of intentions at this particular point. As I say, we're in the developing of a program or programs and we're in the area of what I indicated earlier, water supplies for agricultural communities and farms. It is a rough estimate of \$500,000.00. Under the Community Water Source Development Programs, which would include the . . . Yes, Individual Water Program Development, we have proposed estimates in the neighbourhood of \$400,000.00. Yes, that's both community and farm, and that's \$900,000, approximately. And under Rural Community Water and Sewage Programs for some of the smaller communities we have an estimate of \$200,000.00.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so I understand it, the \$500,000 is for supplies and community and farm water source?

MR. DOWNEY: That is correct, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, Water Supply, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: That's actual supply. Now, the \$400,000 is actually the development of the source of water, the community water source development.

MR. DOWNEY: That involves pipelining and that type of technical assistance in that type of work, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: If that's pipelining in the \$400,000, what is in the \$500,000.00? How does that differ? Maybe I'm . . .

MR. DOWNEY: It's the other way around. It's the \$500,000 is in the area of pipelining for communities and the \$400,000 is in the community source development and the community well program is in that particular, and the farm source development.

MR. URUSKI: Would that be wells?

MR. DOWNEY: That's right, yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: Wells for irrigation or whatever.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8—pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: In the \$100,000 Veterinary, I imagine that's a maintenance program of repair work that is to be undertaken. Is there some major renovations that have to be undertaken in the Vet.

Clinics or some new additions, or what is being proposed?

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman, the moneys in that allocation are for the continual upgrading of some of the older Macdonald Buildings that he is familiar with; energy conservation; window replacement; insulation and that type of . . .

MR. URUSKI: That's general throughout the system?

MR. DOWNEY: That's right. It is an upgrading of the older buildings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (a)—pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: No, Mr. Chairman. There's three more items, Mr. Chairman, and we'll be going back and forth on the questions. The community pasture, the \$100,000, is that for development of community pastures, increased development, or is there any new community pastures coming onstream.

MR. DOWNEY: No, Mr. Chairman. It's for community pasture development.

MR. URUSKI: So there will be no new community pastures that will be coming onstream. Could the minister break down the \$100,000 as to where the work will be carried on?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, the Community Pasture Program, there's been a clarification of the \$100,000.00. There has been some community pastures with parcels of land that lie within the perimeter of it and there is some acquisition of some of those lands.

MR. URUSKI: Is that \$100,000 for acquisition of the lands primarily, not for development?

MR. DOWNEY: That's right. If anything, there would be a small amount for development but there are parcels of land that have been within a developed community pasture that we are acquiring to make it a block pasture.

MR. URUSKI: Could the minister provide us some rough estimates of acreages and which community pastures we're really talking about in this area?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, it's indicated to me that no specific sites have been determined. I understand that there are leases in certain particular pastures that there will be negotiations taking place on the parcels of land within and there's a capacity to be able to purchase those lands in this coming year.

MR. URUSKI: You're very specific. Are there some within the Interlake like the Silvendale Pasture? I know there are some leases but the leases in the periphery, the northern periphery, where there was to be some extended development, I believe they were primarily Crown leases, this money wouldn't be used to purchase alternate lands to resettle farmers who had long-term Crown leases with the land leases with the Crown, would it?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, not any specific in the Interlake area.

MR. URUSKI: These funds would not be utilized to relocate some farm lands for purchasing other lands where farmers could obtain other lands in exchange for lands that would be bordering around the periphery of a community pasture; is that a relocation program as well or is it just strictly for acquisition?

MR. DOWNEY: To my knowledge, Mr. Chairman, there aren't any farm relocations from around the peripheral edges.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.—pass — the Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: The \$300,000 amount on the semen. Is that the estimated amount of semen purchases for the year?

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: What amount was allocated for last year and spent for the previous fiscal year?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, that was a revolving fund last year and we've changed it to the Capital, really a voting of funds on a yearly basis.

MR. URUSKI: I believe there should be a figure of what are the estimated sales, even though on a revolving fund basis it could be broken out.

MR. DOWNEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There was approximately \$260,000 last year bought. That was the purchase of the semen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8. The Member for St. George.

MR. URUSKI: The minister indicated that the Branch was going into or starting to develop the hog semen. Is there a substantial amount in those types of purchases?

MR. DOWNEY: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I indicated we were going into the hog semen business. I believe I indicated that there would be some research work done which would not necessarily come under this particular Capital acquisition.

MR. URUSKI: Are there commercial sources of hog semen presently?

MR. DOWNEY: Mr. Chairman, it is indicated to me that there are certain areas in the province where certain producers are drawing semen, but to name a company, I can't name a company at this particular time but I don't believe there is a commercial source in the province. I would take the question as notice and find out exactly what there is available on the commercial semen as far as hogs are concerned. As I've indicated earlier, I feel that part of the work of the Department of Agriculture is to work in research development of that kind of livestock work that we could facilitate some research work in the development of artificial insemination in hogs.

MR. URUSKI: So that if there is any commercial work being done, it would be from out of the province or some local farmers doing it on their own, primarily.

MR. DOWNEY: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Chairman.

MR. URUSKI: With respect to the \$1.5 million for drug purchases, how does that compare to last year even though it was on a revolving fund?

MR. DOWNEY: Again, Mr. Chairman, the costs of goods purchased was approximately \$1.3 million dollars. This year we have \$1.5 in the Budget for purchase of drugs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.— pass. Resolution 13. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$6,100,000 for Agriculture—pass. Do we have a Motion Committee rise? Agreed? (Agreed) Committee rise.

SUPPLY — EDUCATION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Page 30, Item 1.(e)(2) — Other Expenditures under Teacher Certification, Records, etc. — (e)(2)—pass — the Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, there were two or three questions before we recessed, that I'd like to answer at this time. One I would like to correct: It was a question in regard to whether exchange teachers pay income tax or not, and in checking further on this, I find that, in fact, they don't pay income tax. They can be in this country for some 24 months, or two years, and through reciprocal agreements with other countries, no income tax is paid. I just wanted to set the record straight there.

The Member for Winnipeg Centre had asked for some enrolment data on private schools, going back to 1976. The average enrolment in the private schools of Manitoba in 1976 was 7,399. The actual enrolment, as of September 30th of that year, was 7,683. In 1977, the average enrolment was 7,941; the actual enrolment, 8,243. And in 1978 — although I've given him these figures, I'll

go over them again — the average enrolment, 8,197; and the actual of September 30th, 8,468. So that, in fact, Mr. Chairman, the largest enrolment growth was from 1976 to 1977, an increase of almost 400 students. The increase from 1977 to 1978 is in the neighbourhood of 200.

Now, I believe the Member for Winnipeg Centre had requested a breakdown of the expenditures under the heading "Teacher Certification and Records" under the broad headings. It's broken down into four main headings; I'll break it down further if he so wishes. Under Teacher Certification, \$20.6 thousand; under Records, \$113.4 thousand; and under General Educational Development, \$61.1 thousand; and under Education Data Services, \$71.9 thousand — for a total of \$267,000 as it appears under Other Expenditures.

Now, I can go into the detail of those, if he so requires, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: I wonder if the Minister could just give us a comparative figure for Education Data Services for the prior year?

MR. COSENS: The total in this area was \$71,900, broken down as follows: Wages and Other Assistance Fee for Service \$3,000; Office Equipment Rentals \$300; Printing and Stationary Supplies \$2,800; Postage, Telephone and Telegraph \$1,900; Computer Related Expenditures \$4,000; Systems Development \$18,100; Equipment Rental Data 100 UCOM and the TRAF, Teachers' Retirement Allowance Fund \$5,400; the Data Entry Service Key Edit \$11,700; and Miscellaneous heading here \$9,700.00. There are two \$11,700's here under this computer area, Mr. Chairman. I missed one of them, that was under the Data 100, the Equipment Rental. The other one was under the Data entry, Key Service Edit. Mileage was \$600; Books, Subscriptions \$600; Travel \$400; Education Training \$1,500; Transportation, Sundries \$200, for a total of \$71,900.00.

MR. BOYCE: Well, just while we're on this item, Mr. Chairman, when we're speaking of records relative to teaching certification, going back to the days of the school inspectors, when the school inspectors filed reports . . . I don't know whether the former government did anything about it or not, but I wonder if we're continuing to maintain these records when there may be some redundancy, and I wonder if the Minister has thought about that and whether these files, you know, should be continued to be maintained?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, there have not been any inspectors' reports on teachers filed since 1972.

MR. BOYCE: That wasn't my question, Mr. Chairman. I realize that there hasn't been inspectors' reports filed since 1972, but I understand that the files are still there, and the cost of continuing these files when the policy has changed and inspectorial reports will not be filed, then perhaps these files should be destroyed.

MR. COSENS: That's quite correct, Mr. Chairman. Those files are still there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have another concern about the retention of some of the old record from a way back, and amongst them —(Interjection)— That's right. That's right. There might even be a record on the teaching performance of the present Minister of Highways and the Acting Minister of Government Services. Some of the assessments contained within these reports are somewhat subjective in nature and I really wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether they do serve any useful purpose or not. In fact, it would seem to me that on occasion they may do more harm than good just simply by having those records around. For example, if the Minister were to — in order to refresh his memory in the content of those reports — were to check through some of them, he will find that teachers were rated on matters such as personal appearance and this sort of thing, all of which may, through no fault of anybody, may work adversely against a teacher, particularly if some situation should develop where the teacher's certificate should come into question or the continuation of his or her certificate should come into question and then no doubt reports of that kind would surface.

I really do wonder, Mr. Chairman, whether one should attach any validity, particularly if it's a teacher who has taught for 15, 20, 30, 35 years and whether one should attach any validity to a negative or an adverse report that may be contained in the files from away back in the '30s, as perhaps may happen in a case such as I have mentioned.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, just to react very briefly to what the Member for Burrows has said, I understand that these records are on microfilm, that there's no great cost of maintenance if any, and really I have some problem sharing the same concern that he has expressed here at this time.

MR. HANUSCHAK: You know my point is this, and I will be a bit more specific and precise. What does happen, unfortunately, with some, the quality of teaching of some may gradually deteriorate and it may precipitate into something fairly serious which may necessitate the consideration of whether or not that teacher should be allowed to retain his or her teaching certificate or not. And then in the course of all the evidence that the board reviews in determining whether that teacher is or is not eligible to retain his or her certificate, records from as far back as that are considered and again I say, Mr. Chairman, I really do question the wisdom of examining records that far back in determining whether or not that teacher is or is not qualified and eligible to retain his or her certificate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (e)(2)—pass. The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: The Minister from that seat says that's my colleague's opinion and that is correct or he wouldn't express it. But the only time we can get at some of these items and express our concern is under the Estimates. And when we ask questions of the Minister during the question period, he says his Estimates are before the House and we should raise questions of concern to us.

If these documents are no longer being prepared on teachers in the system since 1972, then I would ask the Minister why they are being maintained?

MR. COSENS: It is quite possible, Mr. Chairman, that on occasion an individual might want to have reference to his own records to use to his benefit in applying perhaps for another position or something of that nature. I mention one of the positive benefits. —(Interjection)—

MR. BOYCE: Well, that is one of the positive uses a teacher could make of the records. The question that I have been asking the Minister, and my colleague from Burrows, of what advantage is it to the government?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if I can defuse some of the members concerned, but it is my clear understanding that these records are not available to anyone, that there is strict confidentiality as far as these records are concerned. They are available to the individual that they apply to and they are not open to the public's perusal.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to correct the Minister. They are available to school boards, in my understanding of it. And we have heard parliamentarians across this country say that such things as income tax information is sacrosanct and not available to other people in the community, nevertheless, I have had some concern expressing that and it should go on record. I don't give a tinker's darn if the Minister takes mine and publishes it on the front page of the Winnipeg Free Press because I was never even interested enough to go read it. But nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, there have been some concerns expressed by people who have read these reports, and as the years have gone by they wonder why this information, which was a matter of one person's opinion, is kept as a matter of permanent record by the government?

MR. COSENS: It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that these records are only released with the approval of the person concerned, the teacher concerned, so that school boards do not have them available to their usage unless the teacher requests that they be released to the school board, where again they see it as a positive benefit to have these referred to. The Member for Winnipeg Centre made mention specifically to school boards, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be absolutely certain now, I don't want the Minister to come back tomorrow and say that he made a mistake. I want the Minister to be absolutely certain when he states that these records are available only on the permission of the person or the individual that they are concerned with, that they are not available to Boards of Education or other persons in the public. I want the Minister to be absolutely sure because I think that's a very serious thing.

I can recall as being a member of the Winnipeg School Board reading some of the reports of School Inspectors and I can tell you I wasn't too impressed with some of the reports that I saw because some of them — one in particular — dealt more with the architectural features of the school than they did with the school system.

But the evaluation of teachers, again as the Member for Winnipeg Centre has said, is only the considered opinion of one individual. And if those records are going to be used to the abuse of members at later dates, when they are no longer required, I want to Minister to be absolutely sure that when he states to this House that those records are not available, except with the permission of the individual concerned.

MR. COSENS: Well, just to reiterate for the Member for Logan, as far as my department is concerned, they are not available without the approval of the individuals whose records are in question. He is quite right in pointing out that up until 1972, the school divisions received a copy of those reports, and would have them on file. I cannot speak for what the school divisions may be doing with their particular files or records.

MR. JENKINS: Well, then, is the Minister then saying, or is he going to attempt to have those records recalled and kept on the records that the department maintains? Because there is no need for the school divisions now to hold that type of record, and I think the Minister then should make some enquiries, and make sure that those records are recalled, and kept on file with the department, not left in the hands of individual school boards. Because they are still there, some of them, I'm sure.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, if they are in the offices of the school boards, they are the school boards' property. What I will assure the Member for Logan is that I will review this whole matter as to the records that we have in the department, on file, and doublecheck these matters to make sure, and so that I can reassure him again on this, perhaps before next year I could give him that type of reassurance, after I have carefully reviewed this particular situation. But I tell him at this time, that this is the policy of the department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, just for the record, and for the benefit of the members of the committee, under the new legislation that's just before us out of Canada, there are mothers in my constituency today, who have children, that will not enjoy the family allowance benefits unless they have a social insurance number. So let that be clear, how far we've gone on this particular subject matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman, I fail to see what the social insurance numbers have to do with the situation that has been raised by my Honourable Colleague here for Winnipeg Centre. Sure, we all know that you have to have a SIN number nowadays, and whether I agree with it or disagree with it is not the matter that is at issue right now. The matter that is at issue now is records that we have, not records that Ottawa has. We're not dealing with Ottawa. If we were down in the Federal House of Commons, I'd have something to say on that, too. But I think the records that we have access and control to are the ones that we should be dealing with, not with the SIN numbers in Ottawa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Elmwood.

MR. DOERN: Mr. Speaker, just a brief comment here. It strikes me that if the records have not been maintained since 1972, and I'll predate that, and are not of any particular value, I would personally categorize them in the sense of waste paper, or dead paper, something that's just essentially occupying storage, and I would as a comparison say to the Minister, that in this building, apparently, there are stacks and stacks of paper that nobody has ever bothered to destroy. Apparently, in the upper reaches of the building, there is boxes and boxes of Welfare records from the 1930s, payments, and so on. —(Interjection)— And my colleague says, maybe the mice have gotten into it, just as he pointed out some of the Riel papers suffered the same fate.

And I also know from firsthand experience, that some of these reports must be almost totally useless, because I don't know if the Minister recalls some of his Inspector's comments when he was in the classroom, but some were amusing. I can remember one inspector speaking to me and

saying that one of the good things that he noticed in the classroom was that the blinds were all straight, and I think that's . . . you know, if you have a very neat and ordered approach to things, I think that is of some particular merit, but has little to do with academic excellence.

So I simply say that in line with what my colleagues have been arguing, if the materials are no longer kept up-to-date, if they are simply dead storage, I think they should probably be destroyed. I think the Minister should consider that, they are obviously just dead files and should be disposed of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to prolong the debate on this matter too long, but by the Minister's own admission to the Committee, there have not been Inspector's Reports filed since 1972, that's seven years ago. Now surely — I'm sure you would agree with me, Mr. Chairman — that for whatever reason it may be, whether it be to the advantage of the teacher or working negatively, whatever reports on the teacher's professional capability can be obtained of his most recent seven years or her most recent seven years of teaching experience, would be far more valid than something predating 1972. Surely, in our present system, with our school division setup, our superintendents, assistant superintendents that some school divisions have, principals, and so forth, there are — and there should be — more reliable sources of information, more reliable sources of assessment of a teacher's professional ability than going back to a report prior to 1972, which was formulated on the basis of, in some cases only a matter of minutes, half-hour or an hour's visit in a teacher's classroom, and very seldom much more than half a day, very seldom. In fact, in my teaching years, going back to 1948, I can't recall any inspector spending a half a day in my classroom, an hour or two at the very most.

So I would urge the Minister, and I believe that he did indicate to the Committee that he would take a second look at this matter, that he do reconsider this.

I believe that there still is a committee which . . . there used to be. I can recall up until 1977 — I've forgotten what the committee was called, but it included the Director of Archives, and I believe there were two or three Deputy Ministers, I've forgotten who they were, who did review various types of documents that were stored in the government files, and they asked themselves the question, should the government continue storing them, or should they be scrapped? And they made a decision one way or the other.

Now, I don't know whether the Minister has referred this matter to that committee, in fact I don't even know if that committee is still in existence or not, that deals with questions of this kind. But if that committee is still in existence, and if the Minister is having a problem in deciding what he should do with the inspectors' reports, I would urge him to refer the matter to that committee, let it deal with it and decide whether those reports should be kept or not.

And I have no hesitation in referring the matter to that particular committee because I can recall, over the past few years, I believe it was when I was Minister of Tourism and that was why I received copies of the minutes of that committee — because I was the Minister responsible for a branch which was represented on that particular committee — in fact, on occasion, I used to question the committee's decision to scrap certain documents because I felt that it may have certain legal implications extending for many many years, for example, documentation with respect to patients in mental hospitals and that sort of thing.

So I would urge the Minister to take a real close, hard look at this and perhaps, if need be, refer it to the committee which makes decisions and recommendations as to what documents should and should not be retained, and let a decision be made on that point.

But in closing, again I would want to impress upon the Minister that I feel if it's seven years since an inspector's report has been filed, that surely over the past seven years either we must have accumulated, or if we have not accumulated, surely we have access to more reliable information with respect to a teacher's performance than something produced prior to 1972 on the basis of a half hour's or a one hour's visit to a classroom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. James.

MR. MINAKER: Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to make a few comments if I could, that being a professional man, and I know that teachers are professional people as well, I would think we would be doing an injustice to destroy the records of professional teachers who operated under a system where they were evaluated if they wanted to call that record forward, in order for themselves to become more responsible in a position in the teaching profession. Because if I understand the Minister correctly, Mr. Chairman, the only time the record is made available is on request of that professional teacher, and I think we would be doing an injustice to destroy the records if that is

the policy that's presently being followed by our government. And I can understand the problem of school boards having records of their teachers, but what the members opposite are asking is that legislation be passed that says you destroy all records in your files, and I question the legality of that.

But if the government itself, who has the files here, is not releasing that information unless requested by the teacher, then I would think, Mr. Chairman, that we would be doing an injustice to those teachers that operated under that particular operation at that time, who can use that record to achieve better responsibilities and better positions in our society.

Mr. Chairman, I can understand the Honourable Member for Elmwood wanting things like the history of the building across the road being destroyed, or the washroom at Memorial Park, the history of it being destroyed, but I always understood him to be a professional teacher, so I can't understand why he would want his record as a professional teacher being destroyed, in case he would like to apply for a position at some future date and call upon that record for his own betterment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman, I know I can't ask the honourable member a question, because he's not here to answer questions at this time. But it's very evident that the Member for St. James has never seen a school inspector's report. That is very evident. And if he figures that the reports — and I wish I had some here, I used to have some because I had copies of them too, but I've destroyed them over the years when I was on the School Board — and if you think that those records were something that someone would want to keep, and of what absolute use they would be, when the school inspector's report would say, there is a loose board, or the window isn't fitting properly, and the door, very little mention in many respects even to the teacher involved. And the keeping of those kind of records is absolute nonsense.

It's just filling up space with junk that, as the Member for Elmwood said, some are stored up here in the attic, in the garrets of this building, probably full of mice, just keeping a bunch of old junk. And I would say to the Honourable Member for St. James, I know you can't have a look at them because the Minister has said you can't, it's just too bad that you can't have a look at some of them because I've read them. I'm not a member of the teaching profession, but I was a member of a school board and we did have access to them and most of them are utter nonsense and rubbish.

And the Winnipeg School Division, long before the former government did away with school inspectors, passed by resolution that the Department of Education should go out of the business of having school inspectors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, if I could just reiterate a couple of things on this particular discussion, for the benefit of the Member for Elmwood who describes a scene where he envisages stacks and stacks of boxes and files occupying vast rooms and taking up a great amount of space, I repeat to him that I understand these records are on microfilm so it's quite conceivable that they are taking up very small space indeed.

And of course, I also would repeat the fact that there are many teachers who are very pleased that these records are kept, and perhaps as a summing-up remark on this whole subject, I would repeat once again that I am prepared, however, to review this matter in the months ahead, and take a look at just what the situation is in this regard and also to find out, through conversations with the Teachers' Society and people involved in the profession what their particular feeling is on the matter.

MR. CHAIAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I didn't think I was going to get the reaction to this question that I got. I wish to thank the Minister for undertaking to review the situation. But just briefly, on how these reports can be used some times, there was a chap who was in the system and he happened to get a field commission during the Second World War; when he got back over to England, he got called in, there was a couple of RCMP constables there who were interrogating him, and apparently when it boiled down to why he was there, he had been in a debate — and it was one of those kind of things that you pick out of a hat whether you be pro or con on something and it happened to be an argument relative to Communism.

I know the fellow personally — resolve that Communists this, that or the other thing — and

this chap, I happened to know personally, nothing could be further from a Communist than himself. Nevertheless, I believe the Minister when he says, in his view, why these things are being kept, and that they are sacro sanct, but there's evidence coming out across the land that even in the best of intentioned circles, such as Internal Revenue, that this is not the case. But I wish to thank the Minister for undertaking to review them because as he says there doubtless are many teachers who are proud of these reports because there are probably more good ones than there are bad ones, but nevertheless there is a lot of information which I question the efficacy of keeping into history. But, Mr. Chairman, I asked that question because the question has been raised with me by some teachers.

The figures that the Minister had given me just a few minutes ago, I wonder if one of his staff could sum up the cost relative to computers. You had it broken down in one item of 4,000, one item of 18.1, and two 11.7s. What I ask the Minister, if he could give me the total expenditures relative to computer use this year as compared to last year?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the comparison between this year and last at hand. I have this year's computer costs. However, I can give those to the member at this time. If he requires the comparison with last year I can delve that one out for him too. Under the Teacher Certification Office Computer Utilization some \$600; under High School Records under Systems Development, \$800.00. The machine utilization under High School Records, \$42,300; Equipment Rentals from Data 100, \$9.7 thousand; Data Entry Key Edit, \$26'700; Tape Rental, Forms, Labels etc., still under High School Records, \$7,700; under the GED, General Education Development aspect the Systems Development, \$300; Machine Utilization, \$4,400; the Equipment Rental, \$8,000; Data Entry Key Edit under the GED heading, \$1,500; Forms, Labels, etc., \$1,200.00. The Educational Data Services under Systems Development, \$4,000; Machine Utilization, \$18,100; Equipment Rentals, \$17,100; Data Entry, \$11,700; Miscellaneous, \$9,700; for a grand total in all those areas under this heading, Mr. Chairman, of \$163,800.00.

I would suggest to the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre, without producing the figures from last year, that there is probably little difference if he compares the two expenditure figures, \$267,000 this year, \$252,400 last year, the total expenditures under this particular heading. In other words there has been no dramatic increase here. —(Interjection)—

Well, I have the exact figure now, Mr. Chairman, for him. Last year's figure for these different categories was \$147,400 as opposed to \$163,800 this year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I just can't let it go into the record of this province the comments of the Honourable Member for Logan, who said as I read him correctly, that Inspectors' reports were junk. Mr. Chairman, if you go back through the records of this province to our early history you'll find that the Inspectors' reports were the Estimates of the Minister of Education in those days, 1912 and earlier, but the Annual Report in our archives — it's in the history of this province — the Minister of Education stood in this House in those days and that was his Annual Report to this Legislature and for the Honourable Member for Logan, for those dedicated loyal Manitoban citizens, the great educators of this province, to say that that was a bunch of junk I think should be struck from the records of this Committee.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to withdraw those remarks because a lot of those reports were nothing but pure rubbish. That's what they were and if the Honourable Member for Roblin if he ever saw some of those reports he would agree with me. They were sheer utter rubbish. I've read School Inspectors' reports. We got them every year and they had very little to do with the teaching ability and the evaluation of teachers. The Winnipeg School Division did its own evaluation. The former Superintendent, who is now the Deputy Minister, was a Superintendent of the Winnipeg School Division and they did a good job of teacher evaluation, a much better job of teacher evaluation than was done by the School Inspectoral staff, a much better job. And the Winnipeg School Division as I said before, went on record by resolution to the then Conservative Government to abolish the Inspectoral System within the Winnipeg School Division, but they didn't. It kept on. We got the same kind of reports, the Inspectoral report that we had before, and I said many of them, in fact the majority of them, were pure rubbish.

MR. McKENZIE: I want to have it on the record that this member and the people from Logan constituency want all the records of the School Inspectors struck from the records of this province, but I don't, Mr. Chairman, under any condition want to have the records of the people of Roblin constituency and the Inspectorates stricken from these records. Pardon my language.

Mr. Chairman, I have a very unique constituency that represents a great ethnic population, maybe their names were misspelled in those days and they're not in the records the way they should have been. I also have a lot of Metis people. I have some Indian people, native people from all ancestors, but I want to make certain, Mr. Chairman, before this Committee moves from this Resolution, that those records are not struck from this province, that they go into the archives, that the educators of those days including the School Inspectors left their mark, left their dedication, left their philosophy and Manitoba has been a better province because they were there.

MR. JENKINS: The Honourable Member for Roblin is again running off, jousting like Don Quixote at windmills. I never said that the records of the School Division should be done away with. I'm saying that the Inspectoral reports, and the honourable member should read some of those Inspectoral reports and as the Honourable Minister said, maybe we could solve the energy crisis with some of that paper. Put a windmill in front of the member too, the Minister of Resources. The Minister should go out and throw a few sandbags around. That would be a good job for him right at the present time because when I asked him six weeks ago whether he was prepared for this flood . . . At that time anybody who had any sense . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. Order please. To the Member for Logan, would you get back to Education and Teachers' Certification?

MR. JENKINS: . . . Honourable Minister a little bit of education. It'll do him a little bit of good too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have dealt with that Minister's Estimates.

MR. JENKINS: But the Honourable Member for Roblin is a bit in a pique because I dismissed his remarks about SIN numbers, and I agree with the Honourable Member for Roblin. I'm not too happy with those SIN numbers. But let's talk about the issues that are here before us, and if you are in a bit of a pique because I put you down about the SIN numbers, accept my apology because I agree with you on that. I think there's a bunch of nonsense with some of those SIN numbers, but there's an awful lot of nonsense too in some of the records of the Inspectors that have been filed over the years. They don't even refer to teachers in many of them. They refer to, as I said, a floor board is loose, the windows aren't fitting properly, things like that. I never knew that the Inspectoral staff were architects or building managers, but some of them seem to think that they were.

A MEMBER: When the snow is drifting a tight window is pretty important in any education system, I'll tell you.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, and when the wind blows through your ears it doesn't help either. But nevertheless I'll stand by my record. I'll stand by the statement that I said, that a lot of those reports were nothing but pure rubbish, and you should read a few of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Roblin.

MR. MCKENZIE: I'm not going to further debate. I just hope that the Honourable Member for Logan will look back on what he said. That's our history. That's our heritage. And if the people of Logan want that struck from the records of this province, let them, but I don't want the history of the records of the School Inspectors in my constituency every struck from the records, not only in the Department of Education but in the whole records of the history of Manitoba and Canada.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (e)(2)—pass — the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Well, I'm in an odd situation. I have to come to the defense of the Member for Roblin to a certain degree because we're not talking about destroying the kind of records that the Member for Roblin would like to see maintained we're talking about other records. In fact, I just happen to have an Inspectoral report from Division 22 for 1950-51 by a brilliant Inspector, one of the best the Province of Manitoba has ever had. I speak with a little bias in this regard.

But just to show you what progress these Inspectors were able to point out to other people outside because my colleague from Logan, from Winnipeg, really didn't understand some of these problems. But briefly, Mr. Chairman, in the interests of progress, here's a report, 1950-51: "Decided progress has been made in the improvement of the physical facilities of the school in this Division.

A well-planned school was built at Dog Lake. An old boarding house at Spearhill in Scandia School District was transformed into a modern school and equipped with a forced draft air circulation furnace on ground level." Imagine this being progress. "In St. Laurent an old Creamery and one of the classrooms of the old Simont School were combined into a modern school with three bright classrooms." But nevertheless I said earlier in this debate, and this is the kind of reports that these people filed at the time because these people were deployed through the province to put pressure on us in the province to upgrade the School System. Winnipeg No. 1 had a distinct advantage, so don't think that some of the remarks that I have made are as criticism. I'll send a copy of this over to the Minister he might get an enjoyment out of reading this old one in between questions, because I had said earlier that the School Inspectors were necessary because of the lack of qualified teachers outside of the City of Winnipeg and were primarily responsible for upgrading the system in that regard.

But I was kind of surprised at the Member for St. James because I recall some of his debates on snooper clauses — you know, the filing of information. Oh, my gosh, some of the things that they said about jackboots and all the rest of it. So I really opened this whole subject to see whether the government had any reason for maintaining these reports on individual teachers. Not on the School Divisions or the rest of it, but . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin on a point of order?

MR. McKENZIE: Is the honourable member saying there's a snooper clause in that Inspector's report that he's reading from?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre. Carry on.

MR. BOYCE: Perhaps the Minister of Education should enlighten his colleague what we're talking about. I wanted to thank the Minister for his information on the computers. Why I asked those questions, and why I would like to have an idea as we go through the Estimates what the utilization of computers is on each one of these things is because computers have a tendency to eat themselves into a system. Once we start using them the darn things seem to grow at the expense of all other things within systems, and I'm just wondering to what degree this is happening in Education.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)—pass — the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister who is the supplier of Data Services to this department, this Section?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, Manitoba Data Services provides us with some of it and of course for some we have our own equipment. Manitoba Data Services and our own equipment.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister referring to an in-house computer? If so, would he tell me what model it is?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I'll have to check into that. I certainly don't have at my fingertips the model of the different computers that now seem to abound through our society, but I will check out that particular model, yes.

MR. WALDING: Well, perhaps I shouldn't put it that way. Can the Minister confirm that in this particular department it is an in-house computer and not just a mini computer connected with MDS? Is that what he's referring to?

MR. COSENS: It's not a mini computer at all, Mr. Chairman. It is connected with MDS.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the Minister is then confirming that there is not an in-house computer under this Section? The Minister is nodding, Mr. Chairman, acquiescence with that. Can I ask the Minister then, the fact that \$147,000 was approved last year for computer related services, and it's \$163,000 this year, can the Minister inform the Committee whether this indicates something in excess of 10 percent more work being done or does this represent an increase in charges by Manitoba Data Services?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, it indicates both. The increase is accounted by both factors, more work and higher charges.

MR. WALDING: Is there an increase in the number of persons involved in this particular area for this year or does the Minister expect the same number of people to do the extra work?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I did answer that question before we recessed, but it actually will mean probably one more person in this department in a secretarial nature.

MR. WALDING: Could the Minister just tell me how many programmers there are involved with this computer work?

MR. COSENS: I will probably have to bring that information in to the member tomorrow, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: e)(2)—pass; (f)—Interprovincial Training Agreements. The Member for Winnipeg Centre. **MR. BOYCE:** The Minister could perhaps advise us at this time, I understand the decrease is because of the government's cutback of the arrangements with Saskatchewan on the training of dental nurses. Is that on this particular item the cutback?

MR. COSENS: That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BOYCE: Well, perhaps the Minister could break down this item so that we can understand exactly where the allocation is intended to be spent.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, the breakdown is as follows. Of course we have 3 programs; Veterinary Medicine; Dental Nursing; and Optometry. In the 1979-80 vote that we have before us some \$303,600 will be allocated to Veterinary Medicine; \$10,000 to Dental Nursing and of course this indicates a payment for the final adjustment in that particular program; and for Optometry \$32,300 for a total of \$345,900.00.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, would the Minister check the first two figures again because those three do not add up to \$345,000.00. I presume that there was considerably more allocated to Veterinary Medicine than what he had indicated because he had given a figure of something — one was \$3,000 the other was \$10,000 something like that. Well could the Minister repeat those figures please?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I'll repeat, perhaps I am not speaking clearly enough or with enough volume; Veterinary Medicine \$303,600, Dental Nursing \$10,000, Optometry \$32,300, a total of \$345,900.00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (f)—pass. Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Well, I am going to be brief, Mr. Chairman, but it should not pass unnoticed that this is the government's intention to give the kiss of death to the training of dental nurses under the agreement worked out with Saskatchewan by the prior government, and we have thoroughly discussed this item under the Department of Health and Social Development's estimates, but the windup \$10,000 as the Minister has advised us, is the kiss of death on this particular approach to providing dental services in the province of Manitoba. It seems passing strange, for the record, Mr. Chairman, that the government has said that they are not going to change anything until they have had an opportunity to evaluate the system and that they are going to establish some kind of monitoring device comprised of some people who they hope will be objective in their analysis. But nevertheless they have closed the door on this as an alternative service before they have even had an opportunity to examine how much it's going to cost us by developing this program under the auspices and control of the Manitoba Dental Association.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (f)—pass; Pass. 2. Research, 2.(a)

MR. HANUSCHAK: I would think that of all the branches of the Department of Education, the Research Branch and the funds appropriated for it, that this can really be considered as the nerve centre of the department because it's within this branch that we have the translation and development into programs of the philosophic and policy guidelines given the Department of Education by government. And I think, Mr. Chairman, that in debating this particular appropriation, that one point which ought to be stressed and put across to the people of Manitoba in crystal

clear terms, is that this government is developing an education program for the economic elite. And I think, Mr. Chairman — now I believe that the Minister of Economic Development wants to get into the debate and he'll have his opportunity after I am through, and I am sure that all of us would appreciate hearing his views and comments, but at the moment I believe that you would agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that I have the floor.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that the proof is quite evident that the government is moving from universal equality of educational opportunity to making education the exclusive domain of a privileged few, and this is becoming very apparent in many respects.

The level of funding for education that is offered, the end result of that will be that the school divisions will be able to provide their children with the type of education program that they would wish to and the have not will have to suffer without it, the programs that were cut out, the programs that the level of funding has made it impossible for school divisions to offer their children. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, the debate which had occurred under another topic of discussion in this House, the summer education program for the inner core city children, which the Winnipeg School Division will not be able to offer; the nutrition program; the so called, and I put it in quotes, "frills" that the government tends to disregard and eliminate. And it's not, Mr. Chairman, that somebody or even the government or the Minister of Education would look upon the teaching of music, or art or offering an outdoor education experience such as summer camping would offer as a frill, but the fact of the matter is, is that those whom this government wishes to serve, that those who support this government, they can provide those needs, they can provide their children with those needs in other ways, the individuals to whom the government feels committed. So in the summer time they take their children to their summer homes at Clearwater Bay so they don't need the program that the Winnipeg School Division wants to offer. An enriched music or art program in the school — what for? They have season's tickets to the Winnipeg Symphony. They are members of the Art Gallery. They have season's tickets to the Theatre Centre, to the Royal Winnipeg Ballet performances, so they don't need that in the schools. They don't have to pay for that out of the public purse. They provide for that on their own. They provide their children with private music lessons and so forth. So, therefore, why pay for it out of the public purse? So, when you eliminate that, when you take all of that out, so then you have nothing more than a program left for the economic elite.

So by eliminating those programs they're not hurting their supporters, in fact, they are doing them a favour because now their supporters will breath a sigh of relief and they'll say well we do not have to pay for all these programs for those poor people at Norquay School, at Victoria Albert School, at Lakeshore School Division, Interlake, Duck Mountain, wherever else. Let them fend for themselves because we can manage quite well. And, Mr. Chairman . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education on a point of order.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, is the Member for Burrows discussing programs or research in this instance? We have a program section under this particular set of Estimates where we will be discussing programs. I think the item under discussion is research.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that point very well. I'm talking about the research that the minister's department has to do, I hope is doing, to grind out programs within the guidelines and the parameters of the policy guidelines established by this government. That's what I'm talking about. And, Mr. Chairman, if the minister would read his own Estimates Book, it's quite clear that it provides research and related activities to support planning, policy and management needs in the department. And that is exactly what I am talking about, Mr. Chairman.

And you know, Mr. Chairman, this erosion of our education program is done in a very, very subtle way. It's all done under the banner of return to the basics. Let's return to the basics. Let's return to quality education. And you know, when you talk about the basics, quality education, who can argue against that? Nobody can.

MR. COSENS: On a point of order. He's not talking about research, he's talking about programs, curriculum development. Let's stick to the topic, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HANUSCHAK: . . . I'm talking about policy guidelines given by this minister to his department. That's what I'm talking about, Mr. Chairman. And you know, Mr. Chairman, the real truth of the matter is that this government wants to retain the education program in the Province of Manitoba, the exclusive domain of the privileged few, and not extend the benefits of it to everyone in the province. Because after all, Mr. Chairman, if the Research Department, this is called research, if

the Research Department were to crank out a program which would extend education opportunity to too many that would be dangerous, Mr. Chairman, that would be very dangerous. After all, consider the consequences, a son or daughter, someone on the minimum wage, may likely get to like the symphony, the ballet, the art gallery, you know, may buy a ticket to a symphony concert. Well, are those the people that the government supporters want to see occupy seats in the concert hall, in the theatre centre? You know, to rub shoulders with them at the bar, buying a drink and that sort of thing — people on minimum wage. Or even more frightening, Mr. Chairman, you give those people an education, you design a program that those people will be able to cope with, you design a program for that Indian, that Metis child, who comes in from the north and his family settles in Winnipeg, design a meaningful program for him that he will be able to take advantage of the educational opportunities, and allow him or her to acquire an education, you know, that person might demand an increase in the minimum wage. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, in fact you would think that my colleague, the Member for Inkster, had dinner with me tonight while I was putting my notes together because that's the very next point that I have, that he might do the Minister of Education out of a job. After all, we can't have that.

And then on the other hand, you know, the Minister of Economic Development, he will say, well, you know, we can't extend educational opportunity to everybody. These people will organize co-ops, consumer co-ops, producer co-ops, marketing boards, you know, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Weston, Lord Thompson of Fleet, they won't like that. You know, we can't do that, after all we all know how the system thrives, the system thrives on a certain degree of unemployment, on welfare, on people not having a proper level of education, because that's what leads to unemployment and welfare and so forth.

You know, that's what the system is all about, Mr. Chairman. You know, there is no other way that this minister can move. You know, to preserve that system he has to deny people educational opportunity. And it's interesting, Mr. Chairman, how history repeats itself. You know, when I said that all of this is being done in the name of back to the basics, in the name of quality education.

In the 1870s and talking about records and reports and preservation of records, that the Honourable Member for Roblin is very concerned about, a few steps from here the minister can go to the library and he will find the Annual Reports of this government going back to 1870. He would find that in the Department of Education Reports, there was concern expressed about making education, public school education universally accessible, free as it were, that is, of no user fee or deterrent fee, to keep the kid out of school, make it available to all. And there was opposition to that, Mr. Chairman, in the 1870s. And do you know what the opposition was? Did somebody say no, we can't have a public school education program in the province because it's going to be too costly, nor did anyone have the guts to stand up and say "No, the poor aren't entitled to an educational program." But, you know, they used something very similar to the back to the basics, a very, you know, sophisticated motherhood type of rationale, they said, "Look, if the government makes school attendance compulsory for all children and provides education for everybody, that is going to be an encroachment upon your freedom of choice." If you want to remain stupid, if you don't want to send your kid to school, you ought to have that right. You know, my goodness, how could anybody argue against that? You know, the government is encroaching upon one's freedom of choice.

So that was the argument that they used. Now, 100 years later, it's the back to the basics. It's the back to the basics veneer, that veil, that this government . . .

MR. COSENS: I'd like to remind the honourable member that we are supposed to be on research. He's having a fine, philosophical time wandering around, but the topic is research.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I'm talking about the research . . . the hands of this Research Department are tied by the policy guidelines and directives of this government. That is what I'm debating, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the Member for Burrows. If you could just once in a while mention the word research and sort of stay near the topic. The Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I will attempt to use the word research in practically every sentence from here on for the remaining 20 minutes that I have. And you know, Mr. Chairman, it's the same, it's interesting all through the world. You know, what did the John Birch Society say. They said exactly the same thing. They said, "Look by expanding the education program, by expanding the education curriculum, that is a Communist plot — that's a Communist plot to provide an education program that every child could take advantage of."

Similarly, over here while we were a government, that was a Socialist plot, that was a step away from Communism, that was a step leading to Communism. So, therefore, let's have the back to the basics. It sounds very nice but you know, Mr. Chairman and I know that what it's going to mean is a program reduced to something — it would be of benefit and of advantage to a few, but really, would become quite barren to most of the children in the Province of Manitoba, because the majority of the children would then have only a fraction of their needs met, and not the total educational needs. Because you know, what are the total educational needs? .

This morning I was going through my library giving some thought as to what I would want to say on this particular item, and I came across —(Interjection)— yes, both books and both pages of it, and I came across a book written by a Catholic priest. And I'm sure that the Honourable Attorney-General would appreciate that. He's a man, —(Interjection)— no, he's not a Communist, he's not a Socialist, he was a Jesuit Priest, I don't know whether he was a member of the CCF or not because he wrote this book 30 years ago. I'm sorry, 40 years ago. And he wrote it on the basis of his experiences in the Thirties during the Depression years. A man, a member of the holy orders of an old established church, 2,000 years of age, a church that certainly doesn't have a reputation to just suddenly change its courses of action, the directions in which it moves to respond to changes and whims of the public, but considers matters and issues very carefully perhaps, even much longer than some would want to see the church consider those issues, and he wrote a book —(Interjection)— and he did research, yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Minister, yes, he researched the matter of education. He researched the matter of what an education program should contain.

And he addressed himself to adult education. But I'm sure, Mr. Chairman, that you would find that the research, and I underline the word research, that the research that he did, and the research that he reported in this book, could also apply to education at all levels. And this is the research which he had come up with.

Here's what he said, and I hope, Mr. Chairman, as you listen to this, that you would keep one eye on the Estimates Book and what these Estimates represent, and try to recall some of the announcements which the Minister has made over the past 15 months, announcing what he is going to do, what he is not going to do, what he intends to scrap, and see how one squares with the other. And Father Cote the author of this book, *Masters of their own Destiny*, a well-known person to many members, I would think on that side of the House, who pride themselves in being strong and staunch supporters of the co-op movement, and Father Cote is very much involved in the co-op movement, here's what he said:

"What shall we study?" He says, "when we come to the questions of what to study and where to begin however, we do not find the same accord. Some adult educators advocate a program that is highly cultural and academic. They would offer the masses caviar before they had learned to like olives, and even before they had acquired the wherewithal to purchase them. Whether or not this is the correct approach may be a rather controversial question. We wish merely to affirm that it is not the approach we have used, and to set down a few reasons for our action.

"This action has been determined, in a large measure, by our philosophy of education and what we expect education to accomplish. Education should, we believe, enable a man to realize his possibilities. It should enable him to live fully for the full life is the gradual realization of human potentialities. To see this more clearly let us reduce this general statement to its more concrete form. Let us flash on the screen for a moment's examination the whole gamut of human possibilities which may be reduced to five categories. They are the physical, economic, institutional, cultural and spiritual. No people have ever exhausted their possibilities in all these phases. In that case, the millennium would have been reached. No individual probably has ever realized to the fullest possible extent all his latent powers. Few may claim perfection in even one phase of their being, yet we advocate perfection, not in one phase alone but in every phase. It is not sufficient that an individual enjoy a perfect physique and at the same time suffer from an undeveloped intellect, or an inadequate income. The whole man must be wholly balanced. There must be symmetry in the human character. On this account, it is highly important that the individual should dip into all the categories, from physical to spiritual, and thus enjoy that uniformity which characterizes the truly educated man.

"A three-legged stool that has one leg shorter than the others is of little value and less beauty. An unbalanced man is no more desirable." And it is the three-legged stool type of education program that this government is instituting. This type of three-legged stool with all legs not being of equal length. But it doesn't worry the government, Mr. Chairman. It doesn't worry them because they know that their supporters, they can adjust the length of the uneven stool to make it even. But the problem is that there are many people who do not have the wherewithal to make that proper adjustment.

"The extent to which the individual can attain this symmetry will depend upon his native capacity

and his economic standing in society. Education will perform its true function when it enables him to attain this end and ensures its permanency.

Then he asks the question, Father Cote asks the question, "where shall we begin?" And you know, Mr. Chairman, this brings to my mind some of the research which we have done into the types of programs which we wanted to institute and which we did institute, some of which were just coming on-track prior to October 11 of 1977 which this government had scrapped, namely the Co-op Education Program. And it's interesting, 40 years ago, here's a man, listen to what he had to say. —(Interjection)— Yes, he researched, yes, I must the use the word "research", thank you. He researched this issue very very carefully.

"The question however is where this process of education should begin. We have indicated what we believed to be the correct point of departure and the right course to follow where the masses are concerned. We consider it good pedagogy and good psychology to begin with the economic phase. We put our first emphasis on the material and economic that we may the more readily attain the spiritual and cultural toward which all our efforts are directed."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to remind you again that this research was done primarily in relation to post-secondary education, to adult education, and of course this department now concerns itself with the entire education program, so therefore research on that topic is very relevant to this particular appropriation. But whether we want to deal with the five topics, the five aspects of an education program in this same sequence at the elementary level or not, well, that's another matter. But nevertheless, they are of equal relevance in whatever sequence.

Now, we are tempted to believe — no, there are those who will disagree with us, they will even brand their education in economics as propaganda — you may not recall that much of that type of debate, Mr. Chairman, but we did institute a number of programs, even the co-op education program that was branded as socialist propaganda, that we were spreading amongst the students in an ulterior way. But Father Cote says, "We are tempted to believe that such an accusation might itself be propaganda for the status quo. The teacher who refuses to criticize conditions as they exist invites suspicion. He looks dangerously like a paid agent of the vested interests," says Father Cote.

He would not think of calling instruction in algebra or arithmetic propaganda, but he does not hesitate to place that name upon our efforts in the economic and social fields. And then Father Cote concludes this paragraph by saying: "If, however, it is propaganda to point out the eternally right and basic relations of man to man in society, then," says Father Cote, "I am a propagandist."

Now, Mr. Chairman, that is where education begins. Education begins dealing with issues of relevance and meaning to the children, and then it works up from there' because working the other way, working the other way from where the minister says he wants to start, that he's going to start with his Literacy Testing Program and work down.

There's no question, I'm not denying, Mr. Chairman, the need for the basics, for the three Rs, for the communications skills — of course, but the point that I'm making, Mr. Chairman, is that an education program, in order to be meaningful and relevant, beneficial and useful has to include far more than that. And there is need to concentrate and dwell upon the basics, of course there is.

But where the minister wants to start with his Testing Program to test the ultimate, the end result, Father Cote describes a man of that kind. He says that the educator who proceeds in this way is like a man who builds a beautiful edifice of which the crowning glory is a gilded dome. The vision of this beautiful dome so haunts his imagination that he cannot wait to build a foundation and raise the walls. He constructs the dome first and puts it in place by means of temporary props and it is magnificent, and he is proud and happy as he stands and surveys it, but then he realizes that he must proceed to lay the foundation and raise the walls. The task may well be impossible. Certainly it will be difficult. He raises the walls and places the pillars; finally he comes to the foundation. Here he finds that unless he can get down to bedrock and rest the gilded dome, the fine pillars, the ornate walls upon a solid base, all of his work will have been in vain. It is even now twisting and cracking and out of plumb, he begins to excavate — the muddy work is so difficult as to be almost impossible.

The additional costs are almost more than he can bear and he wishes he had started with the foundation and built up. So, really, Mr. Chairman, what I'm saying is that of this dome that the Education Minister wants to place on his Education Program, that nothing will come of it because there is no base, there is no foundation, no base to provide a meaningful, valuable, relevant Education program for the 250,000 students in the Province of Manitoba; no research, no research to identify the needs; no research to identify ways and means of meeting those needs, simply the dome that the minister wants to place on the Program. So, that is going to collapse.

Now, the honourable member wishes to enter the debate of the Ukrainian Program that the

minister announced in the Throne Speech and we will debate that. And we will debate that, yes, because I had raised a number of questions to the minister in the Throne Speech Debate which, to this date, have not been answered. —(Interjection)—. Well, I'm glad that the minister now says that he has the answers. We'll be glad to hear the minister's answers, and we are looking forward to debating them.

Then Father Cote concludes by saying that the job of all educators is to give the mass man a chance to appreciate his rich heritage — I'm sorry the Member for Roblin isn't here because he would appreciate hearing that because he spoke about heritage — to appreciate his rich heritage and to express himself. He must build his lobster factories before he can erect his new Pantheon. If we are at all realistic, we will see to it that he has an opportunity to create the kind of society wherein man will be free to free his soul.

I wish to pause here for a moment. The reference to lobster factories — because I really wonder, I really wonder, Mr. Chairman, what is happening in our Education Program. And I'm speaking of education in its broadest sense, including manpower training, all aspects of it, because I really wonder what coordination is there between him, between his colleagues sitting behind him, the Minister of Economic Development who ought to be concerned about expanding our economic activity in the province, the Minister of Manpower to whom a number of programs that the Minister of Education was responsible for up to a few months ago were hived off, the Youth Secretariat and a number of other related programs — I'm wondering what coordination is there amongst those three ministers to enable our young people to build whatever counterpart in the Province of Manitoba of the lobster factory in the Maritimes that Father Cote was concerned about and wherein he preached, worked and lived.

If we are at all realistic we will see to it that he has an opportunity to create the kind of society wherein man will be free to free his soul. If we are seriously interested in raising the cultural level of the masses of men, we will help in solving the economic problem first so that they may cease to worry about bread, and begin to enjoy their Brahms. And, Mr. Chairman, that's a beautiful sentence, "so that they may cease to worry about bread, and begin to enjoy their Brahms."

MR. CHERNIACK: You'd better tell them who Brahms was.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Some may not know — I'm not sure what interest in music the members on that side have. Five minutes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

With the economic question at least partly settled, they will be at liberty to devote their time and energies to the more enjoyable cultural pursuits; they will have begun to create their own culture and their own men of genius. If we assist the people to raise themselves to new levels of creative thinking, we need not worry about the geniuses. They will take care of themselves. From the people raised to new levels, will arise poets, bankers and musicians to give expression to the new and eternal truths that beat within their hearts as in nature, so in man. The lofty mountain peaks shall rise, not from the level plains, but from the foothills.

And it is that type of an opportunity that the people of the Province of Manitoba are being denied by the Education Programs, which the Research Department is designing within the parameters and guidelines as prescribed by this government, because this government does not believe in an Education Program that would be of meaning and value and benefit to each and every person in the province. In fact, they're working in the opposite direction. They're working to deny educational opportunity for the people of the Province of Manitoba.

And you know, one of the unfortunate things is that by the government's cutbacks, the people who are most hurt by it are not Members of the Manitoba Club; you know they don't have an opportunity to sit down with the minister and present their problems to him; you know, the Manitoba Club which is supposed to be an ideal place to discuss Hydro matters and whatever else, surely it should be an ideal place to discuss education issues, but they're not members of the Manitoba Club, Mr. Chairman, so therefore those people have to silently suffer and painfully watch everything in the name of Back to the Basics. They will see a gradual deterioration and erosion of our Educational Program, leaving the economic elite with an Academic Program satisfying their needs and which, through the application of their own additional resources, they'll be able to fill out and enrich and provide for the needs of their children. But the average worker, the farmer, the minimum wage person, the native, the Metis, the immigrant, those people are going to be left teetering on that uneven legged, three-legged stool which is to be his Education Program and which will not stand, which will not meet his needs, and in fact, which will topple and in the process of toppling over may, in the end, be more injurious to him than beneficial.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to respond to a great deal of that rambling gibberish that the Member for Burrows has subjected us to in the last half hour, and I certainly

take nothing away from Father Cote . I, too, have studied some of his work, his accomplishments, I'm quite familiar with his work in Adult Education among the poor fishermen of Nova Scotia, and certainly some 30 years ago, his achievements in that regard were quite outstanding. He was a leader in that particular regard and certainly a great Canadian.

The Member for Burrows has had little to say about research and, as a result, I'm not going to comment on his philosophical ramblings; his comments on the different classes in our society, he seems to think that there's only two types of people and if that is really his belief, I wonder where the rest of us fit in because I have some trouble fitting in either two of his categories, and so do an awful lot of other people in our society.

I would like to comment though on something else. The Member for Winnipeg Centre sent me an old Inspector's Report which I think is of more value, perhaps, than some of the things that the Member for Burrows has been saying. And it happened to apply to the School Division that I attended many years ago, and the School Inspector was one of the outstanding educators of that day in Manitoba, a lady by the name of Dr. Eleanor Boyce, who I had the privilege of knowing; who used to enliven our classrooms when she visited, with her who used to motivate us to strive for the best and all the stories; things that are good in this world, and I certainly appreciate receiving this particular report and being reminded of the fine examples we've had in the past in this province in the educational system. This report, I believe, stems back to 1950—51.

Mr. Chairman, our Research Branch is made up of some 11 people. That's not a large research organization, I would say it is a small, tight organization that's doing research for which there's real demand in the department and in the schools. Not what the Member for Burrows might term as action research, although I'm never quite clear on what that action was supposed to mean. I might also mention that this Branch is supplemented by the research arm of the Department of Labour and Manpower, as the two work together in studies related to post-secondary education and especially in programs in the community colleges.

The Member for St. Vital, or is it Winnipeg Centre, who is interested in computer-related expenses, in this department it amounts to some \$7,000.00. Those services are obtained from Manitoba Data Services and the University of Manitoba.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pass — the Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I had occasion to ask the minister in the past about his role in the instruction to stop "promoting," I think is the word, the educational tool which is entitled Building the Pieces Together, which was in use, I believe it is still in use, of the Alcoholism Foundation.

At that time, I got the impression from him that this was not his responsibility but that of the Minister of Health. In discussing this in the Estimates, the Minister of Health, he stated that the matter was brought to his attention by parents and he consulted with the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Education apparently gave him advice and some guidance in making his decision. I would like the minister to indicate the research that was done by him in connection with the use of this program.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, if we are regarding it as a program, this would be discussed under the Program Section of my Estimates. I'd be quite prepared to discuss it there; I don't see it as properly residing under the heading of Research.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, of course one should discuss these matters in a proper Resolution, but I would have thought that decisions that were arrived at would be based on knowledge, and the knowledge would be based on research. There have been allegations made by the Minister of Health that that would appear to show some sort of danger involved in the use of this program, and I would have thought that his research department or unit would have involved in exploring that. Now, if it's not that unit, then who would be involved in exploring the impact of the use of this program on the children in the schools?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that if I was having a program evaluated I would have it done by my Program Department or Curriculum Department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass — the Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: The program, which section, which paragraph is program?

MR. COSENS: 4.(a) and (b).

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, 4. Program Development, Consists of activities aimed at providing support for the development of educational programs. But here, Mr. Chairman, I don't insist that it has to be dealt with under Research, I'm just wondering why it is that it wasn't considered advisable to research this matter because it comes under the article, I thought, to provide research and related activities to support planning policy and management needs. Does the Minister say that that has nothing to do with the program which was developed by the Alcoholism Foundation? No research involved in that, but rather an administrative review. Is that what the Minister is saying?

MR. COSENS: The Program Development Branch has the expertise, Mr. Chairman, to look carefully at programs and assess them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass — the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister says, you know, that he is familiar with Father Cote and his work with the Poor Fishermen, I thought my colleague's presentation of Cote's thinking was quite apropos in that we should address ourselves to the problems of the poor Metis people, the some 100,000 or so, 60 percent of whom are unemployed, but it is incumbent upon us to point out in whatever style we choose — I forget the Minister's term, your ramblings or something — to point out to the public just exactly where the policy — and this is what we're talking about under this Research item in the Estimates. It says that that's what we're supposed to be talking about is the policy of the government relative to research. And it is the effect of this policy upon the educational system which it is necessary that the people of Manitoba understand.

We have had one example of how the government is reducing a program in the last item that we passed, and it is the policy of this government to have the Dental Program locked into a delivery system under the control of the Manitoba Dental Association. Under the Health Estimates it became obvious through the debates in this House that it was the policy of the government to lock the health delivery system into a fee-for-service doctors' office oriented type of a system. And when we're talking about educational research, you know the position of this side is that the net effect of the policy of this government, as reflected so far in the Estimates, is that they are not going to save Manitobans money; it's that they are going to cost them money because they have gone back in time and resurrected a system. I hope it is not inadvertently but it is becoming more and more obvious that it is back to the system which was geared primarily for the 12 percent of the population who could survive through such a system. And as we go through line by line we see this being reflected. So that when talking about research, I am advised that the Minister is of the opinion that more and more research should be farmed out to the School Divisions, that the department itself should rely more and more on the divisions to do their own research.

I don't want to debate the various programs under this item if the Minister suggests that we deal under another line, but what are we facing, Mr. Chairman? We're facing problems everyday, and one of the basic differences between that government and our government is that they believe that governments should not interfere, and governments should not be involved, it should be left to the survivalists, economically, and across the whole spectrum of life, and that was what was being pointed out by referring to Cote's five points of human development.

Education, Mr. Chairman, is a manner in which society musters its resources to pass the knowledge of prior generations on to succeeding generations and hopefully in so doing help them develop the knowledge and skills necessary to survive in an ever-changing world, in a world which is changing too rapidly for us to cope with.

The former government, rightly or wrongly, tried to start to develop programs which would address that problem. So I think it is proper for us to ask the Minister questions relative to what his policy is, his philosophy is when it comes to what is he going to do about the problems.

I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, I thought the Minister of Economic Development wanted to enter the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the Program part of the Estimates I'm sure the Minister will answer the question.

MR. BOYCE: As Cote addressed himself with the problems of poor fishermen, we have problems in the City of Winnipeg. Now, if somebody asked me for an analysis after 18 months of the net

effect of the Conservative government in the Province of Manitoba I would say that they have deliberately set their goals for a net population in the province of 850,000 people, with 600,000 of them located in the City of Winnipeg, another 100,000 dispersed in the cities of Thompson, Brandon, Flin Flon, The Pas, and the rest of them dispersed throughout the province so they can't possibly cause any problems. Because it seems that they have resurrected the TED Commission Report, they think that the migration is going to continue there is nothing that they can do about. The Stay Option type of program to address ourselves to this kind of problem, to slow down urbanization as best we could, but nevertheless what is the Minister going to do for the problems that are facing us today, and we know that are going to face us tomorrow, such as this continual influx of people into the urban area?

Now, some of your programs that your colleague, the Minister of Economic Development, referred to, I understand that the Minister had transferred over to Winnipeg No. 1 Research Programs around the problem of migrants, community assessment, schools for urban neighbourhoods, and the Urban Education Program.

So perhaps the Minister, if he wants to discuss these under a particular line of his Estimates, we will be glad to do so but I understand this reflects his attitude, that he wants to maintain a small capacity in this particular area of research within the department but the rest of it is to be farmed out. And if the Minister would like to discuss these programs at this time and advise us on what he has gathered or what he is going to suggest, as far as dealing with these problems. Not of the fishermen some 40 years ago but the fishermen of today. What is his program as far as the continual influx of people from the outlying communities, as it becomes harder and harder for these people to survive in that milieu?

So that when we talk about research generally there are some specifics. Now whether the Minister wants to get into the specifics at this time, or go into the specifics under some other line, but nevertheless I would like to know, and I think it's incumbent upon the Minister to advise Manitobans, how he sees the research capacity in the Department of Education as addressing itself to solving the problems it faces today and preparing a system to deal with the immediate problems in the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, I just cannot resist the temptation to just simply add to one of the questions put by my colleague, the Member for Winnipeg Centre, in view of the fact that time and time again when the Honourable Minister's Party sat on this side of the House that was the standard question asked of me for five years while I was Minister of Education, so in line with what my colleague had asked, I would like the Minister to outline the Research projects that his Research Department is involved in. He did indicate that it is not Action Research. Well, that doesn't really tell us all that much. So I would hope that the Minister would indicate the types of Research projects that this Branch is presently engaged in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Education.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I would be very pleased to. I think I will be outlining what are very important worthwhile projects, not only for my department but for the School Divisions of this province and the people involved in the educational community of this province, and ultimately, of course, the chief benefactor are the students in our schools.

I will read out the Research projects that have been undertaken to this point, those that are in progress, and also consultation activities that have been undertaken as well.

Under projects completed — and I know the Member for Burrows will be interested in these — a longitudinal study of high school students' post-secondary plans, post-high-school outcomes and plans of Manitoba high school students; a project on career counselling — and this, of course, in support of the Career Program that we are presently working on in our department — a review and analysis of measurement and testing activities across the provinces of this country; assessment of educational attainment in Manitoba; a development of elementary secondary enrolment projections, 1978 to 1984, which I'm sure the Member for Burrows would agree is rather timely in this time of declining enrolments and the associated problems that we have with that; development of an information needs action plan; a co-ordination of the departmental budget review, planning and priorities; a search assessment; French language education; an evaluation of the Teacher Education in Rural Manitoba Program; an evaluation of the Frontier School Division's nine-month school year; a follow-up of sequential no-shows at Brandon University.

Conference on declining school enrolments; analysis of test-scoring equipment needs; a university outcomes assessment; cost benefit analysis of the schools' computer network post secondary

projections, a rather vital area as far as our universities and community colleges are concerned, and our own planning for the years ahead.

The research consultation activities take in a fairly large scope as well, Mr. Chairman. A special education review was conducted; it's a survey to provide information on current level of department services and school divisions; a policy study on classroom research, school media personnel, and this is a survey of school media personnel to compile a directory and assess future training needs.

Under the Manitoba private sector Youth Employment Program that was so successful last year, Mr. Chairman, we've had a survey of all businesses that received assistance under this program in regard to employment information.

In the area of chemistry, physics and biology — again I'm talking about survey work conducted by the Research Department, a survey of High School teachers to assess the relationship between the time allotted for these subjects and the topics and concepts outlined by the present curriculum guides.

Parental attitudes towards second language instruction. This is a survey, as it suggests, to assess attitudes of parents towards their schools offering instruction in a second language. Also a follow-up of graduates from Brandon University with regard to their experiences in university and subsequent activities, computerization of yearly screening process and, of course, this assists with the requirement of computerizing the yearly assessment of students for hearing problems in the School Divisions.

The Youth Employment Survey, a follow-up of university students regarding their employment during the previous summer to monitor year to year changes in summer employment conditions and to assess the impact of provincial job creation programs on student employment.

The Harmuth Language Screening test, assistance with developing norms and standardization of a language screening test. And of course, the assessment of writing skills project. The branch was responsible for drawing the sample for the province's project on writing skills assessment. They also conducted a follow-up of vocational High School students and assisted with the survey design requirements in this regard. And also a student assessment project that was conducted along with the St. Boniface College Research Centre.

I think that should give the honourable member some idea of the type and scope of research that this particular branch has been carrying forth, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I'm looking at the Annual Report of the Minister of Education for the year ending June 30, 1977. I appreciate that the report was for a period of time prior to the Honourable Minister's assumption of office. However, the report is his because I note that on the first page the letter to the Lieutenant Governor is signed by the present Minister of Education so, therefore, I would assume that he endorses the contents of the report.

And within that report under Evaluation, Research and Policy Analysis, one of the projects that was undertaken, which I think is was possibly one of the most important ones, was Policy Analysis. Staff members carried out analyses of the Education System in terms of broad policy program areas including Education Finance, certain aspects of Teachers' Certification, the accountability at all levels of the Public School System, and responsiveness of the System to provincial educational goals. In this activity staff members interacted closely with other departmental personnel and other government departments and agencies. Major policy areas during 1976-77 included Education Finance, Grant Structure and Delivery, Evaluation, and establishment of Parent Councils.

Now, that was as of a year and a half ago, which the Minister reported to this House during the last Session, and I would like to ask the Minister what follow-up work is being done on that research work that was commenced there because obviously the Minister has certain policy recommendations before him on his desk presented by the staff as of this time making certain recommendations with respect to Education Finance, Grant structure, etc. I would like to know whether the Minister is considering those recommendations and, if he is, which ones, and what course of action he proposes to take upon the recommendations which he had received at the time of assuming office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, first of all, just let me clarify, as far as the particular report is concerned that the Member for Burrows refers to, the report that contains the activities of the department from September, 1976 to June 1977. As he well realizes, that was not a time that I was in office, nor was my government in office and, of course, he also realizes that it is a requirement

of this House that those activities of the department be tabled in this House, and that is the obligation I carried through with. I did present them. To say I endorsed them is another matter. I felt it was my obligation to at least present those activities to this House.

He speaks of some particular research in connection with Education Finance. If there were recommendations there I haven't seen them. Where did that particular report appear? What was it called? And if the member has a copy of it I would be interested in seeing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I'll be interested in reading the list of projects enumerated by the Minister when Hansard is available, but just in an overview it seems that if a matrix was presented it would be skewed towards an analysis of the system rather than the people within the system. But that's just an observation at this time. Is it the Minister's intention to make these reports — publish them? I understand that some research is carried out in the department for administrative decisions and, you know, these are internal documents, but is it the Minister's intention to make these reports in total or in part available?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I would be quite prepared to give a list of the reports that have been published and are available to the Member for Winnipeg Centre if he is interested in perusing them.

MR. BOYCE: I had asked the Minister earlier — and I'm sorry, he got answering another part of the question that I had asked; that I had expressed an opinion that it seems that the Minister is inclined to farm some of this research out to the School Division. I have a particular interest in the core area of the City of Winnipeg and some of the problems pertaining to the downtown part of the school — you know, the school problems in that area and I had asked him specifically — about some projects which had been undertaken. The Migrant Program, I believe, was undertaken on behalf of the government by Winnipeg No. 1, the problems facing the School System in Winnipeg No. 1 because of the migrant problem, and there was an assessment to be carried out on the concept of community schools, I understand, by Winnipeg No. 1. And I believe, you know, unless I'm misinformed that this was done in cooperation with the department but it was under the aegis of the Winnipeg School Division No. 1.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, let me say at the outset that we aren't farming research out to the School Divisions. The type of research that I have just outlined to honourable members present is not research that has been farmed out. I'm not aware that there are any School Divisions with particular research projects that they are carrying on at great length themselves without the assistance of our own Research Branch. There may well be. The majority of School Divisions don't have the personnel or the resources to carry these out on their own, and I'm again talking about the type of research that I am outlining here. The Member for Winnipeg Centre is speaking about programs, and we have some problem there. When I speak of research I see that as a backup to policy as one aspect of it; as a support for management, assessment aspects of the department and perhaps of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education in the province as well; and I see it as something necessary for effective planning. When the Member for Winnipeg Centre speaks about research he is talking about certain social action programs, I believe he would term them, that were sponsored by the former Research Department in Education, and these were pilot programs that were either cost-shared or had been started by the former Research Department in certain areas, particularly in Winnipeg. I don't think we saw any of these out in rural Manitoba where the other half of the population lives. As I say, these are not in my definition research programs; they are social action programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)(a)—pass — the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: I'm sorry to prolong it but it's necessary to understand the Minister. Sometimes we get into jargon. This Social Action Research, I'm not too sure what the Minister means by Social Action Research Programs. What I understand is before us is the subject of what the Department of Education is going to do generally about solving the problems which face us in Education and will face us in Education. One of the problems which faces us in Education which, in my view, the province has a provincial responsibility, is the migrant population. Now, the Minister can use any terms that he likes, such as Social Action Research Program, but does the Minister not feel that

because the influx of people into the City of Winnipeg, and primarily into Winnipeg No. 1, that the province has a responsibility in making available provincial resources to Winnipeg No. 1 to help them understand the problem, develop programs to deal with the problem, or a combination of both?

MR. COSENS: What we have done in this regard is provided a special grant last year, and we will get to that particular heading under 3.(a), School Grants, but a special grant has been provided to Winnipeg No. 1 to in fact help them deal with special programs of this nature, whether it be migrant people or others who require special programming within the school system or have special needs within that school system.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass — the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: I thank the Minister for his response to that and we will deal with it when we get to that particular grant, but I noticed that there's no line Recoverable from Canada on this and I wondered if the Minister has or intends to make any attempt to ask the federal government for some contribution in this area, when we are thinking of migrant populations? There was about three different influxes of people, well, four influxes of people, who have had some problems of cultural adjustment. There was a large influx of Italian people, Portuguese people and laterally the Phillipine people, and I am wondering if in this general area, whether it's under this item or some other item in the estimates that Canada is making some funds available to help with this migration problem, especially with cross-cultural differences.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member for Winnipeg Centre is referring to 3.(a) again where we have moneys provided for English as a second language, ESL grants to take care of the particular problem that he refers to and of course if he looks down at 3.(a) he will notice there is a Recoverable from Canada there that in part would deal with that ESL area, English as a second language.

MR. BOYCE: Well, the Minister, but reinforces my concern when he deals under 3.(a) which we won't discuss at the present time, is English as a second language. Is that all that is being done to assist the people who over the past 20 years or so have by and large come into Winnipeg No. 1 from different cultures? Is that all that the Department of Education is doing? I know they're not doing anything in the Department of Health and Social Development but nevertheless is the Department of Education, and I believe that it is a federal-provincial responsibility to assist No. 1 in this regard, because it is more than just a question of learning a second language? It is the whole scene in education. It's the whole developmental process so I'm but more concerned if all we are doing in this area this year is dealing with English as a second language. Is there no other effort being made to understand the problems facing these people than studying English as a second language? Is there no research being done into this question and what we can do to resolve the problem and be of assistance in helping these people become productive Canadians?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, from the people that I am acquainted with who are coming to this country, and particularly their children who are going into our school system, the only thing hampering them for a very short period is mastering the language that is used in this country. Upon mastering that language then they certainly are on a par and they seem to have a motivation that drives them on and on and sometimes beyond those of us who have been born here and lived here for many years, and I don't see that they are particularly handicapped in any other particular area. They are an industrious people and a people who feel that they have come to a free country where there are a great number of opportunities and they certainly are prepared to make full use of those opportunities.

MR. BOYCE: Well, of course the Minister doesn't answer my question. He made a statement that I would subscribe to. The people that come to this country are industrious and adventuresome and will survive, but nevertheless he is very very unfamiliar with my own constituency because I deal with these cross-cultural problems every day and it's not the parents of the children that I am talking about, I am talking about the education of the children that grow up in a different culture, and it is definitely a problem and I don't want to identify any ethnic group. But nevertheless the cross-cultural differences are of concern and if the Minister thinks that I am just postering for political purposes, I would suggest that he visits a couple of schools in the area and talks to the teachers that have to deal with these problems and to talk to his colleague the Minister of Health and Social Development. Youngsters get into mischief and it's just more than understanding the English

it's understanding the culture and many other things. The Minister's but reinforcing some of the arguments made from this side that all they see from an educational system is the teaching of 3Rs. He so far has given absolutely no indication at all that the public school system in Manitoba has any responsibility in socialization whatsoever.

MR. COSENS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I have some problem following the particular reasoning of the Member for Winnipeg Centre. If he has some particular programs that he would like to point to that are required that would increase the learning ability or enhance the learning atmosphere for new Canadians, I think that's something that would be well worth looking at. I remind him that as far as the core area of Winnipeg is concerned that we do provide something in the area of \$1,000,000 to the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 to help them in turn provide special programming for people who are new to this country, for children who are new to this country and new to this particular educational system and I understand that that money is spent on providing extra teachers, teachers who are skilled in working with those who have not as yet learned the language, who are of course not familiar with the particular culture here. But, I have to tell the Member for Winnipeg Centre that I've spent 25 years in the school system as well and I also have come in contact with a great number of the same type of people and I know the problems they have. I would suggest to the member that perhaps their problems are not as great in many ways as the problems of some of the people living here who have been raised here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I believe that the Minister said that there is \$1,000,000 for this program and if my memory serves me correctly there was \$1,000,000 offered the Winnipeg School Division for a similar program 2 years ago. Could the Minister indicate why the level of support has not increased in keeping with increasing costs?

MR. COSENS: I would suppose, Mr. Chairman, that for one thing we are looking at a declining population. The moneys that are required are now required for a smaller number of students than they were 2 years ago.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Now the Minister says that he is supposing that he's looking at a smaller population. Could we get that clarified? Is the school enrollment falling within the category that was to be assisted by this grant? Is it in fact decreasing or is it not, or is it merely speculation on the Minister's part?

MR. COSENS: No speculation at all, Mr. Chairman. Certainly the decline of enrollment in Winnipeg No. 1 is quite dramatic.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Mr. Chairman, that is not my question. My question has nothing to do with the total enrollment of the school division at the present time as it may compare with that of a year or two ago, but my question relates specifically to the migrant children, to the immigrant children. Is that enrollment the same, increasing or decreasing, and by how much if there is any variation?

MR. COSENS: I understand, Mr. Chairman, that that enrollment is decreasing. We have seen some decline in the number of people who have been immigrating to the province.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I note, Mr. Chairman, that one of the major activities of the Research Branch, and I would presume that this was, yes, it says, "In conjunction with the Finance Branch, a Research Branch developed forecasts of elementary and secondary school enrolments," I believe the minister mentioned that earlier as one of the projects undertaken by this branch, so I presume that it was developed as of December 31, 1978. Could the minister enlighten us on the findings of the Research Branch with respect to elementary and secondary school enrolments, at least in some general terms, from 1978 to 1984. And also the same section of the report indicates that that analysis was also carried out on enrolments and student participation in the universities and community colleges of Manitoba. Has the minister any information to offer us on that particular research assignment that his branch had done?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, if the honourable member has an interest in that area I'll be quite prepared to provide him with the report. I can tell him of course that we are looking at a declining school enrolment until the year 1984, at which time it will level off. We are seeing a decline of

some 3,000 to 4,000 students a year until that date, and we would expect from our projections that the high school enrolment will continue declining well into the 1990s. As I say, I can go into great deal and I suppose regurgitate a great deal of the report for him at this time. I would much rather provide him with a copy, he can read it at his leisure.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I thank the minister for his offer . . . to provide the House with that report, all members of the House that is.

MR. COSENS: Well, certainly, Mr. Chairman, I suppose that would be possible. It doesn't sound very economical to me to provide everyone with the report, but I certainly would be prepared to provide it to anyone who has a genuine interest and would be prepared to read it.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Under this particular research item which the Research Branch had undertaken I note that it was done in conjunction with the Finance Branch. In doing this study of enrolments did the branch also do any study or analysis of education costs for the future as related to the declining enrolment?

MR. COSENS: That was not one of the particular projects undertaken by the Research Branch in the last few months, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Well, I wasn't so much concerned about the last few months if the minister is talking about the months of this year, of which we've already gone through three and a half, but I was thinking of prior to December 31, 1978. And the reason why I ask the question, I will ask the minister again because I note that the Finance Branch worked in conjunction with the Research Branch. So, hence that prompts my question, that in doing this study, was there also a study of education costs?

MR. COSENS: Well, certainly the particular study that the member has been referring to was undertaken in regard to declining enrolment, and enrolment projections, not cost projections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a) — pass — the Member for Burrows.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Has the Research Branch done any analysis of projected education costs, or has anyone in the department. If someone else has well then I will, under some other appropriation, I'll ask that question later. But my question is, has the Research Branch done any analysis of projected education costs, whether it be part of this research project or another, it doesn't matter?

MR. COSENS: Ty answer is no, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to the questions that my colleague from Burrows was asking about the survey that was done under Major Activity No. 4. Did the minister make the results of that survey available to all of the school divisions? I am sure that this would be interesting information to them. It would be something better for them to rely on than to have to ask Ladco or Engineered Homes or similar companies, as how many children could be expected in future years. Did the minister make that information available to the school divisions?

MR. COSENS: The report has only been recently completed, Mr. Chairman, and certainly that information will be available to the school divisions.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I note from last year's Estimates Book that we approved an amount in this Committee of some \$487,000 for research. Our Estimates Book this year indicates an amount of \$249,000 for last year. I'm finding it a little difficult to understand except that under the Deputy Minister's Report it mentions that a single Research Branch was established, combining research functions from a number of other departments and sections of government. However, the minister has told us this evening that there are now only 11 people in the Research Branch. I wonder if he would explain to me how the reorganization was carried out please.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member for St. Vital probably missed the remark that I made in this regard when I stated that one segment of this research component was moved over

to Labour and Manpower, with the shift in Manpower responsibilities from Education to Labour, and so with that particular group went the salaries and so on involved with some ten people. The SMYs in this particular branch last year amounted to 21; 10 of those have moved over to Manpower, and of course this accounts for the discrepancy between the salaries that he refers to in last year's Estimate Book, and what we see before us this evening.

MR. WALDING: p'm still not clear, Mr. Chairman. I will quote the minister the paragraph that I was referring to, which says, "That a single Research Branch was established combining the research functions of the former Department of Education with the Manpower Assessment Branch, the Research Function of the Youth Secretariat and a portion of the function of the Planning and Evaluation Branch of the Community Colleges Division. Now that suggests to me, Mr. Chairman, that there were a number of different areas that came together, and then presumably something was taken away. Now will the minister give us the figures for the number of persons who were in that combination joining together, and then those that were taken away?"

MR. COSENS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I went into some detail in last year's Estimates, explaining that very question. The Member for St. Vital is quite correct when he reads that the research function in the Department of Education rested in some four or five different areas. We consolidated these into one area. And last year's Estimates reflected that consolidation. Now what has happened, and we ended up with some 21 people in the area of research last year. Of those 21, some 10 transferred over to Manpower under the Department of Labour this year. So the 21 has diminished to 11, the present number.

MR. WALDING: I'd like to ask the minister about Major Activity No. 6 on Page 37 of the report. I wonder if he could explain just what that was please.

MR. COSENS: That was an internal study, Mr. Chairma., for internal use.

MR. WALDING: It says here that it was to determine trends in educational expenditures. Yet I thought I heard my colleague from Burrows asking if there was any research project having to do with expenditures on education at both provincial and municipal levels, and that the minister had told him "no". Now is there some confusion over terminology?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I believe the Member for Burrows was asking about future projections in connection with declining enrolments. I would refer the Member for St. Vital to Item No. 6, that was Analysis of Data Conducted to Determine Trends in Educational Expenditures at the provincial and municipal levels, and the relationship of our expenditures to other provinces.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, isn't it almost a definition of the word trend to know where something is going? Perhaps the minister can enlarge as to just what this particular survey did, and over how many years was it conducted — years or months, perhaps it was a shorter one, I don't know. Does the minister intend to keep this information in the House, or is this not likely to be of considerable interest to School Boards and municipalities?

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, I see it as an in-House document. It's quite global in content and I required this particular information for some of my own deliberations. I found it useful in taking a look at some of the educational finance problems that we have facing us at this present time.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the minister now if this particular determination of trends was done in collaboration with the work that the Department of Finance is doing in the preparation of its White Paper on Taxation and the Tax Credit System.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, my answer would be no. I should mention that I was particularly interested here in seeing what had developed over the last number of years in regard to educational expenditures and so on, in this province and in other provinces — major developments to see the way these particular expenditures had been moving, not just in this province but in other provinces as well. I think this type of information is something that a minister of a department requires if he's going to be informed and have some understanding of what has been happening in the particular area of responsibility that he may have.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the honourable minister for that information.

I'd like to ask him one further question on that particular project, and ask him whether his figures were province-wide or were they broken down, division by division?

MR. COSENS: Province-wide, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HANUSCHAK: I believe, Mr. Chairman, the Minister has stated that this was in in-house study for internal use, but the Minister having given that reply has sort of sparked my curiosity and no doubt of other people. Because the fact of the matter is that this is an item contained in the Annual Report of the Department of Education, a report tabled in this House, distributed to the members and I would presume that the very fact of the tabling of the report . . . Well, being tabled, it's now part of the sessional papers available to all and everyone in the province to read and I would assume, Mr. Chairman, that it follows from that that anyone seeking any further explanatory elaborating information on any item contained in a report so tabled, so presented to the people of Manitoba is entitled to it. And hence I think that if one wanted to know, you know, what the findings of this particular study were that I don't think that the Minister could say, well, this was an in-house study for internal use. And I well appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that in the course of the Minister's going about his day to day affairs that he meets with his colleagues, he meets with his staff. From time to time I'm sure there are exchanges of memos and letters and so forth, prior to or in the process of policy formulation, which a Minister is not bound to reveal or disclose. But here we are asking about something which is stated in a public document, that there is an analysis of data to determine trends in educational expenditures. So hence the point that I'm making, Mr. Chairman, is that I feel that whatever the findings were that they ought to be made available to those wishing that particular information.

And I, too, would want to support my colleague, the Member for St. Vital. You know, the Minister says that he was only looking at the past history, but I think that the word "trend" sort of implies both. You look at the past history of how, whatever it is that you're studying had progressed, had moved along, and then you also look to the future, what the indications are as to the future action or development. So it would seem to me that it would take in both.

Anyway, I just simply want to underline the point that I made at the outset that I don't think that it's an unreasonable request that the Member for St. Vital made of the Minister, asking for details of this particular study, and in fact it should be self-evident to the Minister that in view of the fact that it's referred to in the Annual Report, if anyone wishes details on it that they should be made available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, seeing I have beat the curiosity of the Member for Burrows, I would be quite prepared to let him have the report. As I say, it was an in-house report that I had requested. I felt it would be of assistance in departmental budget planning. If this is of interest to the Member for Burrows, certainly I can get him a copy of it for his perusal.

MR. HANUSCHAK: In examining the trends in educational expenditures, did the Research Branch look at both the public school and the post-secondary education costs?

MR. COSENS: I would have to check into that again, Mr. Chairman. I haven't looked at that particular report from some months. I would have to go back and check into the particular figures and the particular terms of reference that were used with the report. I know, of course, I looked at the school system and the post-secondary, I can't remember whether it was covered or not.

MR. HANUSCHAK: In checking back on the report to refresh his memory, Mr. Chairman, would the Minister also check to see whether the research analysis made the same finding with respect to post-secondary education costs in Manitoba as the Ontario Economic Council, I believe the name of the group was, found last October to the effect that they found that the poor were subsidizing the post-secondary education of the rich?

MR. COSENS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'll give the Member for Burrows a copy of the report; he can check that out for himself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass — the Honourable Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I did mention this particular matter, I believe it was Tuesday evening,

and told the Minister that I would make reference to it a bit later on, and that was a letter that he had sent me in February with a little research paper from his Research Department. I raised a matter in the Minister's Estimates last year — and I won't quote it to him again — about the extent of adult illiteracy in this country and in this province. The Minister listened attentively and said that he would see what could be done; he would consider the matter. Quite frankly, I thought that would be the end of it, Mr. Chairman, but the Minister was good enough to do something about it and, as I mentioned before, wrote me a letter in February and enclosed this research document.

Now, he quotes twice in his letter the expression "adult illiteracy", — three times in the letter — which is what I had been speaking of, so I turned with considerable interest to the research paper itself to find out what it had to say about adult illiteracy, and what I found it referred to was really the numbers of people who had left school with less than Grade 9 education.

It's a very interesting document, Mr. Chairman. I would like to just quote a couple of the figures from it to show its value. It gives a table showing the percentage of the regional population 15 years and over not attending school. These figures would indicate the percentage of the population who have left school having an educational level of less than Grade 9. In 1961, 43.3 percent of Manitoba's population were in that group. Ten years later the figure had declined to 34.6 percent, and as of 1976 it had declined further to 29.1 percent. As I said, a very interesting document but not what I had asked for. I would hope that this research paper didn't cost too much to produce. I wouldn't like to feel that I have wasted any of the province's or the department's research budget in producing something that was not asked for.

My remarks of a year ago, Mr. Chairman, were directed to the problem of absolute illiteracy in adults, not functional illiteracy which is difficulty in coping with normal everyday way of life with that particular level of education that the person had, but with the actual inability to read anything and the inability to write, even as far as writing one's name is concerned. The adult illiterate cannot read a menu, cannot fill in a job application form, can't read a telephone directory or read the place that a bus is going to even. And I've seen figures that indicate somewhere between 5 and 10 percent of the total population are in fact illiterate, which would indicate a million or more Canadians who absolutely cannot read or write. —(Interjection)— We're not involved here with immigrants who come with a language problem; we're dealing with people who went through the school system 20, 30, 40 years ago, who now find themselves middle-aged or more with a great deal of difficulty in coping in modern society. They are people, generally, who take the poorest paid jobs because they don't like to have to read instructions or fill in forms. If they are offered a promotion in their job where they have to, again, fill in a form or account for figures or people, they will turn it down.

It's no good putting an advertisement in the paper and saying if you're illiterate phone this number and we will take care of it, because they couldn't read the notice anyway.

The figures that I saw last indicated about 5 percent absolute illiteracy and somewhere in the region of 10 percent in addition to that are functionally illiterate.

What I had asked the Minister last year was if he had any actual figures of the extent of the problem in Manitoba, whether he had any policy on the matter and what he was intending to do about it. Now, I don't know whether he has had the opportunity over the last year to consider that fact but I would invite him to comment on it now.

MR. COSENS: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me say that I can dispell the concern of the Member for St. Vital about the cost of that particular report. That information already existed in the Research Branch so there were no dollars or no amount of dollars expended in providing the information to him. I was quite happy and prepared to provide it, even though it has not answered his main concern.

I have made some inquiries, however, in this regard, in different areas. I find out that Stats. Canada made some attempt to provide the type of information he is interested in and in fact were unsuccessful. First of all, they had some difficulty in defining what broad illiteracy was and then, having arrived at some satisfactory definition, found a great deal of difficulty in carrying on any meaningful type of survey to establish the numbers. Because, of course — and I'm sure the Member for St. Vital can appreciate this — that people who fall into that category are not too prepared to admit that they don't have any facility in reading, for instance, and, as a result, Stats. Canada, to my understanding, has been somewhat stymied in trying to provide that type of information. So I think he can appreciate certainly the problems that are involved in coming up with an exact figure. Any figure that we do see on this is an estimate. I think we have to also be very careful in looking at that figure as to what definition of literacy was used in arriving at that particular figure. I would also be suspect, then, of the figure itself, because I would suggest it wouldn't be arrived at by any very solid research tactic but through a guesstimate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass; 2.(b) — the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: I was interested in the trend the discussion has taken. I wonder if the Minister could advise us, without going into the details of it, there seems to be an indication from Stats. Canada that there is going to be an upsurge in the late 1980s relative to school enrolment. Is this holding true or is it not?

MR. COSENS: The figures that we have, Mr. Chairman, would not indicate an upsurge of any dramatic extent at all but certainly a levelling off and a plateauing in the latter part of the '80s.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(a)—pass; 2.(b)—pass.

Resolution 41: Be it resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$256,800 for Education Research.

3.(a)—pass — the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the Minister is inclined to Committee Rise, and we can start this tomorrow. We are making progress and I imagine that we can dispense with the next item. This is by and large the biggest item in the department and personally I'd like an opportunity to get my notes together and get on to it, but nevertheless if the Minister is so inclined, perhaps the committee should rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee rise.