

Time: 8:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY

SUPPLY - ATTORNEY-GENERAL

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Morris McGregor (Virden): I call the committee to order. Resolution 21. 7.--pass. The Member for St. Johns.

MR. SAUL CHERNIACK: I would like to ask the Honourable Minister how much was spent last year on this Resolution?

HON. GERALD W. J. MERCIER (Osborne): Law enforcement?

MR. CHERNIACK: Law enforcement, yes. I really don't mean a year ago, I mean the year that's ending, estimated expenditure.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, it's anticipated we will spend \$14,340,000.00.

MR. CHERNIACK: Is that because it's all grants?

MR. MERCIER: It's not grants, as such, Mr. Chairman. There are some grants.

MR. CHERNIACK: As I understand it the province pays for the purchase of services to provide them to municipalities, as well as its own provincial needs, if I'm not correct?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, provincial policing contract.

MR. CHERNIACK: Is this only provincial policing and nothing to do with municipal policing?

MR. MERCIER: That would include municipal contracts.

MR. CHERNIACK: Does the Minister have readily available the amount for the municipal contracts as compared with the provincial?

MR. MERCIER: We don't have that available, Mr. Chairman, but we could calculate that and provide that to the Member for St. Johns if he wished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for The Pas.

MR. RONALD McBRYDE: Mr. Chairperson, I asked the Minister some questions earlier, but I'd just like to follow up first on the previous question. The Minister would have thought the amount that is direct provincial policing, as opposed to the amount of it that's municipal policing, I assume, or does he not have that kind of figure available.

MR. MERCIER: I don't have that available right at the moment. If we can determine that tonight, I'll give the member that figure, Mr. Chairman. If not, we'll calculate it and provide it at a later date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I had earlier asked the Minister some questions and I believe that he is prepared to give a little bit more de-

tailed answer on those, at this time. So if you would allow him that opportunity, if he would signal you that he is ready.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we now have 13 special constables, Indian special constables at locations throughout the province where there are reserves. There are two more in training and two recruits processed for training. The evaluation would indicate that the program has met with success. We are providing, this year, for an expansion of the Indian special constables to 20.

MR. McBRYDE: I didn't quite catch that, Mr. Chairperson. He's going to have to expand it up to 20 or by 20?

MR. MERCIER: Up to 20.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I guess I was sort of waiting; I was hoping for a little bit fuller explanation of what was happening. The other part of the question is, like, there still is a band constable program; I know the Minister isn't directly involved in that but it would have to mesh in with this program, in terms that if a band in fact has a special constable under this program, the 3B program, then they wouldn't have the Indian Affairs constable, and I just wondered what the relationship is and how they mesh together.

MR. MERCIER: It's not involved with this program at all and is not administered by this department.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I understand that but I'm trying to figure out how they do mesh together though because there is, as I understand it and the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong, there are three separate programs or four. You have the regular RCMP constables; you have the special constables which are native constables, it's called the 3B program; then you have the band constable program where each band is able to hire its own band constable; and you have the community and that's administered by Indian Affairs; and then you have the community constable program which is administered by the provincial department of Northern Affairs. But there has to sort of some co-ordination and some relationship between those programs, in terms of if there's a special constable in a certain area, then they probably don't have a band constable or community constable and there is probably some relationship, in terms of training, that some of the band constables probably receive training with the RCMP. Or maybe they receive training from the same place that the . . . and I'm not sure of those relationships in terms of how they decide which community is getting a band constable or a special constable or a community constable and if they've been able to work out the jurisdictional differences that occur if a band constable crosses outside of a reserve and a community constable crosses into a reserve; and how those constables relate to the special constables on the 3B program, which are more closely part of the RCMP administration, as I understand it, that is they are close to regular RCMP constables under the special 3B program.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, as I understand it the band constables are in no way associated with the RCMP. The community constables are associated with the local RCMP Detachment.

MR. McBRYDE: I understand that the Minister with his varied responsibilities might not have opportunity to be fully aware of the functioning, but I was hoping to get a little bit more detailed information than that; like what is not clear to me is the relationship with the band constable to the special constable to the RCMP through that route; and are there in fact communities that would have a special constable and a band constable serving the same community or the same area?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that under those two programs, which are not within my department, that in some communities they do have a community constable as well as a band constable.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairperson, I will put a different question then. I wonder if the Minister could explain then, in terms of this special 3B constables how close they are to regular constables, are their functions pretty well the same as a regular constable? Are their duties assigned in a similar way to the regular constables?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the 3B constables are part of the regular RCMP Force. My information with respect to the band constable and community constable program is that the situation where both would be involved is where the band constable would be involved with the Indian population on the reserve, and the community constable would be involved, my advice is, with the Metis population off the reserve, but the 3B constables are part of the regular RCMP Force.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, that confirms with my general impression from travelling around the north, that in fact the special constables seem to function as a regular part of or they are assigned duties close to their home community but as part of the regular RCMP. And the last time I was in Moose Lake, in fact, there was a constable hired under the 3B but he was just there on rotation, the same as the other constables from the rural detachment at The Pas. They take turns spending one week at a time in that particular community.

Does the special constable's salary then match the regular RCMP constable's salary, because the other constable that was hired under this program that I personally know has quit the program because he wasn't making enough money and gone back commercial fishing. And I'm wondering if there is a similar salary level to regular constables or whether they are at a lower salary level?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, their salaries apparently are about 3/4 of a regular RCMP salary.

MR. McBRYDE: Would the Minister then be aware about what those figures would be, what a person would start out under once they got their training under this program?

MR. MERCIER: Around \$20,000, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McBRYDE: Changing the questioning a little bit, Mr. Chairperson. In the remote communities there seems to be sort of a pattern that every so often there will be sort of an upswing in terms of violence and property damage, etc., and maybe once a year, once every two years or once every three years a community will go through this kind of a cycle, or this kind of a swing and there will be a very serious problem for a short period of time, with people very afraid of what's going to happen in their community. I mean those communities that don't have regular RCMP service or without the services of a band constable or a community constable for a period of time, and there has to be a good working relationship, Mr. Chairperson, between those types of constables, and there does seem to be that at the community level at least, if not at the broader provincial level, and I'm just wondering if the department, if the Minister, or if they have a report in terms of a pattern, and what communities have sort of been going through a serious law enforcement problem now, and if those have been straightened out. I'm aware that two years ago there was a real problem at Cormorant and a year or so ago in Moose Lake, and I don't know all the other communities that well, but I wonder if there's been sort of an upswing of this general kind of problem, if there's a time when the community is sort of out of control or whether . . .

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we're not aware of any upswings recently.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairperson, I wonder if the Minister could tell us what the department is doing in this area of law enforcement, or what he is aware that the RCMP is doing in this particular category here, in terms of assisting constables that are new to northern areas, or even those that have been in them for awhile, in terms of understanding the socio-economic situation of native people and the cultural background, etc., etc. Is there any kind of special programs that are conducted that the department is involved in or that the RCMP have made

him aware that they're involved in, to assist people to work with native people that might not have had that kind of experience before?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the member for asking that question, because we just asked for a report on that particular matter from the RCMP. To start the process with recruits, all recruits are given what they call a cross-cultural training program in Regina, Saskatchewan at the training academy, which they describe as placing emphasis on the interaction of white and native peoples; thereafter in Manitoba the services of some professors from the Faculty of Education are used at various in-service training course, such as their leadership course, to people who are responsible for the field training of new members coming in to the division. Time is allocated again, to the cross-cultural training program, with emphasis on conditions in this province.

All members with under three years of service in Manitoba have had this training at the academy, and approximately 300 others have the benefit of sessions on the same topic within the division training program. The RCMP are also, in order to stress the importance of this program, are going to utilize the services of the professors at another three-day cross-cultural workshop program to take place in mid-June of 1980 at the division headquarters, and there will be others that will follow that throughout the year.

Effective April 1st of this year, in the provincial policing position, there will be established a new position of a native policing co-ordinator under the RCMP crime prevention and police community relations unit, and the purpose of establishing this position is to enhance the native policing program in the province and to attempt to maintain a closer liaison and involvement with the native people, their band councils, and their native police constables. The process of selecting the person to fill that position is presently under way.

MR. McBRYDE: To the Minister then, what kind of reports are coming back now that these people who have been through the training are out in the field? Have they found that training to be worthwhile? Did it seem to be helpful to the new constables?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, all I can indicate is that the special training programs dealing with this particular area have been undertaken for the past few years. I have no adverse reports coming back to me. It is recognized it is an area in which some special training is necessary for members and I would hope that it would have a very positive result in the attitude and actions of the members of the force.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairperson, what seems to happen and I'm glad the Minister gave some elaboration of this program - is that what happens to a new constable that might come from the city somewhere and not have experience in northern areas or with native people or had only seen them in certain circumstances before or met them in certain circumstances, is that because the RCMP are dealing with people at their worst time, you know, people that are getting in trouble with the law or people that are drunk or whatever kind of problem that they are running into, that human nature being what it is that there often does develop a prejudice because of that very limited experience that a new person has or that a person has.

This is one aspect and one side benefit of the special 3B program is that the regular constables gets to meet and work alongside a native constable and gets to know somebody who is not on the other side of the law at the time that he gets to meet them.

Certainly in my past experience, one of the best ways of dealing with the relationship with the native people and non-native people was to provide that kind of a climate or that kind of a situation where people were working together and where the police or correctional people, whoever, were not just dealing with people when they were in trouble, but dealing with . . . I give you an example, Mr. Chairman, that I remember when I was first a probation officer in the interior of B.C. I assumed that all the young kids in one town were on probation because those were the only ones I met, and then later on when they formed a teen club of some kind and I was invited to go to one of their meetings I met all kinds of

people that I didn't even know lived in that community. I think that is what happens with police enforcement and other agencies is that the experience is often fairly limited.

One way of dealing with that, and it sounds like this program has a bit of it in there, is to have seminars, meetings, etc., where you have community leaders, native leaders, who are articulate and capable of dealing with people and putting their point of view across, so that it broadens the experience, and so that the possibility of prejudice developing is very much reduced. I am glad to see that that kind of program has evolved.

I haven't so much in my constituency, Mr. Chairman, run across many complaints in the last few years, actually since the incident at Grand Rapids, which has been reported on by the Ombudsman and others, in terms of the police-native relationship, and I know they've had that problem in other cities. I am just wondering, I do hear it from other areas often when there is a rural detachment, where there is small reserve or a small Metis community and not a large concentration, that there are complaints of harassment or unfair treatment because the person happens to be native. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if he is getting those kinds of complaints, if there has been much in that line recently in the last year or so.

MR. MERCIER: No, Mr. Chairman, I am not getting those complaints, but we are assured that if the RCMP are receiving them they maintain comprehensive personal records of their members and if there are any indication on file of prejudice or bias against native persons the members are either not sent to those detachments or would be subject to transfer.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if there has been any problems of this nature caused more recently when in fact the native people have been taking what you would call civil disobedience or political action in terms of hunting illegally on purpose and letting everybody know that that's what they were doing, if that has caused any strain on the relationship with the law enforcement agencies in the native communities.

MR. MERCIER: It is a very difficult question to answer when it is put in those general terms. We are not aware of any.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the other thing I would like to comment to the Minister of and urge the Minister in his relationship with his Cabinet colleagues, because he is facing a problem, especially in the remote communities in northern Manitoba, in some of the rural remote communities, where the socio-economic situation has actually deteriorated in a number of communities over the last two or three years, where things were happening in the communities where people were able to have jobs through economic development activities, etc., so that there was in fact a decline in the number of people that were having social problems including getting arrested, going to jail, including hospitalization, other things associated with social disintegration, which takes place. So I want to urge the Minister in his capacity as Attorney-General responsible for law enforcement to understand when his colleagues are making proposals, if they make any, in terms of economic development, in terms of preventive programs for the remote communities, because if that doesn't happen then the problems of law enforcement get more serious.

Now my general impression is that the law enforcement problem isn't too bad at this time. There are some remote communities that are still having problems and it is a problem to have the RCMP there as often as they would wish; and it seems that when they fly in everything is all right, and then the day after they fly out then there are some problems arise and they have to fly back in again.

My colleague, the Member for Churchill, who is in the other Committee at this time and is our main critic in that area and has to be there, was passing on to me some of the concern of the residents of Brochet in northern Manitoba and Lac Brochet. I suppose what they would really like is a full-time constable stationed there. Now I know this is difficult because these are fairly small communities, but they maintain that when you don't have the police service there or when there are not other kinds of programs to help people keep out of trouble, that in fact then there is big expense to the province of Manitoba and to this government, in

terms of when somebody breaks the law then you have to have a special flight in to take the RCMP in and then you have to have a special flight in after that to bring in the court party, to bring in the judge, to bring in the legal aid, to bring in the court reporter, etc., to bring in the probation officers. And then you send the person off to jail and you have to transport the person or persons out of the community, and then you have the very high cost of keeping people incarcerated, which is a very expensive business. I guess the community leaders take a look at those kinds of costs and say, "It would be cheaper in fact to have law enforcement here regularly as a preventive measure because there seems to be less problems when, in fact, the RCMP are able to be here and provide law enforcement services on a full-time basis."

Mr. Chairperson, that relates to my overall concern in this area, that the problems of law enforcement are getting more difficulty because of the lack of employment opportunities and because of the lack of economic development in the communities. I have seen evidence of that, and I don't know if the Minister has been able, from his post, to see the evidence of that happen, but I would urge him to urge his colleagues to reinstate some of the problems that have been cut back and to proceed with some of the communities' prepared programs for economic development and job creation as a preventive measure in order to avoid the large costs. You know, if you would look at it strictly from a financial taxpayers point of view the large costs, if you don't do anything, that arise in these communities as opposed to the smaller costs if you do something.

I think I gave the Minister examples last year or the year before and I forget the figures now, but I think it was in the community of Pukatawagan, where they had a couple of students over the summer months and there were no cases involving juveniles for the two months of the summer. In the next two months, if my memory serves me correctly, there were something between 30 and 40 cases involving juveniles, people that were mainly involved in recreation in that community. After they left there was between 30 and 40 juveniles that were involved with the law, and certainly that kind of preventive activity is helpful with juveniles, although I think with adults you need the broader economic development and job creation development that is available. But just from a logical practical commonsense point of view, it makes some sense to spend a few thousand dollars in a preventive way than have to spend - what does it cost to keep a person in jail now? \$12,000 to \$20,000 a year to keep a person incarcerated. And it makes a lot of sense to spend some money before law enforcement is necessary rather than after the law enforcement is necessary.

MR. MERCIER: Firstly, let me say if the member has any concerns about the level of police service in any community, if he would simply relay those concerns to us we will have a look at it. We are continually looking at concerns from people and communities all over the province about the level of police service, and if he wishes we can look at Brochet or any other community he wishes.

With respect to the two students in Pukatawagan, I am advised those two students are going back - not the same two students, but two students - will be going there again this year under the Manitoba Police Commission Program, where I think about 16 to 18 students will be going into various communities, mainly in the north.

MR. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, back when I was a member of the opposition we had asked the then government to give us a per capita grant to help us solve some of the crime problems in the core area of the city and I believe they came up with a formula of something like \$1.25 or \$1.50 per capita. My question is to the Minister. Under this section, providing law enforcement protection for the province of Manitoba, \$15,957,000, on March 13th, 1979, the news services put out a press release that the province to distribute \$21 million to municipalities and it alludes that it is for police protection; I wonder if the Minister could advise me, is this \$21 million on the per capita in addition to this almost \$16 million in the budget?

If the Minister is not familiar it says here, "Mr. Mercier said that the estimated 1979 basic per capita rate will be \$19.25, which represents a per capita increase over the 1978 level of \$1.50." And it alludes that this money is to provide police protection for eligible urban municipalities which do not receive

direct provincial assistance for policing costs. This amounts to an additional urban service supplement of \$1.00 per capita up to a population of 7,500 and \$2.00 per capita over 7,500.

I can gather from my reading of it that there is other moneys besides this almost \$16 million that go towards the policing of our municipalities; am I correct?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that formula was revised this year. The amount available under that program rose to about \$24 million. The basic per capita grant was raised to \$20 per capita for all municipalities; and for cities, towns, and villages under 5,000 population they receive an additional \$3.75 per capita; and cities over 5,000 per capita receive an additional \$5.75 per capita. The city of Winnipeg, I take it the member is referring to, Mr. Chairman, their moneys which they received under that program rose from about \$11.8 million to \$14 million. They received about \$2.2 million of the growth in that fund of about \$3.2 million. I may be off here one or two points but that . . . The previous government established the previous formula of a basic per capita grant plus \$1.00 for municipalities under 7,500, and \$2.00 over 7,500 and refer to that as a special urban services grant and funds for police costs, recognizing, I think, at that time that the larger the municipality is, as we have recognized, the higher their per capita cost has been, and police budgets form 17 to 20 percent generally of the average municipal budget.

So we attempted to recognize the additional police costs that large cities like Winnipeg and then outside the city of Winnipeg, cities like Steinbach, Dauphin, The Pas, Portage La Prairie, Brandon, the extra costs that those larger urban centres have and we revised that formula along that line to attempt to provide them with some additional relief.

MR. WILSON: Well, I'm pleased to see that our government is more than keeping pace with inflation but I wanted to . . . Is there anywhere in the system where the total cost of policing the province on a per capita basis is compiled by Stats Canada, or has somebody ever conducted a study? Because in the three to four years that I was on the Finance Committee and charged with handing out the salary increases to the police force, they always used to arrive at their salary on a comparison basis with other western provinces, particularly Edmonton and Vancouver, and I wondered if such figures are available anywhere to give us some idea as to whether we have an extremely good per capita arrangement or whether we're falling away behind. Because the opposition always likes to refer to us as being last in Canada and I would gather by the generous increases the Minister has announced last year and his explanation now that we are giving the forces more funding for police protection, and I wondered if there is such a table anywhere.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we are not aware of that total figure. It would have to be put together from a number of sources and, in answering this question, Mr. Chairman, there was a question from the Member for St. Johns earlier about the amount of the municipal policing contracts. I'm advised that those approximate \$4.5 million and they are not included in this law enforcement figure that he sees here, because that is a contract between the municipality and the federal government which is approved and signed by the provincial government but it is a direct contract between the municipal and federal government.

MR. WILSON: I have another matter. The Minister invited us all if we felt we had some concern about the level police service. I find that most of the hotels in the city that are the old-style beer parlour type of hotel and have musical entertainment, there seems to be a great deal of trouble to the community on Friday and Saturday evenings and sometimes on Thursday, and I wondered if it would be possible, I noted with interest the other day when I had the occasion for the first time to attend the Carleton Club that they had two City of Winnipeg police constables there and when I inquired about it they told me it was part of the rental arrangement, and I wondered if it was possible rather than hiring bouncers, which seems to aggravate more fights and assaults and intimidate the people that have got a problem when they're drinking, I would like to see us come to the stage where the hotelkeepers, in order to satisfy the community would be

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able to, or can they, rent two constables in full uniform for the \$16 or \$18 an hour that I believe the Carleton Club pays for these two constables to be there. Is the Minister familiar with this practise?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I would assume that policemen who are doing that would be doing that in their spare time or days off. They would be paid directly by the establishment for that purpose, as I think they do on other occasions too.

MR. WILSON: I have no quarrel with this, except they are in full dress and they do have a gun with them and they do have all the badges and paraphernalia. I am saying that I would like to see this service extended to the hotels in the province, and I just wanted to put that on the record.

The other concern is, the reason leading up to that is because I wanted to send these pictures down to the Minister, we have an unbelievable situation where we have these security rent-a-cop chaps that are in full attire, their uniforms are more spiffy than some of the Lieutenants in the force, and their cars have flashers on the roof and large logos on the side which look like the city of Winnipeg crest, and my concern is that many of these chaps are lacking in police training. And I'm just wondering, has the government ever done a study as to what duties these people are to perform without running on a very thin line of what I call impersonating a police officer, because by the looks of these pictures you would have a hard time telling whether these people were indeed security people, as the original concept I believe was to be a security system for the private sector.

I don't know, I have mixed emotions, I guess if the community wants to pay for it, but it seems you have a duplication of service of these cars running around with the appearance of being police cars. I just want to send the pictures down, I don't need them back, for the Minister's viewing and maybe he can care to bring it up with his staff at some later date.

Mr. Chairman, last but not least, I wondered where in the Minister's budget I might talk about people that are arrested for certain threats made against people in public office and people in high positions. They are, through the advice of their lawyers and through the certificate of some psychiatrist are declared insane, and these people do not seem to appreciate that by listening to their lawyer and taking the road out that they could face a jail term unless they copped a plea to mental insanity, that they are indeed sentencing themselves to life. And I wondered if the Minister had looked at this practice to see that --(Interjection)-- the Member for Burrows is smiling about this one. But this was something that was brought up under the former government and it was proved that many people were locked up that shouldn't be locked up because of lack of safeguards or lack of a second opinion. And I'm wondering what is the present policy of this government pertaining to people that are locked up in the Health Sciences Centre and others, that somebody checks them out to see that they are not being ill-advised by their lawyer or through other reasons, a drinking problem or others; that they have somebody look at them so they don't spend a lifetime, or two years, or six months, or whatever, in a particular institution that engages in shock treatments that takes away all the mentality that these people once enjoyed.

I speak from a constituency problem where the fellow had his Master's Degree and was under a domestic pressure and he was kept there for a good deal of time until this member and other members, politicians and church people, asked for a second opinion and the gentleman was not mentally insane; and I just wondered what safeguards, or where in his budget, can I talk about this? Or is what I have said sufficient?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, under the Board of Review, I think the member could discuss the people who are found unfit to stand trial by reason of insanity, where they're facing charges under The Criminal Code. For other people I would suggest it would be discussed under the Minister of Community Services and The Mental Health Act. But people who have been held under the jurisdiction of the Board of Review, the Board of Review meets monthly and there is a requirement to ensure that individual cases are reviewed every six months.

MR. WILSON: Well, what I'm saying then, in any matter that is under your department you have more than just one opinion. What I'm concerned about - I'm not questioning the integrity of the psychiatrist - I'm asking, like in any medical profession, they urge you to get a second opinion, and I'm wondering, does our government, when anybody is jailed for whatever reason, pertaining to a mental disorder, that at least more than one psychiatrist looks at the gentleman, or lady.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm unclear as to which kinds of cases are being referred to. We have, for example, on the Board of Review, a psychiatrist. If the member is referring to The Mental Health Act I can tell him there was a report from the Law Reform Commission last year which recommended some revisions to The Mental Health Act which is under active consideration with the Department of Health and Community Services, and I anticipate there might very well be some legislation brought forward this session.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The \$14 million that was spent last year, \$14 million plus, was all on a contract. Was that an amount that was negotiated and the amount settled prior to the Estimates last year?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I passed out, and I guess the member wasn't here at the beginning of the Estimates when I passed out some summary figures, I'll give this set to him. Page 27, Mr. Chairman, shows expenditures under the five-year agreement signed May 10, 1977 with the RCMP. We are going into the last year of the contract, 1980-81. Under the contract, the member will note, I think as he may recollect the province's percentage share of the cost has gone up one percentage point each year and the federal government's has gone down. So the province each year has incurred, as well as the general costs increase, an extra percentage of the total cost each year.

MR. CHERNIACK: Is there an escalator involved in this. I see that the amounts . . .

MR. MERCIER: Yes.

MR. CHERNIACK: Are these calendar years? Oh, it's a fiscal year. The same fiscal year? If it's the same fiscal year is there an escalator that accounts for the difference between the amount shown on page 27 and the amount shown in this resolution?

MR. MERCIER: Yes.

MR. CHERNIACK: All right, I won't press that. How does that relate to the 20 million and some that the Minister was talking earlier about contributions to municipalities as well, some four and a half million that the . . .

MR. MERCIER: The matter that the Member for Wolseley raised was I think with respect to The Provincial-Municipal Tax Sharing Act and the amount raised by 2.1 points of personal income tax and 1 of corporate tax and the manner in which it is distributed to municipalities in the province.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I'm still not clear. The Minister mentioned four and a half million dollars that doesn't show up in this estimate.

MR. MERCIER: Earlier, Mr. Chairman, I think if I was correct, the Member for St. Johns asked if the \$15,957,000 figure included municipal police contracts. That figure does not include municipal police contracts, Mr. Chairman. Those are estimated in the province at approximately \$4,500,000 and are paid directly by municipalities to the federal government. And MR. CHERNIACK: So it's not paid at all from provincial moneys.

MR. MERCIER: No.

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MR. CHERNIACK: Well then when we speak of some \$21 million last year, the item which was exactly a year ago today, which was referred to by the Member for Wolseley, that \$21 million, I assume, has nothing whatsoever to do with this item before us now.

MR. MERCIER: Other than, Mr. Chairman, that's money that municipalities receive which they can spend for municipal purposes, one of which has been identified in the past, particularly in the urban services supplement, as being police costs, and the reason why there is an increased formula for municipalities with larger populations.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, where is the supplement shown in the estimates? The Minister doesn't seem to understand what I mean. He referred to a supplement as being paid which I assume is purely provincial moneys, the supplement; or does the supplement come out of that \$21 million as used as a different apportionment?

MR. MERCIER: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. The total \$21 million last year, \$24 million this year approximately . . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Includes the supplement?

MR. MERCIER: Includes the supplement, yes. The previous government had established this formula of establishing a basic per capita rate and, for example, last year was \$19.25, and then they had developed the practice of giving an extra \$1.00 per capita up to a population of 7,500 and then an extra \$2.00 per capita over 7,500 persons. I indicated to the member that we revised that formula so that this year with the increase there's a basic per capita of \$20.00, that with cities, towns under 5,000, we changed that figure down from 7,500 to 5,000, they get an extra \$3.75 per capita and then cities, towns over 5,000 population get an extra supplement of \$5.75. And as did the previous government we have recognized that the Urban Services Supplement is intended to recognize the needs of urban municipalities to provide police protection and other urban services.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I want to suggest to the Minister that the government has no control whatsoever over how the money is to be spent by the municipalities receiving this \$24 million and only has control over the distribution of the money as to the apportionment amongst municipalities.

MR. MERCIER: Do you agree with that?

MR. CHERNIACK: I am suggesting to the Minister that that is the fact. Is that the fact?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHERNIACK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in that case since nobody outside of the Executive Council knows what goes on in the minds of the members of the Executive Council when they make decisions as to the apportionment of this money amongst municipalities, then no one I believe, Mr. Chairman, and I challenge the Minister, has a right to say that this is for police protection or anything else. It is a formula, which in the wisdom of the members of the Executive Council, is to be used for distribution of moneys which do not belong to the province.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I have indicated in the previous government, and I don't want to rely on them certainly for a precedent for everything, but they did establish a formula which gave to larger municipalities \$2.00 per capita, smaller municipalities \$1.00 per capita, and said that was to be an urban services supplement to recognize police services and other urban services, which I assume that they thought were higher in larger municipalities, as I believe they are and I think as the figures show. In the larger urban municipalities the cost per capita providing services is greater. --(Interjection)-- Just a minute, Mr. Chairman, we

recognize that principle, certainly we give the money to the municipalities. They will decide how they want to spend it but in giving it to them we are attempting to recognize that urban municipalities throughout the province do, for example, have higher police costs than smaller municipalities.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I, of course, reject completely the term "give the money." The Province of Manitoba does not give one penny . . .

MR. MERCIER: Distribute.

MR. CHERNIACK: . . . and the Attorney-General has no right whatsoever in law nor morally to say, "We give the money," which he has said a number of times and which he implies. And even this one-year old news release implies that this is something with the good grace of the Government of Manitoba is being distributed or, as he used the expression several times the last time we spoke, "Give the money." And I make that point as strongly as I can, Mr. Chairperson, because it is a distortion of the fact and it so happens that this Minister, of all Ministers, was part of the city which pleaded for a share in growth taxes, and was given the right to participate in growth taxes, and when the increase from \$21 million to \$24 million referred to by him is quoted, it should be stated that it comes about only because that is the increased revenue that is collected from these growth taxes, the income taxes, both personal and corporate, and is nothing which comes out of the government's budget, neither federal nor provincial, but is indeed a payment to the municipalities as their share of growth taxes.

I think it is important to say that because when the Minister, in his statement of a year ago - and there is no reason to think that there isn't a much more statement either already made or about to be made - where he talks about increases, that those increases are not anything that comes, in total, from provincial revenues. That is why, Mr. Chairperson, we cannot find any reference to it in the Estimates.

MR. MERCIER: No, Mr. Chairman, and probably the matter is more appropriately dealt with in Municipal Affairs or Urban Affairs.

The question, though, as I understood it from the Member for Wolseley, related to what, if anything, is the province doing in the way of helping the City of Winnipeg with respect to police costs.

We have this responsibility in distributing the money. I recognize and I agree with the Member for St. Johns, it is the municipalities' money. There is no question about that. The province under the legislation, as did the former government, has the responsibility for establishing the method of distribution. The previous government established one method, which I have referred to; this year we have revised that method of distribution to attempt to recognize the higher costs of the municipalities with larger populations, which, as one example, have a higher cost in providing police services than do smaller municipalities.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I am glad the Minister has agreed to my insistence, my statement, as to the way this money arrives and the fact that it is not provincial, and I hope that in the future we will not have occasion to point out again and again, as we have in the past, that this money is growth revenue which the municipalities asked for and received.

I want to point out just one other thing. He keeps talking about police protection. That may be in his mind, but I think he knows and will agree that it need not be in the mind of the municipality which has the money and that it may spend it as it pleases. It may spend all of the money in recreation and, therefore, the thought that the Minister has it because of police protection is only his own guess as to why, he personally, and maybe if he wants to reveal what goes on in Cabinet he'll tell what others did, and if the Minister is constantly relying on the previous government's attitude, then maybe he should join the New Democratic Party, he'll learn a lot more about the policies of our party than by that.

Mr. Chairman, my point is that once he, as a member of the City Council, was one of those who asked for a participation in growth taxes and are getting them. They should not continue to take credit for monies that are being collected by the

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municipalities. As a matter of fact, we, the New Democratic Government, indicated to the municipalities . . .

MR. MERCIER: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister, on a point of order.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I tried to tie in the Member for Wolseley's questions into the Attorney-General's Estimates. I think the Member for St. Johns is now gone much further afield and wishes to get into the whole relationship of municipal affairs. I would very much like to discuss that with him, but I think it should properly be discussed in Urban Affairs or Municipal Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are on Law Enforcement, No. 7. The Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: On the point of order, I agree with the Minister absolutely that when we are talking about this \$21 million, now \$24 million, which is municipal money, that it should be discussed under Municipal Affairs or Urban Affairs, but, Mr. Chairman, he is the one who kept talking about police protection. He is the one who was talking about the --(Interjection)-- Yes, and if you had listened you would have heard the Minister agree, but this is his statement and it deals with police protection. So I only rose to his bait, because he talked about provincial --(Interjection)-- But we are dealing now with Law Enforcement and we are dealing with preventative policing and he talked about it. If he wants to withdraw that claim that that money, which was not his to determine as to how it is to be spent, is not involved in the Attorney-General's Department, and has nothing to do with police protection except that the province apparently recognized an increased amount payable to urban municipalities, and that is a municipal thing. It has nothing to do with police and that is the point I am making.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister. One person at a time.

MR. MERCIER: I do disagree with the Member for St. Johns, Mr. Chairman. I think the former Premier of this province can be relied on as having done some good things and worthwhile things to follow, and unlike him, I think the idea of recognizing the differential in distribution of these monies to recognize higher police costs of larger municipalities was a good step and we follow that step and revise it hopefully to be more equitable.

MR. CHERNIACK: I'll just make the point and I will debate it with him later on. But the point I am making is that he has no right to claim that it is for police protection. All he has the right to claim is that the formula was revised and weighted in favour of urban municipalities because of higher urban costs. That is the statement he can make, which I would agree with, and if he wants to follow the leader, follow my leader, former Premier, that is fine, but let him follow the leader and not just pick what suits him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. A.R. (Pete) ADAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister just what police protection do livestock producers have in this province?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just wonder if we could attract all members to come a little closer to the mike when you are speaking; it is easier to carry up here.

MR. ADAM: I guess I opened a can of worms; it looks like there is a conference going on at the other end.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we have been requested by the Union of Manitoba Municipalities in one of their Resolutions, a very general Resolution with respect to, I think they were asking for higher sentences for cattle rustling.

MR. ADAM: Higher what?

MR. MERCIER: Higher sentences or harsher sentences for cattle rustling. When we met with them I asked them what specific cases they were referring to. They couldn't give us any specific cases, so I indicated to them that what I would do is through the department try to do a review through all Crown prosecutors to find out how many cases have been dealt with in recent times, and that review is still under way. It appears that there may have only been one incident of cattle rustling in the past year, but, Mr. Chairman, if the member would like, I would provide him with a copy of our response to the Union of Manitoba Municipalities when we have the review completed throughout the province.

MR. ADAM: Yes, I would certainly appreciate receiving the results and . . .

MR. MERCIER: Pardon me, if the member could excuse me. There is only one man charged, that doesn't mean that there was only one incident of cattle rustling.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, that is why I am bringing it up, because we know that there is rustling going on all over this province wherever livestock is being lost, for whatever reason, and reported as being lost. I would like to know if the Minister can tell us tonight what improvements are required, or what improvements he feels is necessary to provide better protection for the livestock producers of this province in a matter of a very serious and perplexing problem that is facing livestock producers. I am sure the Minister of Government Services will agree with me that it is a problem and a continuing and ongoing problem.

What recommendations are coming from law enforcement officers in regard to what do they need, what do they require to be able to apprehend and convict people?

MR. MERCIER: Evidence would be a good start I guess. But, Mr. Chairman, we are in the midst of preparing this review and I would like to make a comprehensive reply to the Union of Manitoba Municipalities who raised this, and will provide the member with a copy.

My understanding in the interim is the RCMP have a cattle rustler co-ordinator who co-ordinates all of the investigations with respect to cattle rustling to make sure all detachments are aware of the reports with respect to cattle rustling. I suppose part of what may be required is a prevention program so that people report suspicious circumstances to the police authorities. I know in the past I have seen reports that branding is apparently a problem, there is no system of branding, which makes it sometimes difficult to prove the charges and obtain evidence.

MR. ADAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicates that there has only been one conviction of cattle rustling this year, is that correct?

MR. MERCIER: One man charged is my understanding.

MR. ADAM: There has only been one charge?

MR. MERCIER: Yes.

MR. ADAM: Well, that is unbelievable, Mr. Chairman. We know that there are cattle being lost by the hundreds throughout the province and we have one charge. What is really going on, what is necessary here to try and improve this situation, Mr. Chairman? In the last eight years I have had rancher after rancher coming to me and saying, "Look, our cattle are lost." They get the law enforcement officers to go out and well, they just have no trouble. I brought this up in a most preliminary way when we were dealing on the criminal investigations, but I want to put it in the record of a particular case and how difficult it is to get even the law enforcement officers to move and make a thorough investigation. I am doing it for the record, but I would like the Minister to give us some information and also put in the record whether or not the RCMP have been in touch with his department requesting legislation. Or what do they need to reduce the incidence of livestock rustling in this province? Do we have to set up vigilante committees and go back to the old lynching days of the Wild West?

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Mr. Chairman, there is a case, and I am sure there is more than one - we have had one case around Ste. Rose where 20 Charlois cows went missing and they were never found. There is no way of finding what happened to those livestock. They were reported and we don't know where they went. In the Dauphin area there have been cattle disappearing, reports have been made, nothing happens. One particular case that was brought to my attention was that four branded cows with their calves went missing in 1976, and some years prior to that there were 20 head missing in the same area. The four cows were branded; they disappeared in the fall, and the first fall and winter the owner made enquiries throughout the area, to his neighbours, to no avail.

In 1977 the livestock were still missing. In 1978, however, the owner, who had lost the livestock along with another person, identified one of his animals in another person's pasture. This happened during harvest, and he was busy; they identified the brand, both people identified this brand, and he was busy harvesting so he thought well it's okay, it has been missing for two years, it's there, I know where it is, I will go and get it in a day or two. In a couple of days, the fellow that was in possession of this animal came over to the guy who had lost the livestock and said to him, "There's a dead cow in my pasture." So, why he went to see this fellow, we still don't know, why he went to see the fellow who had lost the cattle, but anyway, he didn't realize that he was talking about his own cattle. But when he went to find the cattle to go and look at the dead animal, it had been buried, and he couldn't identify it. He identified it in a preliminary way, but he couldn't identify his brands or anything, as it had been buried.

In the fall of 1979, he identified another animal that had been lost in 1976 in the same pasture as the previous animal, along with a calf. And so he was with another party and they went in and took possession of the animal and took it home. And then they reported this incident to the RCMP, and that is the first instance that the law enforcement officers were involved, is in the fall of 1979. And the animal had been taken out of the pasture without her calf. They caught the cow, but they couldn't catch the calf, and the original owner of the cattle took that animal home. And the RCMP was called in, and then they went to see the fellow who owned the pasture where it was. And anyway, Mr. Chairman, of course the fellow denied. He said, "It's my cow." And there were two brands on the cow; the first brand of the original owner, and the brand of the second owner.

So the fellow who had had the cow in his pasture went and got a court order to seize the cow from the guy who had taken it out of his pasture. And the cow was held in escrow, or wherever they're held. She was held in some manner, or confined, Mr. Chairman, she was held in confinement until it could be decided. Then there was a disagreement as who had the ownership of this animal, and the fellow who had. . . --(Interjection)-- Mr. Chairman, this is serious and the fellows are making fun of it. This is serious. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are lost every year on this thing.

The last guy who had possession of the animal and then got the sheriff to seize the animal and bring it back until they could determine ownership, then he filed a civil suit in order to get himself off the hook. And when this went into court, it was adjudged that the animal did, in fact, belong to the original guy who had taken it out of his pasture. And the guy who had had the cattle for four years, four cows - well at least two anyway that we know of; the other two, he was never able to find them - the guy had the calves of those cows for four years, the cow that was with the calf in 1979 was never found. They went back to look for it; it had disappeared. They couldn't find the calf at all. And the fellow paid one dollar in damages, and the original owner got his cow back. He paid one dollar, and he had to pay all the court costs, and he had to pay the costs incurred by the defendant, and the defendant was the original owner of the cattle.

And this is an intolerable situation, Mr. Chairman. Now, something has to be done. I have brought it to the Deputy Minister's attention. I have asked him to look into this case, and I am waiting for some action on this because it appears - I have my notes here - it appears that there has been some laxity on the part of law enforcement, in fact, on the part of the Crown prosecutor in this case.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I understand the Member for Ste. Rose brought this matter to the attention of the department one week ago, and a report has been requested and will be forthcoming.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley. The Member for Lakeside.

HON. HARRY J. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, the Member for Wolseley has agreed to allow me to enter this debate just at this time. I apologize; I know other people are on the list, if I have that leave. I simply want to indicate that the Member for Ste. Rose raises a valid and a serious matter that is of considerable concern to a number of cattlemen in the province of Manitoba. I am sure he would also agree that in those provinces, in those jurisdictions that have formed relatively strong cattle associations and that have been able to impress upon their governments, and particularly through the Department of Agriculture, the kind of co-operative brand inspection programs that our law enforcement officers say are mandatory towards any real resolution of this problem, that that is the first step that has to be taken, with some difficulty, and I might say with some opposition from honourable members opposite.

That cattlemen's association was formed last year by this Legislature and by this government. It is now a well-funded organization that can begin to undertake the necessary education program that's required, firstly among the cattle producers of this province. It includes all cattle producers, I am told. Virtually none have exercised the option that they have to voluntarily opt out of the association. And I am aware of - and I don't want to steal any of the Minister of Agriculture's thunder - but he is in the process of negotiating or discussing with the newly-formed cattlemen's Association of Manitoba a program which hopefully will assist this producer group to bring about a brand inspection program in the province that in my judgment, and in the judgment of most people involved in the cattle industry, is a very important prerequisite to serious attempts at law enforcement in this area.

So that it shouldn't be left on the record that although the Honourable Member for Ste. Rose describes difficulties in his colourful style from time to time, that there might have been some levity expressed on this side of the House. Certainly, let the record show that it was this government that has assisted, in my judgment, the cattle producers in the province in the Manitoba, in a very real way, by allowing them to set up their association to begin this education process, and to allow them to work co-operatively with law enforcement officers to bring about some resolution to this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface. Do you have the chair?
The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Well, I wanted to just say that it goes beyond that in that Alberta has had about 2,500 mutilations, so it goes beyond just the cattle rustling. I think there is mutilation of calves and that, allegedly by certain sects who like to obtain parts of animals for different cult reasons, and some religious, some Satan, other different types, that there has been a great slaughter of cattle in the Alberta area. And I think we would do well to study what they are doing to offset this.

I did want to say that as an absentee owner of pasture land, I can tell you it's no bed of roses and I think there is. . . well, I am following the Member for Ste. Rose in saying that I don't think that too many absentee owners now are going into the cattle business because of the cattle rustling problem, and because . . . I wanted to add to the record that in my case I arrived out at the farm to find a large number of horses pasturing on my land, and I found that the haystack that was there two months earlier had disappeared, so I am just simply saying that there is indeed a problem, not only for the rustling of cattle but of absconding with things that would be called, I guess, under the enforcement, trespass.

I did want to use this opportunity also to talk about the posting of land. It may be considered under a game warden, but these hunters come out and even when the land is posted, they shoot out all the windows in the trailers, and they shoot out the yard lights, and they just generally go on a real shooting spree. And I think at some point in time, the media is going to have to point out when some of these offenders are caught, that these people are mentioned in the paper so that it will be a warning to others that we have a law enforcement out there, we have laws, and that this type of destruction will not be tolerated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I forgot my questions since we started on the rustling, but I want to go back to the police protection. The Minister mentioned that this money, and like my friend from St. Johns said, it was from the growth tax. Now, earlier this afternoon, the Minister said that the province was financing the police in different communities of, I think it's 500 that you were looking at, it may be changed now. Where does that money come from? Is that part of the same fund of the grant that goes to municipalities?

MR. MERCIER: No.

MR. DESJARDINS: And then these smaller municipalities are getting the grant, or communities, and besides that, they are getting the free police paid for by the province direct - right?

MR. MERCIER: Those municipalities, Mr. Chairman, would not be receiving the supplement grant. They would be receiving the basic per capita only.

MR. DESJARDINS: So they would receive less, and this would be in lieu of that.

MR. MERCIER: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Johns.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, on that point. I would like the Minister, please, to let us have a per capita breakdown of this item of \$15 million, well, close to \$16 million, and confirm the fact that it's not the urban municipalities that get this money. And therefore, I would like a comparison as to how this \$16 million is distributed in expenditure to serve a number of Manitobans, and find out the per capita as related to the provincial contribution per capita to the urban municipalities that have their own police force. Now, is that a reasonable request? Can the Minister give us that, in time?

MR. MERCIER: I am not sure exactly what the member is. . .

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$16 million that we're talking about is used to provide police services, not for all Manitobans, but only for Manitobans who do not live in the urban areas. Is that a correct statement? I mean, do I and the Minister, the Attorney-General, as residents of Winnipeg, do we get any of this police service referred to in this item?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there is some service to, for example, the City of Winnipeg from that RCMP contract, but not a great deal.

MR. CHERNIACK: No. Well, I assume that's the investigation of certain crimes.

MR. MERCIER: Commercial fraud cases

MR. CHERNIACK: It's nowhere near the per capita contribution that goes to smaller municipalities. And I am asking whether it would be possible to give us a breakdown where, for example, I was a councillor at Winnipeg Beach, and entire services, as I recall it, were provided by the province - the Attorney-General says no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there is a municipal contract there which we had taken some steps to alleviate last year and have it still under consideration.

MR. CHERNIACK: Out of this fund?

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

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. Out of this \$15,957,100, is there some alleviation to the municipal contract?

MR. MERCIER: In the Town of Winnipeg Beach.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, yes.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, there was a little, Mr. Chairman. The Town of Winnipeg Beach had a municipal contract where they employed four members of the force.

As the Member for St. Johns will be well aware if he was on the council at Winnipeg Beach, there is a highly seasonal influx of people during the summer months. During the winter months the Town of Winnipeg Beach does not need four members of the RCMP, so what we agreed to last year was to absorb two of those people under the provincial police contract from October 1 to April 1 or May 1, to alleviate the costs to Winnipeg Beach.

And in addition, if he will look at that summary that I've handed out on Page 26, where he sees Municipal Police Grant, Town of Winnipeg Beach was included in that police grant system for approximately \$13,000.00.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I sidetracked myself, I sidetracked myself.

MR. MERCIER: The Member for St. Johns might even want to run for election again in the Town of Winnipeg Beach.

MR. CHERNIACK: I didn't have to run then. I was pleaded with.

Mr. Chairman, I got off on that tangent because it is a resort area which obviously has been treated differently. So let's get back on track.

There are, I believe, municipalities which receive this - now I'll say - \$15,279,100 being the RCMP contract, which get a larger contribution from the provincial government for police protection than do others, such as the urban municipalities. Is that a correct statement?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there's an entirely different level of service that a rural municipality would receive free from a rural detachment. It's more of a response-to-call level of service than a daily patrol-type of service that you would receive in an urban centre.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, I think we're going to have get this thing settled more clearly.

The patrol service the Minister refers to in an urban centre is not paid for by the Province of Manitoba. Is that correct?

MR. MERCIER: Certainly.

MR. CHERNIACK: Correct?

MR. MERCIER: Right.

MR. CHERNIACK: All right. Now, the City of Winnipeg residents do get some RCMP service, which is paid for under this Resolution, I gather from what the Minister says.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the service that I firstly think of is something like the Criminal Fraud Squad which assist in investigations and, as the Deputy reminds me, joint operations that might go on between the city force and the RCMP.

MR. CHERNIACK: And that service is included in this contract we're dealing with in this item?

MR. MERCIER: Yes.

MR. CHERNIACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry I don't slow up for you.

Then there is a certain amount in the contract, I assume, that says it deals with 593 staff man years, that it can be calculated - not to the penny but fairly closely - as to how much of this contract of \$15,279,000 is used to provide services to the urban centres; those which are receiving additional moneys under a grant which were not under a formula which we are not going to discuss now because it comes under Urban and Municipal Affairs.

I am asking whether the Minister can give us approximate amounts to show the per capita cost to the Province of Manitoba of providing law enforcement services to different classes of Manitobans, relating to whether they live in urban centres or rural or villages, or whatever.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that we can probably get it. It may take some time to do.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, there's no real hurry because we'll be back here next year, and if we get the information in ample time, we'll start understanding it. But let me tell the Minister what I think we are finding out and see if he disagrees with that.

I think that the province pays a larger amount per capita for a person who resides in a small town, or on a farm, or rural municipality, than the people of the City of Winnipeg are getting from the province. And I believe that the information which will come in due course, will prove my point. Now, does the Minister disagree with the point I'm making? That there's more money being spent per capita by the government of Manitoba in the service of law enforcement in the smaller areas in Manitoba than in the largely settled urban areas which have their own police force?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, if the member wants to pursue that line then I think we would have to perhaps look at the per capita expenditures of the government as a whole.

MR. CHERNIACK: Especially for law enforcements.

MR. MERCIER: For every service. Would the member want that kind of information?

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, we often cannot determine what information we will get. But I am asking about law enforcement, this item, which is right on the point for us now. If he wants to provide extraneous and other and the more elaborated information, that's fine, as Minister for Urban Affairs he can do that.

I'm asking the Attorney-General whether or not it is true to say that the Province of Manitoba pays a larger cost per capita for law enforcement for residents of other than urban areas than it does for residents of urban areas. And I'm assuming that that's the case, because although the residents of the City of Winnipeg have a more extensive service in law enforcement, they pay for a very large portion of that out of their own tax system, to their own police forces. And I'm suggesting to the Minister that it is apparent to me - and I'd like him to confirm or deny - that the Province of Manitoba is indeed paying more, and I don't decry that. I just want the facts.

MR. MERCIER: I wouldn't admit to that at this stage without looking into it, Mr. Chairman, because I think it would have to be looked at very very carefully. The Province of Manitoba, for example, through the RCMP would be very active in parks. --(Interjection)-- In parks.

MR. CHERNIACK: St. Johns' Park?

MR. MERCIER: Parks. Not St. Johns' Park, provincial parks. --(Interjection)-- I know. You know, provincial parks. Now people from the city go to provincial parks; people from outside the city go to provincial parks.

The enforcement of The Highway Traffic Act in patrolling, say, provincial trunk

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highways and the Trans-Canada Highway, while the money is spent outside the City of Winnipeg, is that a service just for rural people, or is it a service for everyone within the province including people from . . . --(Interjection)-- Well, that's right, that's what I'm wondering, what is the purpose of the whole exercise? It can be extended so far that you get involved in ridiculous arguments.

MR. CHERNIACK: Well, it so happens that the previous government, the enlightened progressive New Democratic Government also made this . . .

MR. MERCIER: Under whom, the previous Premier, you didn't agree with.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney-General doesn't even know what he's talking about when he says I didn't agree with him. Well, he knows I did not say that; he's trying to put words in my mouth; and he can do it in my absence but he certainly can't get away with it in my presence.

MR. MERCIER: I wouldn't say it in your absence.

MR. CHERNIACK: Mr. Chairman, the only I'm making is that it should be recognized that the cost of providing law enforcement in urban centres such as Winnipeg, such as Brandon, such as Thompson, is largely paid for by the local taxpayer through their own police force. That's for law enforcement preventative policing within their boundaries.

And as the Member for St. Boniface pointed out, people come in from outside and run afoul or require the protection of police, and within, say, the City of Winnipeg, get it regardless of where they live.

But I want it understood that when the Attorney-General, wearing another hat, talks about all he's doing for the City of Winnipeg, or all the Municipal Affairs Department is doing for urban centres, it should be recognized that there is special consideration being given to this item, which we are now dealing with, for residents outside of the urban centres. I think that that is something that should be admitted and then justified - and I said I don't deny it nor do I deny that it's sensible - it's just that we ought to know. That's all I'm saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have a few questions. The contracts that we have with the RCMP police, isn't it a fact that we're not paying the full cost? I mean, you're paying so much, you're getting some financial assistance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Right.

MR. DESJARDINS: That's all. I knew that, but I'm just making a point. In other words, not only are they getting something from the province that the city isn't getting, but they're also getting federal money that's coming to Manitoba, which there's very little of, if any, going to Winnipeg.

Now I'd like to ask then, Mr. Chairman, who is getting the supplement now? Is it only the City of Winnipeg that's getting the supplement?

MR. MERCIER: No, on that Municipal Affairs question, cities and towns over 5,000.

MR. DESJARDINS: Okay, and I ask . . .

MR. MERCIER: Against 575 and under 5,000, 375.

MR. DESJARDINS: Okay, they are getting the supplement. And another question that I --(Interjection)-- All right, I didn't say from the province, I said they were getting part of that supplement.

MR. MERCIER: You just said the supplement.

A MEMBER: They're getting it out of their own money.

MR. DESJARDINS: Okay, they're getting some of their own money. But earlier, when I asked the Minister, the Minister stated that this money, the formula originally was to help pay for police protection in the City of Winnipeg. Now it's block funding and they can do what they want with it, but that's the way it was arrived at. And the Minister said earlier this afternoon that a community of 500 - and I think the Minister said that there'd be change in that, it'll be 750 . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could I just ask the Member for St. Boniface to speak into the mike, they're having a problem picking it up back here, and all other members . We get sort of sloppy and away from it and no one can recognize themselves. The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Then the police protection, the contract, in communities of less than 500, and soon 750 or less, is paid entirely by the province, but those are not necessarily municipalities. They are part of a municipality. Doesn't that municipality, in certain cases, the municipality that they belong to, receive that supplement also? The supplement is not paid to communities, it's paid to municipalities.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, municipalities.

MR. DESJARDINS: The answer then that the Minister gave me awhile ago, Mr. Chairman, that doesn't mean much if he says the community doesn't get the supplement. But some of these communities, who are getting their police protection paid for belong to a municipality who in effect could receive and do receive part of their money, that supplement. Right?

MR. MERCIER: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: So the question is then, as the Member for St. John was saying, then it shows again that they are getting the whole thing paid for. And then the Minister still used a formula, as Minister of Urban Affairs, to make a distribution of this supplement, taking into consideration police protection, so he's paying for it twice. And then they're getting some help from the federal government besides that, as I say, so I think my friend from St. Johns is right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Sport and Recreation.

HON. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Well, Mr. Chairman, just very briefly with regards to this subject, I think we all appreciate, and the Minister has pointed out several times the problems that some of the urban centres are faced with with excess policing costs, and problems that they have with regards to making sure that the staffing complement and everything is what RCM Police want to have in place, and the problems that places on the local taxpayer.

But I would just like to point out, one of the areas that I guess - and the Minister touched on it very briefly - that it becomes pretty hard to find out exactly what the per capita cost in that area would be outside the city of Winnipeg is an area such as I have in mind, a particular riding like Falcon Lake, where you've got a fairly large detachment doing the highway patrol, which really you can't relate to the population that's there. The population is one which builds up in the summertime and it's basically urbanites that move into that area, not the rural people, and use that.

The other example, which I think is a really striking one is the Headingley Detachment over here for the highway patrol. You've got a real buildup of - I forget how many, I think it's one of the largest detachments in Manitoba. It really services the Trans Canada Highway and the transient traffic that goes through. So, I'd think I'd find it pretty hard to say that it's the rural people benefiting from that. I think it's Manitoba as a whole that does, and I would just say that, maybe in this particular instance, they're protecting us from the

urbanites that are coming into the rural areas, where very often the urbanites like to say it's the rural people that come and disturb us. There are two sides to this story, and it becomes very difficult, Mr. Chairman, to, I think, come up with a per capita ratio on the thing.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, what the Minister said is true, but he forgot one point. He's talking about it in his area. He's saying that the population is there, the extra police is only for them. But he forgets that they also pay taxes. In some instances, I dare say that they pay an awful lot more tax than services that are received from the municipality or the provincial government.

Remember that I had a cottage in Sandy Hook, and that's years ago, and I was there a month at the most a year, and I paid over \$150 taxes.

MR. CHERNIACK: You'd pay a lot more now.

MR. DESJARDINS: Well, as I said, that's years ago and that's only for one month. So, Mr. Chairman, that is a fact, and I think the Minister was right when he pointed out that this is far-reaching. If you're going to start that, you've got to bring in revenue, and you've got to bring in - how many times the people from the rural area will come into the city to use our facilities. So, I agree that's it's practically impossible to find, but I think that we've made a point tonight to show that the Minister cannot say that the government is being that over-generous with the City of Winnipeg. I think that they've mentioned that before, and we live in the province, and I don't think that we necessarily feel we want all the money that we pay in tax, we want it back from Winnipeg. I don't think Manitoba could exist. But I think the Minister should look at the problems of Winnipeg also, and not say, "Well, all right, you're getting your share."

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.--pass. The Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. WESTBURY: Yes, I'm sorry, I wanted to speak on this but I was at the other committee and I'm afraid I may be being repetitive. I'm sure you'll tell me if I am.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Law Enforcements.

MRS. WESTBURY: Yes, I wanted to speak on Law Enforcement. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the Attorney-General, in speaking to - I think it was the Manitoba Urban Association - made a statement to the effect that he is prepared to grant extra funding to municipalities that have particular policing problems. Is that just what you've just been talking about? --(Interjection)-- Oh, except Winnipeg. Well, this was going to be my question. I see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: I don't think the Member for St. Johns wants me to go through this again, but . . .

MRS. WESTBURY: No, all right. I'm not going to ask you, I'll ask you privately perhaps. I have trouble dividing myself between two committees.

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, just so that we don't - I think we did cover that, and if the member would like to read Hansard from this evening . . .

MRS. WESTBURY: Yes, I will.

MR. MERCIER: And they will be reference there to discussion on a different method of redistributing increase in the Provincial-Municipal Tax Fund. I think that will deal with her concern.

MRS. WESTBURY: I wanted to say one thing, if I may, that may not have been said. I do feel that, because of the conditions that prevail in the city of Winnipeg, in parts of the city of Winnipeg, that when the provincial government is

getting funding, I wish that they would direct the funding towards the problems in some area, and particularly, if the government is going to make some money available for policing in the city, I wish that they would address it to an extension of the affirmative action program, so that the money would be spent in the areas which are in greatest need.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Appropriation 7. Law Enforcement--pass. The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Chairman, I've just been informed that when the Minister of Government Services spoke on the subject matter that I brought up, I had to leave the room, Mr. Chairman, but I understand that he said that this government, this Conservative government, had passed legislation forming the Manitoba Cattlemen Association that would look into the cattle rustling. I want to now for the record, say that one of the litigants in this case, the guy who apparently had cattle illegally in his pasture, is a member that the Minister of Agriculture appointed to the interim board of the Cattlemen Association, is now a vice-president of that association, and his name is Larry Clifford. That is the man who is involved, and according to a civil court had cattle illegally in his pasture for four years, and he is now a high official. And further to that, Mr. Chairman, he is also a very well-known Conservative in the Dauphin area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 7.--pass. Resolution resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$15,957,100 for Attorney-General Law Enforcement--pass. Appropriation No. 8., Public Trustee--pass. The Member for Burrows.

MR. BEN HANUSCHAK: One of the functions of the Public Trustee is to administer charitable or public trusts. Does he in fact do that, or this is merely a power which he has but does not, in fact, exercise?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm not aware of any charitable trust that he administers.

MR. HANUSCHAK: Public trusts, political parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 8.(a)--pass; 8.(b)--pass. Resolve that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$885,200 for Attorney-General Public Trustee--pass. Appropriation No.9., Canada-Manitoba Legal Aid. 9.(a)--pass. The Member for Ste. Rose.

MR. ADAM: I don't have too much to say about this, except that I am getting reports that since a fee has been levied on people who come to use Legal Aid, my understanding is that there are some now who are having difficulty having representation or legal counsel for them because of maybe only a nominal fee to some people, but to others, perhaps a very high fee. And I just want to make that passing comment before that Estimate goes by, that there are reports coming to me that there are some people having difficulty now having access to Legal Aid because of the fact that there was a deterrent fee, or a user fee, such as this government likes to impose.

MR. MERCIER: Just one point, Mr. Chairman. I found that in 85 percent of the cases, the user fee has been waived because of the financial circumstances of the applicant.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Yes, I applaud the user fee because that means the onus is then placed on the staff to look at each individual case and to make a decision based on need. I think it acts as a . . . it reminds me of a sportsman's show you go to down where the travel brochures are free, and almost everybody loads up with them, and as soon as they leave and get home, they go into the waste paper basket. And I think that there has to be something to avoid people going continually to the Legal Aid offices as a matter of a social trip downtown and something to do.

I wanted to ask the Minister if he could comment on the number of cases because I don't have the report in front of me. I have one report that indicated there were 13,188 cases handled by Legal Aid. I wondered how many were handled in the last fiscal year.

MR. MERCIER: The current year is last . . . ?

MR. WILSON: Well, whatever your last report is.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, it would appear in the fiscal 1978-79 a total of 9,687 certificates were issued. As of this March, there has been an 18 percent increase since then.

MR. WILSON: Again, I want to just say this is my own personal opinion, but when there was no deterrent fee, the caseload was well over 13,000. As soon as there becomes a user fee - which as you pointed out in 85 percent of the cases is waived if there are dire financial problems - what I'm saying is that because of the common knowledge that this government was going to have an increase in Legal Aid, would there be any parallel to the number of increase in cases as to the increase in the Budget. Again, maybe that's slightly facetious, but from where I sit, our government takes over and the caseload drops from well over 13,000 down to 9,600, and now it's going to go back up by 20 percent. May I ask the Minister, of these 10,000 cases, how many are for civil cases other than divorce?

MR. MERCIER: For civil cases other than domestic and divorce, I believe you divide it into three sections, I'm going by memory, and this would be for defending people who haven't paid for their automobile or haven't paid for their groceries and that type of thing.

MR. WILSON: While the Minister is looking that up, I wanted to talk about a strange phenomena - and I don't want to take too much of the committee's time - but in Public Accounts, I raised a concern, because on page 58, it's got, Law Society and solicitors' trust funds, \$1.3 million, of which \$257,478 according to the sheet supplied by the Law Society, is a grant from the provincial government. Now according to a letter I received from the Minister of Finance, this money is arrived at by interest from bank accounts of members of the legal profession. In many cases, this interest builds up because of the tardiness or slowness of lawyers dealing with peoples estates, money that through some widow whose husband may have died and who in the eyes of the lawyer may not be looking out for her next meal or whatever, but at the same the citizens of Manitoba are being deprived of the interest money which is now 17 percent, and on \$100,000, that is quite a substantial amount of money, \$17,000.00. And it would seem to me that there is something missing when this particular windfall falls into the revenue section of the province and then through some agreement with the former government, is laundered out to the tune of almost \$300,000 a year as a grant, and then the balance of the money is then laundered into legal aid to further pay for an expanding court case load which only benefits one segment of the population.

So I am saying that in the last fiscal year, \$1,341,818 came to the province through the interest rates of the citizens of Manitoba, through different financial institutions. And while it is listed as a grant, many members of the legal profession say it isn't a grant - and I am going by memory now from the document I had a terrible getting hold of, nobody seemed to be able to supply me with one - it indicated that our government has now expanded, because the fund is building at such a rate, has now expanded the terms of reference of this 75 percent, so that in addition to legal aid, it can now be used for the administration purposes of the Lakeview Square offices of the Law Society of Manitoba. I don't know whether it pays for furnishings and carpeting and luncheons or whatever, but it would seem to me that it's a pretty envious position for a professional organization to be in, that the chartered accountants don't have that privilege, the engineers don't have that privilege, the nurses don't have that privilege and the teachers don't have that privilege, of being able to have money come back to them that the government holds for them, to be taken out in the form of a grant. I know, and amazingly - I don't want to sound like somebody that is envious, but they do

represent, on a wage scale, some of the top wage earners in the province along with the medical profession, and I would think they are the last people that need a grant from the taxpayers' money, because this is the consolidated fund. This money is called a special operating trust fund, but to me, according to Hansard, this is the consolidated fund, so that means the money belongs to the taxpayers.

Now if it is truly for an educational program, this money should be under the Department of Education, and the Minister of Education should be asked if he is not concerned that something that's of an educational nature, is not handled by his department.

I refer to an article here by Justice Roy Matas, which says that the University of Manitoba law faculty is in serious financial trouble, and it would seem if they are in serious financial trouble, then they should also be apprized of some of these moneys. If there is a shortfall at the university and there's a squeeze, they are members of the legal profession, they should also be able to enjoy part of this \$1.3 million.

So I would think, and I would like to ask the Minister, in his budget here, he talks about legal aid being \$3.6 million for the coming year, does that include the moneys that are taken from the special trust or is this in addition? What I am trying to arrive at is, there was an article that appeared in the paper that the members of the legal profession claim that 15 percent of their legal fees were held back, and there was a story that said they were out of pocket some \$200,000.-00. Now, what I am interested in is, do we get a \$750,000 grant from the federal government? Then this \$3.6 million. And how much of this \$1.3 million is going to go towards legal aid? Are we going to use it all up in one year, or do we only use half of it? Who determines what portion of this money being held in the Law Society and solicitors' trust funds is going to be used for legal aid? And what of the citizens out there? Is there any sort of immoral behaviour on the part of governments that take interest money belonging to widows and estates and settlements on injury claims and settlements of divorce cases that are put into bank accounts by members of the Law Society, and the interest goes into a special account for their use? I think it deserves some look by Mr. Ziprick and his staff. I would like to know if the moneys that they claim under the new terms of reference that are going to take some of this \$1.3 million for legal aid, would that be in addition to the \$3.6 million that appears under Resolution No. 23?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me say that the total amount of interest that the province receives from trust accounts of lawyers is more of a floating interest that's earned on trust accounts of lawyers. Whenever a lawyer has a specific amount of money in trust for a widow or for a settlement, or even a land transaction, for a certain number of days, that money is usually invested in a specific trust account for the benefit of the client. And in fact now with many financial institutions offering daily interest rates, I think we're finding, or certainly will find in the future that, and particularly banks are compelled to provide interest on a daily basis, the amount of the fund earned from interest on lawyers accounts is going to diminish significantly. And again, I repeat, whenever a significant amount of money is held by a lawyer in trust for a client, that money is generally invested by the lawyer in an interest bearing account which can be done now on a daily basis through trust accounts.

Now with respect to the division, the Legal Aid Services Society Act requires . . . I am sure that's the Act, but it may be an amendment to The Law Society Act, pardon me, The Law Society Act, requires the money that is earned from interest on lawyers' trust accounts received by the provincial government, is distributed 25 percent for legal education of the Law Society and 75 percent to Legal Aid. The 25 percent that goes to the Law Society does in fact cover legal education for articling students, and the Member for Wolseley said in fact, the money should be used for education of students. Well, it is used in the legal education program run by the Law Society during the articling program of students. The Law Society have to submit to my budget. We generally pay 50 percent of the moneys as early as we can. The final 50 percent of the moneys are not paid out until we receive an audited financial statement. The 75 percent that goes to Legal Aid is included within this \$3.6 million appropriation. They don't get the 75 percent of the interest. It's not over and above this amount; it's included within this amount of money.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 9.(a). The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Except that I. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Sorry, if I could just answer one other question that the Member for Wolseley earlier asked. In 1978-79, the total civil cases were approximately 4,536. Approximately 500 of those cases were for civil cases other than domestic cases. I think that was the question.

MR. WILSON: Well, I'll get back to that in a moment. What I wanted to assure the Minister that I have in front of me, several copies of the statement of trust for ending the year March 31, 1979. The balance that was in the trust account was \$513,250.94. For the fiscal year they had interest of \$1,086,686.46, so I would think that, while the Minister has been told by the Law Society that moneys belonging to the citizens of Manitoba are invested for their benefit, under what phenomena then would we arrive at over a million dollars collected, if only people and small businessmen go to a law firm? I'm trying to envision if the lawyers are truly investing the money for the estate of a widow or a person who has been crippled for life in an auto accident, if they're truly investing it for his benefit, how would the Law Society arrive at a million dollars' windfall without having not have some firms invest the money from other sources? I am trying to envision a different example of other than a person. Maybe the Minister could help me in this regard as to what type of area would a law firm have to turn money over to the solicitor's account that appears on page 58 of the Public Accounts?

MR. MERCIER: What is the question? In which circumstances would interest be earned that goes to the consolidated fund and does not go to the client?

MR. WILSON: Yes, yes.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, if for example a lawyer had, let's say \$5,000 as a figure, which he is required to hold for three days, and to invest it on a daily basis he has to pay Pink Lady \$3.50 or \$4.50 to take the money down to a trust company to put into a daily interest bearing account and then pay another \$3.50 or \$4.00 to come back with the money after the three days is over, it may very well be that the amount of interest earned is not greater than the amount of the charges to take the money down to deposit it and return it. Those are the kinds of circumstances where the lawyer would leave the money in his regular general trust account. There would be interest assigned to that money by the bank, because generally speaking a lawyer will find that he will have, depending on the amount of his business, depending a great deal on the size of the practice, and what kind of practice, he might only have an average of \$5,000 in the bank in a trust account during the course of a month. In those circumstances the excess of the money would be put in a special trust account in the bank, and the interest in those cases goes to the consolidated fund of the province. But it's situations where there can be no benefit to the client, because the money is held for such a short period of time, but on an average the lawyer has that amount of money, an amount say of \$5,000 in the bank, during the course of a month.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Well, except that I would think a better business practice might be, rather than call it a grant, because this agreement was put together, I believe, on April 1st by the former Attorney-General Al Mackling, that he agreed to pay 25 percent, formula 25-75, that I would rather them put it in as an expense to the government for collecting the interest from members of their society. Because I would suggest to you, Mr. Minister, would the Law Society, as required by that former Act, turn over a million, some odd thousand dollars in a fiscal year to the taxpayers of Manitoba if they weren't getting a 25 percent remuneration? I think it would be highly unlikely that that event would take place, and I would

rather see it as an expense for administering and collecting the money from their members, rather than plunking all the money into the consolidated fund which belongs to the taxpayers of Manitoba and then having us give them a grant, because how do I answer to the poor working guy in Wolseley that we are giving a grant to the richest members of society? I have a very very tough time explaining that to my people on Evanson and Arlington.

I will get back specifically to Legal Aid, so we can get on to the other items. I wanted to make the comment that I am very very concerned about what is a growing sort of bush fire, and we are heading down the wrong road in allowing Legal Aid certificates for people in civil cases in which they are defending themselves against the just obligation, against the financial institutes and members of the credit industry. Now I shouldn't be here speaking for the chartered banks and the credit unions, but I feel that if they won't take the time, I will on their behalf, to say, we all know that as soon as a statement of defence is filed, the banks will not proceed, and when they write off that debt, that debt is handled and paid for by the honest people that pay their bills. I am suggesting that the Legal Aid is becoming, rather than a support system, a system of a Christian type of honesty that is becoming a vehicle assisting dishonesty, because the banks and the credit unions, once a defence is filed, run for cover and pass that bad debt onto the honest people of the province.

In other words, the banks don't lose money, the credit unions don't lose money, they turn around - and to the Member for Burrows, Eatons used to at one time make no less than 25 to 20 repossessions a month. They no longer make them, because it is cheaper for them to write off the 3 percent of their gross sales as bad debts and pass it on to the honest people who pay their bills than it is to go around chasing these deadbeats to try to collect. I am saying that the tragedy is, that the honest consumer is paying in a bush-fire area for the dishonest consumer. If we are going to have more vehicles against dishonesty we have got to stop outfits like Legal Aid encroaching into the civil cases where they are defending people against financial institutions who have a just obligation. I think the Administrator and the staff people at Legal Aid, if they knew the intent of the government, would not give a certificate if the guy, for instance - he could ask the gentleman when he came in, you are here to get Legal Aid, you are here because you have no money to pay for your car, and you are nine months in arrears, and the bank has the nerve to ask you to give your car back. Don't you think if you can't afford this Oldsmobile 88 that maybe you should drive something smaller or something that it is not an 1980, maybe a 1967 or a 1972, and maybe act as a debt consultant rather than giving the guy a certificate, and that deadbeat, because he gets away with it, or the person who maybe - let's take he is actually truly financially up against it, because not all people are dishonest, some people actually overpurchase things. They have a lack of control of buying things, and these people need debt consulting, they need help. We have OPD, we have the bankruptcy laws, we don't need to give them a battery of lawyers to turn around and avoid their just obligations. I think that 500 certificates is maybe 300 too many in my opinion. I just leave that for the record.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, my question to the Minister is around the staffing. I wonder if the Minister could give the number of staff and the locations of staff. And, Mr. Chairman, I don't know if he has it in his books there, not only the staff last year and the location, but the staff the year before, if he has that information available.

MR. MERCIER: The general location, Mr. Chairman, would be Winnipeg 58, Brandon 5, Dauphin 6, the north 5. Included in the estimates are provisions for two more in Thompson.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I am assuming the first figures he gave us are the same for last year, that is, it is an extension of last year into this year, except for the two additional ones.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, yes.

MR. McBRYDE: I wonder, Mr. Minister, if the five northern, you could break that down further - is it just The Pas and Thompson that you have offices?

MR. MERCIER: Five in The Pas. We have provision for two in Thompson.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, the five persons in The Pas, that would not be all legal staff then. How many legal staff would that be?

MR. MERCIER: Two lawyers, a student, and two secretarial staff.

MR. McBRYDE: So at this time, two lawyers and a student lawyer would be servicing all of northern Manitoba at this time. Are those positions all full at this time?

MR. MERCIER: Plus the private bar.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the reason I raise this - and I am pleased that there is a change in staff, that they are going to add some staff at The Pas. The last six months is the first time I, as an MLA, have had people come to me with problems, and when I called Legal Aid they were, you know, very co-operative and tried to be very helpful, but I got the impression that they just couldn't keep up with the particular -- you know, that is the first time since they have been there that I have constituents come in with a problem, and so I was concerned with the fact the service was less than it had been before, that they weren't able to provide the service that they were set up to provide.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I should also make the point that we do fly people in to different communities for courts on occasion.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the Minister would care to comment if there has been a problem with meeting the need that exists in northern Manitoba, and specifically in The Pas. Has there been . . .

MR. MERCIER: The problem, Mr. Chairman, that we have had over recent months has been in Thompson, not in The Pas. A few lawyers have moved from Thompson and the burden of handling all the certificates has fallen on fewer lawyers in Thompson. That is why we are considering establishing an office in Thompson.

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I suppose that since there has been a reduction in the number of services in the north, I am always very suspicious and concerned that this doesn't take place. I am assuming that the issuing of certificates, and I am sorry I don't understand the detail of the process, the actual issuing of certificates is done by a lawyer.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. McBRYDE: So that makes sense to me in terms of the problems that people are having, because it was sort of, certificates had been issued, and then the lawyer had left the area and there was a problem of getting it transferred to another lawyer, etc. So I am assuming that's one area of the overload, is in terms of just the administrative handling of certificates and signing those certificates or getting a lawyer in private practice to fulfill that..

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the Area Director for the north who has final approval of the certificates is located in Thompson, so there shouldn't be any difficulty in proving the transfer of the certificate.

MR. McBRYDE: Did the Minister mean Thompson or The Pas?

MR. MERCIER: The Pas, pardon me.

MR. McBRYDE: You see, if there are two lawyers that can issue

certificates, and there is the court parties, though I am assuming those lawyers travel to Thompson now because they have to do that to - it makes sense that that is one of the bottlenecks, the issuing and the assigning of certificates and just sort of the processing of applications for Legal Aid up north.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, we are not aware of any complaints, but we will enquire into it with the Area Director in The Pas and see if he has had some problems in that regard.

MR. McBRYDE: I would just like to reiterate that the staff, when I have talked to them, have been very co-operative, and I am not complaining about them, but I got the impression that they were just falling behind and couldn't quite keep up, and that was the impression I got from dealing with two complaints from constituents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 9.(b)--pass.

Resolution No. 23 - Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$3,635,300 for the Attorney-General, Canada-Manitoba Legal Aid--pass.

Resolution No. 10(a)--pass the Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: I wanted to just ask the Minister, I had occasion to use these facilities and I must say I was extremely impressed and I wondered, it does seem like an awful lot of money, but wouldn't the Minister advise the taxpayers that most of this money is recovered through charges, because I was relieved of - in searching one particular, my first experience in searching - I was relieved of \$6.50 faster than the computer could operate. And I wondered if the Minister could indicate, on the revenue side, that this new facility - relatively new facility on the 15th floor - is operating reasonably efficiently and part of the cost is being recovered through the revenue side.

What I am saying, I am very happy because of the concerns I expressed earlier in the budget, that if we could educate the consuming public that when they buy an automobile from a used-car lot, or not so much that, but they buy it out of the newspaper, that if they could attend the 15th floor of the Woodsworth Building and use the services of this very worthwhile facility, the staff are more than co-operative and more than happy when an ordinary citizen comes in there after dealing with the professional debt collectors all day long, and members of different law firms around the city. They are more than willing to help.

I just rather got the indication, when I was up there, it was more than efficient. And, of course, I don't know the start-up cost, but I'm quite impressed and I wanted to congratulate the Minister on his ever-improving facility and wondered if he could give some indication as to are part of the \$426,000 in Other Expenditures recovered through revenues?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The program is self-supporting.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 10.(a)--pass; (b)--pass.

Resolution No. 24:

Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$699,300 for the Attorney-General.

Personal Property Security Registry--pass.

Now we revert back, members of the committee, to Resolution No. 15. 1.(a)--pass. The Member for St. Vital.

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to say a few words and ask a few questions under the Minister's Salary, on the topic of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, which I understand is one of the Minister's responsibilities, and since there is no expenditure through the department, that the only place members can speak on this subject is under the Minister's Salary.

We had words last year on the topic of whether the Minister was allowed to have advisors or members of his staff present for his salary, and we gave him the encouragement at that time to indeed to have whomsoever he wished to help him,

preferably an official from the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission.

Can the Minister advise us, first off, whether there is anyone here present from the Commission who will be able to help him with any more technical questions?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, let me take this opportunity to introduce to members, Mr. William Emerson, the new General Manager of the Commission. Also with him are Mr. Arch Jackson and Mr. Herb Davies, the comptrollers. Hopefully, we will be able to answer the usual incisive questions from the Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had to look twice at the Minister to see whether he was being facetious when he said that, and I will give him the benefit of the doubt.

Mr. Chairman, can I first note with regret from the Annual Report of the Commission, the untimely death of the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Teillet, last year.

We understand that he lost his life in a motor accident after being and serving with the Commission for many long years. I'm sure that all members of the committee would join me in expressing sympathy and condolences to the family.

Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of items that were brought up last year with the Minister. We didn't press him too much on it, and these two matters were fairly new at that time. But, since they've now been in operation for a year, perhaps the Minister can advise the committee what the experience has been. Firstly in the area of live musicians, there was a change made either to the Act or under the regulations, to permit taped music, and there were considerable concerns raised at the time that this would have a serious effect on the entertainment business in Manitoba and the livelihood of musicians who derived both income and experience and training, by playing in licensed premises.

Can the Minister now give a report to the committee as to what studies and investigations have been carried out in this regard, and whether he has any information whether the opportunities for live musicians has declined, whether he has any indication that some of the 10,000-odd Manitobans who leave every year, have been musicians seeking employment in other provinces?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I don't have any exact figures on how many switches there were to taped music from live. But there was a change in policy of the Commission last fall, prior to Mr. Teillet's untimely death, in which hotels were allowed to have a cover charge that enabled the many hotels to justify the expense of providing live music. And I understand that live bands are doing fairly well in the city now.

MR. WALDING: I wonder if it would be possible for the Minister to request a report from the Commission, as to if they have any indication of what the effect has been on the live music entertainers in the province - particularly in the city, because I believe that's where I think the effect was.

I also raised with the Minister last year the matter of low alcohol beer taken in concert with the former policy of moderation. Prior to the Estimates last year - and I don't know the exact date - there was a change in the pricing policy whereby low alcohol beer was sold at the same rate as the full 5 percent beer.

The matter that I raised with the Minister last year was whether this was a movement away from the moderation policy of attempting to encourage people to drink more of the low alcohol beer by means of a lower price. The Minister gave as one reason, at least, the fact that that lower price could have been justified as an introductory measure when these low alcohol beers were first promoted on the market, and that that requirement was now over, in that they were now established.

Can the Minister now report to us on what has happened to the sales of low alcohol beer as a percentage of the total beer sales over a reasonable period of time, perhaps 1979 over 1978, or something of that magnitude? Have we in fact seen low alcohol beers maintain the same percentage of the market that they did at the time the price was raised?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the answer to that question is yes, they have maintained approximately the same percentage of the market.

MR. WALDING: Can the Minister advise approximately what the percentage share of the market is?

MR. MERCIER: About 5 percent.

MR. WALDING: I have a number of notes here, Mr. Chairman, that are not in any particular order. One further point: One of the province's newspapers did a survey several months ago as to the measures of liquor that were being served in licensed establishments in the city. They named the establishments; they gave actual figures; there was some discussion back and forth, as I recall, from the Commission that different standards were being used as whether it was an imperial ounce or an American ounce, and that there were certain tolerances.

Some of the figures, as I recall, showed that one establishment was up to at least 10 percent below the expected one ounce.

I must say, on the other side, that another establishment was shown to be over the measure by a similar amount.

There was also a further report that one employee of one of these establishments was fired subsequent to this investigation.

I would now like to ask the Minister if he could comment on, first of all, the review itself, what measures the Commission took to check into this. Can they confirm that one person lost his or her job? And did the Commission look into that matter to see whether it was properly done?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, the report in the newspaper was subject to some criticism, in that they used the wrong conversion factor, I think, in their initial article. It was also subject to some inaccuracies because of the number of times the alcohol was transferred from one container to another, and the possibility of losing a part of the liquid, or evaporation.

But in any event, since then a new measuring device has been approved by the Commission for use, there being some further inspections.

With respect to the fact that one employee was fired, that was reported in the newspaper, and I don't want to comment any further on that or what the Member for St. Vital is expecting from me in that regard.

MR. WALDING: Two questions arise from that. As far as the employee being fired, or losing his or her job - and I don't recall which it was - I wanted to know whether the Commission had, in fact, looked into that, having some responsibility for licensed premises and the employees in them. To what extent was the Commission itself concerned that an employee had been fired - and I'm not sure of the reason given, either it was for speaking to a newspaper or for being involved in a short measure?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I believe there were some suggestions that, from information given to Commission staff, that there was some watering down of alcohol involved, by a member of the staff.

MR. WALDING: Is the Minister then satisfied that the dismissal was not unjustified?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that's not my responsibility as Minister. That is a matter between the employee and the employer, and I suppose if there were concerns, it's a matter for the Labour Board or something along that line, but that does come within the jurisdiction of my responsibilities as Minister, nor the Commission.

MR. WALDING: I think I would agree with the Minister that it's not his responsibility, but the responsibility of the Commission, I am not sure. I would have expected them to take an interest in the matter in any case, at least to satisfy themselves.

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In answer to the previous question, the Minister mentioned that a new measuring device, I think those were the words he used, are in general use. I am not sure what he means by a measuring device. Would he explain it please?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the new measuring device is to assist liquor inspectors in their inspections, and is available to hotels to check whether their pouring devices are accurate.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I understand that some of the dispute involved in the newspaper survey had to do with the shot glasses themselves and whether they were approved by the Commission or whether they were not. Now when the Minister speaks of a measuring device, is he speaking of some other form of shot glass or measuring container, and if that is the case, does that not cast doubt upon the accuracy of the Commission-approved shot glasses?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Commission approves shot glasses, but that is not to say that there might be an error in manufacturing by the manufacturer, and although the make is approved, there is always the possibility that there may be some variance between the glasses so that the measuring device would enable a hotel to check each glass to make sure they're accurate.

MR. WALDING: I would assume then, Mr. Chairman, that the inspectors, when they visit hotels and other licensed premises, would carry such a measuring device with them and would perhaps do spot checks on individual shot glasses, or would perhaps test the whole stock in a particular establishment. Is this what is happening, or is the Minister telling me that these measuring devices are only for the use of the hotel or other licensed premise?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the measuring glasses used by the inspectors apparently are new in that they have a finer line to measure from, or tide line, and they bear serial numbers and a certificate of laboratory testing to assist in the inspections.

MR. WALDING: Then to go back to the Minister's previous statement that these are available to or are used by hotel proprietors, do I understand the proprietor would own such a measuring device, or rents them from the Commission, or is it a matter of using them when the inspector calls around with it in his pocket?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the measuring glasses used by the inspectors are available to the hotel operators during inspections to do any checks that they want with their own shot glasses.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister about the matter of occasional permits, and I know that there have been difficulties with people applying for them. There have also been complaints by the Hotel Association that too many of them have been issued and that they see that as an area of competition which they would like to see reduced. I understand that there have been some changes in the issuing and perhaps the inspection of occasional permits over the last year. That raises a couple of questions. And the report by the way, indicates very little change of last year from the previous year, something like 25,000. So I would like to ask the Minister, what policy directives he has issued to the Commission regarding occasional permits and what changes are occurring in the issuing and the inspection, both of the issuing of the occasional permit itself and the inspection of the function when it is held.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I believe it was in the Annual Report which indicated the increase in the number of inspections. I think the member may have noted and will find it in the Chief Inspector's report. I have issued no directive to the Commission either in regard to that or in regard to the handling of occasional permits. I believe there has been concern expressed for a number of years about problems with occasional permits, not only in Manitoba but in virtually every other province in Canada, I assume because of some publicity that was given to the matter of occasional permits in the fall. A change in practice at

the Commission has been implemented in recent months, whereby managers of stores generally approve applications for occasional permits, whereas they were in the past approved by a number of other employees of the Commission.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I take it from the Minister's remarks that that was a change instituted by the Commission itself rather than coming from the Minister. Further to that, is there any requirement that occasional permits must be applied for at Commission headquarters, or can they still be issued from any liquor store?

MR. MERCIER: They can be obtained at any liquor store, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, the Minister might recall that I referred a case to him not too long ago on the matter of occasional permits, whereby the organizing group was putting on a social for the first time, not really being familiar with the rules and regulations, had come up against a particular problem. They realized that occasional permits were open to abuse, and that it was in the Commission's interest as well as the public interest that there be certain checks and balances put in to prevent these abuses. It was understood by the people involved very well, that there were certain formalities to be gone through and certain things that they had to do, or must not do. The complaint in this particular case was that the people involved in issuing the permit - and I really don't know at what level or what position this was, whether the consideration was at the issuing level or whether it had more to do with inspectors at the main office - and I suspect it was - the group had gone down, you know, for help. The complaint given to me was that the people involved in handling this complaint were extremely unhelpful, unhelpful even to the point of being rude to the applicants, that they were not giving the applicants proper consideration and explanation of the regulations and what had to be done and what could not be done. The complaint was voiced to me that the people involved were civil servants as far as the caller was concerned, that the Commission was really the only show in town and that they were stuck with the situation as it was.

I'm happy to tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister was able to have the case, I believe reviewed, and the regulations explained to the group, and that it was resolved in a satisfactory manner. But I would like to ask the Minister whether he has received any other complaints from members of the public as to the conduct of MOCC staff and inspectors, and whether this unco-operative attitude has been remarked upon before. And does he have anything further to report on that case or similar cases?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I have received a number of concerns expressed from time to time by a number of organizations who just - I guess people just don't realize the restrictions under the Act. It would appear that there a number of organizations or groups who think they can get an occasional permit, and advertise, and ostensibly run a social for the specific purpose of raising money for a particular objective. And of course the statute prohibits that. But it would appear that many people just don't understand that, and maybe on occasion staff assume that people know that. And then the advertisement appears, or they have already advertised, and then go down for the permit. And I understand some applications have put to raise money for such and such, and they've already done it, and somebody in the Commission says, "You can't do that. We can't give you a permit, because it's against the Act." And people become concerned, because usually their object is one that you can't disagree with, it will be to raise funds to send a Ringette team to Regina for a tournament or something like that; the objective is one that you can't disagree with. So they are naturally disappointed if the Commission turns them down, and there is lack of understanding between the parties involved. That's why I think, and I am sure the member will agree, it's an appropriate time to review the handling of occasional permits and the purposes for which they should be allowed and the conditions under which they should be allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rossmere.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I haven't finished.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, pardon me. The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the Minister says is true, that people often think they can do things and find out that there are regulations which prohibit it. The point that I was making is, that when they found out that the regulations won't allow them to do what they had hoped to do, surely there is some onus on Commission staff to be as co-operative and as helpful as possible in explaining to the applicant in a very sympathetic manner just what cannot be done or what they would have to do in order to be within the regulations. So, it's really a matter of attitude, I believe, that I'm speaking of and perhaps the Minister, along with the staff, would take that to heart and perhaps give some thought to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a). The Member for St. Vital.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I do have a few more questions. I'll indicate when I'm through, if I may. I'd like to ask the Minister about the review committee that he has set up. I do seem to recall seeing a news release on the topic, and I was looking for it today just to refresh my memory about it, and I couldn't find it. So, perhaps I should ask the Minister if he could say a few words about the review committee and just what it is for. What is it that the Minister hopes to get from the committee - committee or commission, I'm not sure of the term, there are so many of them, Mr. Chairman, review committees, commissions and that sort of thing. Task forces, I am reminded. I do wonder whether such a task force or review commission is, in fact, necessary, or whether the Minister knows what he wants to do and will do it anyway, no matter what this committee says.

I suspect, from remarks that had been made by Conservatives and the Conservative Party before, that there is an intent on their part to turn over the sales of alcoholic beverages to private interest, and I note that that hasn't been done in well over two years of this government's term of office. Is this committee now set up to advise the Minister that that is, in fact, what they should do, or is the committee really only set up as a smoke screen to silence those people that have been pushing for the government to turn over some of its retail outlets to the private sector?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I don't have a copy of the news release with me, but I would first of all hope, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for St. Vital, who has an interest in the - I know in the operation of the Commission - would review the release and perhaps even the Order-in-Council, because I believe that will allay many of his concerns if he thinks there's predetermined object which we hope the committee will find in favour of. The terms of reference for the committee, and it is an advisory committee, are very neutral. They are to consider the advisability or inadvisability of making changes in The Liquor Control Act and the regulations with respect to a number of areas, and I'll get to those in a minute.

After taking into consideration employee concerns, industry concerns, attitudes of the public, trends in other jurisdictions, so that, Mr. Chairman, the terms of reference of the committee are very neutral. And I think that's important because I think the sale of liquor is an area particularly in which the changes in the Act and regulations should not proceed in advance of any change in public concerns or public consensus.

I don't view it as a political matter at all, Mr. Chairman. I think there will be and there has to be a great deal of public involvement and expressions of public concerns before changes are advanced in the existing situation. And I believe there will be, most certainly will be an opportunity for members of the public to send in written submissions, and an opportunity for them to make public submissions at public hearings, if they so wish.

Some of the specific areas that are set out in the terms of reference include the question of occasional permits that we've just referred to, the advertising, the methods of price determination, the possibility of extending the sale of alcohol into the private sector, the regulations under the Act, the Act itself. And we're dealing with an Act that is 25 years old since the last major review, and has been found, in a number of circumstances, to be a very negative Act.

We want to look at the classifications of licences, a very complicated classification system now, whether or not there should be any changes in that. Mr. Chairman, if the member wishes, I will obtain for him a copy of the Order-in-Council which will set out the detail. He might want to have a look at it.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for the offer. I would be glad to receive such a document. I made a few additional notes here as the Minister was speaking. Speaking of public concern and public consensus, I believe were the terms used. I'd like to ask the Minister whether he has received any indication of widespread public concern and public consensus that changes are needed to the Act and to the regulations, and specifically in the matter of the private sale of liquor. That's the first question.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. During the strike at the Liquor Control Commission, there was a fair bit of public concern expressed at that time that the Commission stores were closed, and that at that time there was a great deal of public expression that people, at that time particularly, should be able to buy alcohol from the private sector.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to then ask the Minister, has that concern continued since the time of the strike, or was that only a particular public instance that brought the matter to public attention?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I would frankly say that the fervor and frequency of expression of opinion that was expressed at that time has died down almost completely.

MR. WALDING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's what I would have expected. The Minister did mention that the Act does go back for quite some time, and I believe that it was the Bracken Commission or the Bracken Inquiry that was at the basis of most of the very sweeping changes that were made in Manitoba's liquor laws, and that was seen as a really huge step out of the dark ages at that time. Is the Minister intending that this particular - is it called an inquiry, or a committee, or a commission?

MR. MERCIER: Advisory committee.

MR. WALDING: Advisory committee. That this advisory committee is to be of the same scope and magnitude as the Bracken Commission?

MR. MERCIER: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WALDING: The Minister did mention that there would be opportunities for the public to make their voices known in writing. Did I also hear him say that there would be public hearings conducted as well?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I've requested the committee to hold public hearings.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'm also interested in the financial aspects of the Commission. Has there been a budget struck for this Commission? Has a time been set in which it is to report? Who is to pay the expenses of the Commission? Are they to come from Liquor Control Commission itself, or will they be paid out of general revenues.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the committee are working on budget at the present moment to submit to us. It's anticipated the work of the committee will take approximately six to seven months, six to eight months, that amount of time. The expenses of the committee will be paid by the provincial government, not by the Liquor Control Commission. It's really six of one and a half-a-dozen of the other. If the Commission paid it, that would reduce the amount of the revenue they would turn over to the province. So, the way we have approved the Order-in-Council is that the funds will be paid by this provincial government.

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MR. WALDING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the government's thinking was purely along revenue lines, or whether it had more to do with the appearance of the Commission investigating itself. If the Commission would have foot the bill, as opposed to the government paying the cost, and the Commission actually being an outside investigation of - I won't say it's an investigation of the Commission, but an investigation of the Act and its regulations. Now, was that more of a consideration with the Minister and his colleagues than the matter of revenue?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the most significant aspect of it was that, and I point out, firstly, that the Bracken Commission was paid for by the Liquor Control Commission, but it was an inquiry. And under the Act, if the Liquor Commission were to appoint the group to do the study, it would have to be an inquiry. And I didn't feel that we need as formal a group looking into it as an inquiry, and I didn't intend this to be a study of the same magnitude as the Bracken Commission Report.

MR. WALDING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there was another matter that I raised with the Minister last year arising from the chief inspector's report, and it had to do with the problems that the RCMP had experienced in, I believe there were two hotels, in the Thompson area. I'll just quote, if I may, from the report or from Hansard of last year, where the RCMP had said, "When violations are pointed out to the hotel management, strong resentment and general lack of co-operation is sensed. On several occasions, deceit has even been practised by the hotel management." Now, the Minister and I had some discussion of that, and the Minister reminded me that there were only two hotels involved. I further asked him as to the experience of the RCMP, whether this deceit and general lack of co-operation was restricted solely to those two hotels, or whether it was a matter of more general concern. The Minister did undertake at that time to review the matter with the RCMP and discussed the matter with me. He will find that in Hansard, the very last paragraph, Page 4126. I don't recall discussing the matter with the Minister subsequent to that Estimates debate, Mr. Chairman, and perhaps he is now in a position to inform the committee, (a) whether he reviewed it with the RCMP and has anything to report to us, and (b) whether the same sorts of problems are being experienced this year - although I will note that the RCMP does not make reference in their report this year to similar sorts of problems. It was pointed out I believe by the Minister, or perhaps in the report itself, that part of the problem might have been due to inexperienced management in those two particular establishments.

MR. MERCIER: Sorry, we were talking about Thompson?

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, were two particular hotels that were named in the Thompson area of the RCMP.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that those were the main management problems and have been pretty well resolved since last year's report.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I also asked the Minister whether he had consulted with the RCMP as to whether these sorts of conditions existed elsewhere in the province, that is, of strong resentment and general lack of co-operation, and whether deceit is practiced at any other establishment, either towards the RCMP or the Commission's inspectors, or both.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the advice I have from the Commission is the answer to that is no.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, I would just like to go through both of these reports. I had notes on some pages about them, not too many, so I don't expect to take up too much more time of the committee.

We mentioned earlier about occasional permits, and the Minister noted that there was some mention in the report of the increases in inspections of occasional

permits. And I see on page 6 of the inspectors report this year that it notes an increase in occasional permit function inspections by 596. Two questions arise from that. When it uses the words "occasional permit function" does that indicate that an inspector actually visited the social occasion, and can the Minister give me the actual numbers involved over the year in question over the previous year?

MR. MERCIER: My recollection, Mr. Chairman, is that it's in the vicinity of 300 to 400 in the previous year, and that this brings it to a total of around 900 to 950, but we'll try to find the specific number. I'm pretty sure it's in that range.

MR. WALDING: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, accepting the Minister's ball park range of approximately a thousand, that would indicate to me that 1,000 out of 25,000 is about four percent of inspections carried out. Is the Minister satisfied that four percent inspection rate at occasional permit socials is an adequate level? And secondly, are these inspections carried out purely on a spot, random basis, or are they in response to a complaint?

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, probably the vast majority of the occasional permits are very innocent functions like a reception for a daughter who is getting married, or a wedding reception. Sometimes that's the only occasional permit that the father of the bride will ever take out. He probably doesn't want to take out more than one of them with the expenses involved. But the vast majority would be pretty harmless occasions. But it certainly was an area where the police authorities have recommended a larger number of occasions. One of the difficulties is, again, a large number of them occur on Friday and Saturday evenings, which makes it very difficult to have enough people attend them all. But it's an area again where, under the review, we are hopeful we can attempt to review the situation, see if there are any improvements that can be made, something that might be happening in other jurisdictions.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, there was a second question involved there, and that was whether these inspections are made on a purely random basis on a Friday and a Saturday night, or are they in response to complaints. Or, on the other hand, has the Commission developed some expertise and experience in knowing, or guessing, perhaps I should say, where there are likely to be problems involved, either because of the location or the particular organization that's involved?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I have been advised that they are fairly random although with the experience at the Commission, they know there are certain banquet halls where there have been difficulties in the past, and those might be inspected, given some priority. Or there may be some organizations that have had difficulties in the past, and there may be a concentration on those.

MR. WALDING: Another thought just comes to me as the Minister made his last remark. Have there been any organizations that have been refused further occasional permits because of infractions or difficulties found by inspectors?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There have been organizations and individuals that have been refused occasional permits because of past difficulties.

MR. WALDING: I wasn't sure whether that would be the case, and if so, I wonder why there was no note of that in the chief inspector's annual report. It does go into considerable detail in a number of areas, but I note there is an absence there.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the reason for that is, that would be the decision of the Commission, not the inspector. The Commission issues the permit, not the inspector.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, what is the difference between an inspection and an investigation, as far as the Commission is concerned.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, an inspection is an attendance at the function. An investigation is an investigation of the application and circumstances surrounding the application prior to the function.

MR. WALDING: While we are on the matter of occasional permits, Mr. Chairman, there is a figure given somewhere, and I am just looking for it now, for mention of an investigation prior to the issuing of an occasional permit. I am just looking for the figure, and it showed a certain proportion . . . oh yes, it's on page 10. Occasional permit investigations prior to issue, just over 1,000. Can the Minister expand on what this means, and why only some of the occasional permits are investigated? Is this because of some difficulty or problem that would show up in the application, or does this go back to the matter of certain organizations or certain locations?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, those arise when there may be something in the application that causes some suspicion in the minds of the inspector, or they want to investigate the bona fides of an organization, or of a purpose that the applicant has indicated the function is being held for.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I note that the number is up only very slightly from the previous year, so that in itself would presumably not account for complaints from occasional permit applicants. On the back page of the same report, on Page 20, Schedule 2 of the inspector's report gives a financial statement of expenditures for the year, and it shows a fairly substantial drop in expenditures for 1979 over 1978. I would guess that this had to do with the strike and the fact that a number of investigations and inspections did not take place, and I believe there was note of this in other places. Can the Minister confirm that that was indeed the case, and does he have an estimate of the expenditures for 1980, given that there is a considerable increase in the number of inspectors this year?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, that was indeed the reason for the decrease in expenses. We're going to try and locate whether we have the estimate of 1980 with us. If we don't, I'll supply it to the member.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, I'm nearly at the end of my questions. I have a couple arising from the annual report, which I notice was audited by the Provincial Auditor, and I'd just like to ask the Minister whether Mr. Ziprick is continuing to audit the books of the Liquor Control Commission or whether this is another Crown corporation that has been turned over to private auditors?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, he is not continuing to do the audit of the Commission. As I understand it, he is involved as sort of a supervisor overriding function, but he's not doing the actual audit.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then I would assume that the audit function for the Commission has been turned over to a private auditing company as of April 1, 1979. Two questions arise from that. First, can the Minister tell me who the present auditors are for the Commission? And can he tell me how much the audit fees were paid to the Provincial Auditor for the year ending March 31, 1979, and how much they will be for the year ending March 31, 1980?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I believe the name of the firm is Abbott Harrison, but this is a matter that comes within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance, and I would request him to put those questions to the Minister of Finance.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, as far as the financial report of the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission is concerned, can the Minister tell me what the auditing charges were to the Commission for the year ending March 31, 1979?

MR. MERCIER: Approximately \$29,000, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WALDING: Can the Minister advise me how much the Commission will pay to its private auditors under the agreement, which I believe has been finalized with them, for the year ending March 31, 1980?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised it will be an amount not to exceed \$33,000.00.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's approximately a 10 percent increase, I will note. I would also assume that that additional sum of \$4,000 is part of the \$130,000 that the auditor says in his report will be paid out in additional fees this year to the private sector over and above what the Provincial Auditor charged to the people of Manitoba.

MR. MERCIER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I indicated it was an amount not to exceed \$33,000.00. That doesn't mean it will be \$33,000.00. And the member will also note the amount of inflation over the past year, in order that he can make a true and accurate representation of the increase in costs, whatever they may be.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is very carefully comparing apples and oranges when he compares the Auditor's charges to the private companies' charges, because he knows, I am sure, that the rate of charging is completely different by the Provincial Auditor as by the private companies. The Provincial Auditor has told us that his charges are cost plus 25 percent and that the usual standard measure for private auditing companies is in the region of 2 or 2-1/4 times cost.

On the same page, Page 18 of the Financial Report, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could give us an accounting of the salaries and expenses of the licensing board, which went up from some \$13,000 to almost \$20,000 over the year. Can he give us the reason why the amount of salaries and expenses for the board has gone up by approximately 55 percent?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I will have to determine the reason for that and advise the member.

MR. WALDING: While we're on the subject, Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister will advise whether the word "salaries" there applies to any secretarial assistance that the board might have. Or does it apply to payments made to members of the licensing board itself? And perhaps he could detail for us how much the members of the board are, in fact, paid for their, I believe it's seven, meetings a year.

MR. MERCIER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll be glad to try and include that information to the member.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Page 21 the Auditor makes some comments about The Anti-Inflation Act and says that there are demands for payment under Section 20 of The Anti-Inflation Act amounting to \$315,000.00. Now, I'm not familiar with The Anti-Inflation Act and why there is that amount. I seem to recall that there was a settlement between the Commission and its employees, which the AIB rolled back and demanded repayment of some additional amounts.

But the Auditor goes on to say: "Of this amount, \$84,000 has been recovered from employees of the Commission." And he goes on to say that: "The matter is still under discussion, and the required payment will be treated as a charge against operation." Now, presumably that's of the Commission itself.

The question that arises from that is that if the AIB is demanding \$315,000, and the Commission has collected back only \$84,000 of this, does this indicate that only some employees of the Commission have repaid part of it? Does the Commission intend to attempt to collect the balance of the \$315,000 from its employees? Or, if not, is the Commission assuming that debt to the board?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that all of the employees who were assessed have paid into that \$84,000.00. The balance was made up of fines against

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the Commission by the Anti-Inflation Board, and that matter is being pursued between the Minister of Finance, provincially and federally.

MR. WALDING: So the amount of \$84,000 is the amount that the board assessed against the employees of the Commission, and that is the total amount, and the Minister is further telling me that that is the full amount of the assessment and the employees have, in fact, paid their fair share of it, he said. Is that true?

MR. MERCIER: Yes, that's my advice, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WALDING: One, I think it's the last question, Mr. Chairman. It has to do with the matter of Manitoba's sales tax. There is a note that: Despite increased revenues and a larger profit for the year in question, that the amount of Manitoba's sales tax showed a decrease of some \$2 million, from \$14 million to \$12 million. It's Item 9 on Page 21. I wonder if the Minister can give us an explanation of this amount.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the discrepancy occurs because, when prices were fixed in beverage rooms on the sale of beer, sales tax was included in that and remitted to the Commission. When we went to free pricing in the beverage rooms, the hotel collected the sales tax and remitted it directly to the province. So, I assume that the amount probably went up, but it would show up in direct revenue to the province. It's a difference in paying to the Commission and paying to the province.

MR. WALDING: Mr. Chairman, maybe it's the lateness of the hour. I didn't understand the Minister's remarks. Will you run it by me again?

MR. MERCIER: Okay, let me go over it again. I don't remember what the fixed price for the sale of beer was in the beverage room, but let's say it was somewhere around 65 cents. That 65 cents would have included sales tax, and was remitted to the Liquor Commission, collected by the Commission.

When we went to free pricing in the beverage room, instead of remitting the sales tax to the Liquor Commission, the hotel operator, for example, would remit it directly to the province, to the Minister of Finance.

MR. WALDING: And one was

MR. MERCIER: Yes, based on the sale price, because of the variations in the price.

MR. WALDING: Yes. When was that change made, Mr. Chairman?

MR. MERCIER: April of 1978.

MR. WALDING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Member for Wolseley.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to very quickly say to Mr. Emerson and Mr. Jackson, the other gentleman - my memory of course is gone - but I wanted to say that in the Eighties coming up, last April and in 1978, I had an article out called "Fun in the Eighties" which appeared in the National Magazine of the PCYF and it was given out locally at our last convention. And in that I . . . --(Interjection)-- Well, Progressive-Conservative Youth Federation. And I believe in your hands, gentlemen, is going to make Manitoba "Fun in the Eighties" because we have had, up until now, we have been getting classified due to the economic boom in Alberta, and that is sort of a not-a-have province, even though we're on the potential of being one, and I think one of the things that keeps our spirits up is good times and lack of government interference.

I'm a long-time social traveller, and I can really appreciate some of the problems that I see, that I am so amazed that the regulations of the Commission have not made some changes to date. And I, for one, am going to find it very hard not

to present a resolution on the floor of the Legislature because eight months is too long to wait for some of these changes, and I think they have to be thoroughly discussed, because my political survival will involve on a lengthy and well-presented case to the Temperance Lobby. I'll have to be able to show the people concerned with the health aspect, how we're going to deal with some of the problems attributed to alcohol.

And, in the crime area, I think that I have to be able to offset the Hotel Association, and others. I touched upon in the Throne Speech, plastic containers in certain hotels. I know when you rent a hall under the Occasional Permits Committee of the Halls have containers which are a regulation of the individual private club, and I think it's an absolutely excellent idea. I think if you had plastic containers for beer in the Occidental Hotel and others, you could avoid an awful lot of the problems that come up at the emergency ward at the Health Sciences Centre on Friday and Saturday evenings. And I think our weather conditions should dictate that people coming to conventions in Winnipeg should be able to buy a bottle for their room without breaking a law to be able to serve their friends or have a nice quiet evening in front of the television set.

Because of the lateness of the hour, I won't go into a lot of the suggestions that I envisioned. I think there's a big industry that was ruined by the former government, and I could see at least 20 to 30 jobs created if the advertising problems that were cut out by the lack of - I believe even the management of the Jets have talked about the viability of the NHL in the city depends on being able to advertise. I think it adds a little colour to the building to have these advertisements. I find it strange on cablevision, I turn on Channel 4 and I can watch Schlitz and Budweiser and everybody else advertising and beaming into my home, and yet I can't turn on my Manitoba channels and see advertising for our products which would create jobs and it would certainly help the advertising industry in this area.

I envision some day, and it's been proven by studies, that I think if you had low alcohol, beer should be allowed in automobiles except for the driver. In many cases, it's cheaper than pop, it's healthier for you. I find it almost unbelievable that low alcohol beer, which certainly sells at the border, is cheaper than a lot of these soft drinks and things. It should be allowed on the beaches. I can't see anything wrong with having alcohol in coolers on the beaches. I can't see anything wrong with plastic containers, so long as you can cut out what would be the environmental waste in having the danger of glass through bottles and that. I think it's when people are forced to do things that circumvent the law that environmental problems and many other things come about.

And with those few remarks, because of the lateness of the hour, I hopefully am going to give some serious thought to presenting a resolution, because I believe, Mr. Minister, that Folklorama, the attitude of the public, the trends that are long overdue, dictate that we're behind and we're losing tourist dollars, fresh new dollars to the province. We're losing the spirit of the people who say that Manitoba is behind, even little Kelowna, B.C. is more enlightened than Manitoba, and I think that we've got to change some of these regulations immediately. I'd like maybe the Minister to tell me, is there some sort of moratorium or some sort hold pattern, so that some of these stand-up bars and some of these different things that are not working because of, say, 13-foot square regulations or something are being allowed to put more than one person every 13 square feet, or does the law and regulations still rigidly apply today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Rossmere.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To start off with, I should talk about a disaster that occurred back last December. I believe the Attorney-General is aware of a fire in Vita, Manitoba which destroyed a drug-store and, as well, much more difficulty ensued because of the fact that those premises contained a liquor vendor. I'm just wondering whether the Attorney-General could inform the committee as to whether the report of the liquor inspector, who took a look at that situation, was accepted, and whether the person who was suggested to take over the vendor was in fact the one who received the licence from the Commission?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I can obtain a report from the Commission for the member.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you. Just one other area. Recently there was an announcement that the Attorney-General had appointed a new chief executive officer for the Commission. I understand that the chairman, which would be the chief administrative officer - is that correct, is that assumption correct?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the intention, as I've indicated before, is to make the chairman of the Commission a part-time member of the Commission.

MR. SCHROEDER: The chairman is a member . . .

MR. MERCIER: In order to split the administrative function from the policy function.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, is the chairman of the Commission currently a permanent chairman, or is it an acting chairman? What is the situation?

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, there is no chairman of the Liquor Control Commission. At the present time there is a vice-chairman, who has assumed an acting chairman role, and the reason for that is that the requirements of the Act - is that the chairman be a full-time occupant of that position. As I have indicated, we intend to split the policy role from the administrative role and therefore I'll be introducing amendments to The Liquor Control Act that will make the position of chairman part-time, after which we will appoint a chairman.

MR. SCHROEDER: No further questions. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 1.(a)--pass. Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$851,700 for the Attorney-General's Administration--pass. Committee rise.

SUPPLY - LABOUR AND MANPOWER

CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats (Radisson): This committee will come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to page 69 of the Main Estimates, Department of Labour and Manpower. Resolution No. 91, Item 3., Manpower Division, (a)Research (1)Salaries--pass.

The Honourable Member for Kildonan.

MR. PETER FOX: Yes, just briefly, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, and I am not certain whether he may have already answered this, but in respect to the recent book that was put out, I noticed that there was some indication in respect to the power engineering field as to the number of training positions that had been done and how many had been placed. But when we were under the Mechanical Engineering Division, it was suggested I ask under the Research Department as to how much quantitative research has been done to indicate the number of positions that are required to bring us more in line with what the market is demanding. One of the reasons that has been extended in respect to Simplot and Hooker not fulfilling their area, or their commitment in respect to The Power Engineers Act, is that they couldn't get the engineers.

Now, I just wonder if there has been some research done as to quantitatively, how many engineers we're short in the province, and what is being done to upgrade this situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. KEN MCMASTER (Thompson): Yes, it has been determined, Mr. Chairman, to the Member for Kildonan, that when we get to the training and development portion of our Estimates, you will find it on the Critical Trades Needs, the critical requirements of Manitoba. It has been determined that power engineers is one of them.

MR. FOX: Well, the Minister says "has been determined." Can he give us a figure as to how many people we are approximately short, in what categories, or has that not been determined?

MR. MacMASTER: It has been determined to the extent that it is on the critical need list. I can give you that number if you just bear with me. If you want to carry on with questions, when we get in training and development, and we get to it, by that time I can assure you I will have the numbers.

MR. FOX: I appreciate the Minister's answer. My other question that flows from that is, what are we going to do? What has research suggested we do to encourage people to get into this particular field?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, they put together information which in turn goes into your Manpower Needs Committee and, under training and development, we'll get into the kind of things that we're trying to negotiate with the federal government to put more emphasis on, for the first time, the real established list of critical need trades in the province of Manitoba. We can get into that under training and development if the member would bear with me till we get there.

MR. FOX: Well, there is one area, and that pertains to the Civil Service. Now, maybe the Minister may want to discuss research under the Civil Service, or perhaps he may want to give us an answer at the present time. I asked earlier whether the disproportionate amount of people in the provincial employment as compared to the private employment where there were more women in the labour force of the province than in the private employment, whether there had been any research done why that was so, whether it was because of the pay scale, or because of the

specific jobs that the province had

MR. JENKINS: Just one more brief question, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister. Was the item totally expended last year, the \$59,500, or was it under-expended?

MR. MacMASTER: As of two or three weeks ago, there was \$42,000 spent. There will be some lapsing in that particular area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (2)--pass; (a)--pass. (b)Federal-Provincial Training Agreements (1)Salaries--pass.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister to explain to the members what that provision is for. What kind of training are we talking about? What is the nature of the agreement?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member for Lac du Bonnet hasn't been in all the Estimates, but we've established a routine which seems to be acceptable to all members and that is, when we get into a new division, I explain what it's all about, generally what we're doing, and then we give the numbers of people and any other information I can give which helps the members opposite. And then we get into the questioning, which is. . . if that's fine with the member, I would prefer to follow that routine.

MR. USKIW: Well, the only problem I have with that, Mr. Chairman, is that I am not certain as to whether or not the points I want to make are on this item. And if I would have a brief explanation as to what the training program is all about in the agreement, then I would know whether that's the place that I would want to make my contribution.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I think, if I can follow through my procedure very rapidly, we'll find that it will identify the types of things that are happening

there, and the member will feel more at ease as to whether the questioning should be here or not.

The Federal-Provincial Training Agreements Branch; this branch administers The Adult Occupational Training Act, that's your AOT agreement, between Canada and Manitoba which is in effect April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1981. The branch co-ordinates the purchase by the Federal Employment and Immigration Commission of Adult Occupational Training Services from the province to meet the identified needs of the provincial labour force as determined by the Canada-Manitoba Manpower Needs Committee.

The AOT agreement supports two adult occupational programs. One, the Canada Manpower Training Program, which we refer to later as CMTF, industrial training, institutional training; and the Canada Manpower Industrial Training Program, which is industrial training. The major initiative under these programs is to currently deliver critical trade skill training to meet shortages developing in the provincial labour force. The programs are directed to Manitobans in the categories of special needs, unemployed, employment threatened and employed, such as apprentices.

The branch consists of three SMYs. Last year there were five SMYs, and this year there are three. There were two people attached to this particular group last year that are now in a separate section of Immigration. Last year it was called, I forget the title, but it included Immigration. This year we have broken out the Immigration part, and we'll get to that as a sub-heading of the Estimates.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, unless I don't fully comprehend the item before us, it seems to me that that's a very minute amount of expenditures in the area of critical trade skills training as the Minister described it, or special needs training, because my understanding of special needs and critical area training would be that it would have to be in the area of under-employment or unemployment, unskilled, etc. In Manitoba, Mr. Chairman, we have tens of thousands of people that are not even on the employment list or on the Canada Stats list because of being chronically unemployed, And if the Minister would clarify it for me, whether these particular programs are designed for that particular group of people. If they're not, then perhaps he can tell me where I might discuss that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To the Honourable Minister, we are under Section (b), would that be covered under Section (d)?

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, I can appreciate what the member has said and, with no insult to him, it is rather confusing. What you see in the Federal-Provincial, well, 3.(b) on the Estimates, we're talking about the salaries of the people that run the programs. --(Interjection)-- Yes. The kind of money that has been established for Manitoba in institutional training, if you have your pencil, is \$14,596,000 - that's the institutional training. In the industrial training, there's \$4,259,000. And the critical skills training area is to be determined; we are still negotiating with the federal government.

\$14,596,000 for the institutional and \$4 1/4 million for the other is simple.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, then perhaps the Minister would guide me in the course of his Estimates. Where can we discuss the areas of training needs which are not met under this heading, and I'm talking about the host of people who are not in institutional training programs, or not in - what is the other one, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister alluded to? I can't recall.

MR. MacMASTER: Industrial.

MR. USKIW: Industrial, yes. There are tens of thousands of people that don't fall into either category and I want to deal with that aspect, but I would like to know under what item in the Estimates can I deal with that aspect of our unused labour force?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, Mr. Chairman, I'm afraid the Member for Lac du Bonnet has to be a little more specific about what areas he's talking about. You have

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institutional training, you have industrial training, you have critical skills training that, of course, I've said that figure is to be negotiated. There are a host of other programs as we go through the Manpower Division, relocation programs, and new careers programs, and other things that the department is doing. I don't know just what area the member is specifically referring to, what group in society that he's . . .

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the largest group that I make reference to is the group that has for decades been sort in the chronically unemployed category. A large section of that, perhaps, is the native population of Manitoba and, in particular, northern Manitoba. I would like to know under what item that is most properly debated; or where can we find the information with respect to the dollars that are attached to those programs, and the staffing for those programs, and the numbers of people that those programs involve in terms of adequate training to bring those people into the mainstream of the labour market?

Obviously it's not in these two categories that the Minister has outlined.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, just as obviously, it is. If the member would just think for a minute, he would appreciate that there are people of that nationality that he referred to that are involved in these programs. This isn't a specific nationality program, and he knows that. --(Interjection)-- Well, then, I don't know why he's asking, that there's no opportunity for them to be in these programs. They are in these programs, and they're in the other programs as we go through the Estimates.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the Minister is aware - and if he isn't, he ought to be - that Stats Canada for years has not been able to include reports on tens of thousands of people who have never truly been in the so-called labour force.

And my question to the Minister is, which programs are we able to look at here today which are attempting to deal with that problem? And that's not a new problem. It was a problem that we inherited when we became the government, and they of course have inherited that problem from our government. It's an ongoing problem, and I just simply want to know, specifically, the numbers of dollars attached to bringing those people into the mainstream of society and the labour activities, or the production activities of our province.

I can make reference to a number of examples. I think northern Manitoba is perhaps the best example, where there have been very serious attempts, for several years, to do just that in a number of ways; to try to more fully, if not completely, involve the people in those communities in labour activities throughout the province in a meaningful way.

In southern Manitoba, there were attempts to try to introduce, or at least, improve the participation rate of that same category of people, in terms of agricultural labour source, and so on. And, of course, we can deal with that under the next item as well, which is Immigration policy, and so on.

What is the government doing, in terms of labour policy, to try to upgrade the skills of Manitobans who are not sufficiently skilled in order that they may fill those job positions that are there, but which we have to rely on outside people for, and especially in the agricultural field - I'm talking now about the Portage la Prairie situation - where the Minister knows that they have adopted a policy of bringing in Mexican workers. What is the program that this government has in order that we don't have to bring in Mexican labour force into Manitoba to do those jobs?

What is the present program of the government to make sure that we have adequate, skilled people in this province that would undertake those responsibilities?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, being successful in negotiating \$14.5 million roughly for industrial or institutional training, of which all people in Manitoba are entitled to apply for, and being successful in negotiating \$4.25 million for industrial training, of which all people are entitled to apply, I am told that approximately \$1 million out of the \$4.25 for industrial training is earmarked for women, youth and natives. That portion in there is specifically earmarked, and in

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addition to that, all those categories can participate in the rest of the funding. It's not broke out specifically in other areas.

As I said, they can participate in all those particular types of training. When we go through the Estimates, you will find that they can participate and are, in fact, participating in a good number of the other programs that are involved.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, perhaps the Minister would be in a position to further enlighten on what he is doing, and his government is doing, with respect to that problem.

Could the Minister give me a statistical position as to how many people are available for employment, but are not being employed for whatever reason in Manitoba, who are in that category of the chronically unemployed? Is it 1,000 people? Is it 10,000? Is it 15, or is it 20? What are the stats on that critical area, Mr. Chairman? How many of those have been enrolled in job opportunities in the last 12 months, on the basis of the government's effort?

How big a responsibility do we have? How large is the responsibility for the Minister? Is he able to cope with it, or is he saying that that is something that we can't do anything about?

We have general commentary in the sense that they can participate in all the ongoing things that everyone else participates in, but we know that for 100 years, that a good sector of this population has not participated. And I would like to know what the targets of the government are, what the numbers are of those that are still not fully involved in the economy of Manitoba, and what the government is going to do to make them involved or to create opportunities for them, to be involved.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, Mr. Chairman, at the sake of getting chastized from you for repeating myself, you will find that there's an awful lot of those type of people that he is talking about, the Member for Lac du Bonnet, that are involving themselves year after year in here.

The Human Rights Commission, I don't think, allows me to run around and count people's nationalities, exactly those that are involving themselves in these particular programs. But he knows, and so do I, that more and more and more people that have found their lifestyle certainly unsatisfactory - I think is the quietest term - are getting more involved in these types of programs.

And this, as I say, is only part of it. As we go through, if the Member for Lac du Bonnet wants to be here, he'll find there's many other programs that are meant to help people in the particular situation that he's talking about.

It's appreciated and understood that there is a problem in certain communities and certain areas of this province. And I think we're doing some pretty pretty fair things about attempting to get the people more involved in education. Education is really the answer. I'm using the word "education" in any particular type of training program - industrialized training, institutionalized training, new careers, taking up nursing as they do in the other departments, the Selkirk Training Plant. There's a whole host of things that not only my department's involved in, several of the other Ministers are involved in, too.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the point that the Minister is making, that there are attempts being made. What I would like to know is, what is the measure of success? Can the Minister tell me that last year we involved 5,000 people that were not to that point involved because of direct action of this government? Can he tell me that we have involved 5,000 this year, or is it 10,000? Can he tell me that there are still 20,000 that are not involved and they don't expect them to be involved? Certainly, the Minister must have research capacity to indicate to his department how much under-employment and unemployment that we have in this province outside of Stats Canada. We know that Stats Canada doesn't include in their statistics that are reported on a regular basis those categories or those people that are normally not in the work force. And surely the Minister's department has that information, and that is basically what I want to elicit from him, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, the Member for Lac du Bonnet knows I do not have that information, and that no Department of Labour or Manpower or any other department

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within the history of the province of Manitoba has had that particular information. And I am sure he has been present when we debated our efforts with the federal government last spring, the federal government during the course of summer and now we're going to discuss with the gentleman right here in Winnipeg, who is the new federal Minister, on establishing a census, if you wish, or a number, so that we will in fact know the numbers of people that are in fact employable and unemployable within the communities that the member is referring to.

I mentioned before supper, and the Member for Lac du Bonnet I suspect was in the other committee at the time, that our people that are going into the communities now are now trying to take what we call a profile within the community. It's just getting started. Of the people within the community and their desires and some of their abilities, because some of the people within the communities do, in fact, have already some type of institutional training, or some type of industrial training, or some type of construction-type training. And we're trying to, ourselves, establish the information on the talents of the people and the desires of the people within the communities. And we will, in fact, be working with the federal government to establish the very thing that the member has asked for, a true unemployment rate, not only in Manitoba, but I think right across the country. We're aware of it. We know that the numbers are large. The members opposite, when they were in government, knew the numbers were large. They have made their efforts at it, and we're making our efforts at it. The number, whatever the magic number ends up being, just simply tells us the size of the particular problem. We hope, eventually, within our system, to have an idea of the number of people within a community that do have a portion, for example, of industrial training, institutional training, and talk to them and find out why they maybe stopped at the end of the first year, or stopped at the end of the second year, if in fact they have a true desire to finish that course, if in fact they need assistance to finish the course, if in fact they finished the course and through some type of frustration couldn't get a job.

That type of information is being compiled, but I certainly don't have that at the moment.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister is just not being credible. The Minister talks about an agreement with the Government of Canada involving some \$15 million or \$16 million, that is supposedly to deal with this problem, the problem of training people into the work force. And then he tells us that he doesn't know how many people must be trained, he doesn't know how many are out there, and that leads me to the question, Mr. Chairman, of how did he know that \$15 million was the figure, if he can't quantify the numbers of people that he might involve. I mean, where does that arise from? He stands here and he tells us that he doesn't know how many people are unemployed in Manitoba, how many are under-employed in Manitoba, how many are skilled and how many are unskilled. That's what this Minister is telling us, Mr. Chairman. And it's simply is not good enough.

In this day and age, Mr. Chairman, when we recognize the cost of public support to those groups who are not self-sufficient, and when we recognize, Mr. Chairman, that it is the small group of, well, you can call it small, I think it's a small group of taxpayers in the middle that have to pay the bills for that element of society that is not producing. Mr. Chairman, there is some degree of irresponsibility on the part of the government. Because, Mr. Chairman, we recognize that the welfare cheques are growing with inflation. We recognize that, Mr. Chairman. And the fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, that this government has taken the position as enunciated by the Premier not too long ago.

In fact, I recall in debates in the last session that unemployment was basically a national responsibility, and that Manitoba was almost helpless in trying to deal with it. And, you know, that is just not adequate, and that's why I wanted to know from the Minister whether or not he's in a position to tell us how many people are unemployed in Manitoba. I don't mean Stats Canada, I mean the real figure. How many are under employed, that is, working a half of the year, or a quarter of the year, or whatever. And on that basis, we could then measure whether or not the so-called the agreement that he has entered into, to deal with that problem, an agreement with the federal government for "X" million of dollars, whether that, indeed, is adequate.

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Can the Minister tell us, certainly his colleague should have the information, the Minister of Health, as to how many welfare dollars are going into areas to support people who are employable, but who do not have employment? Certainly that's a figure that the Minister of Health has, and certainly it's a figure that the Minister of Labour should be interested in. Because if that figure is getting larger, than the Minister knows that he's not doing his job. That's a good measure, Mr. Chairman. If that figure is expanding, then we recognize that the Minister of Labour is not doing his job, and the Minister of Industry isn't doing his job, and the private sector isn't doing their job if that figure is enlarging. Now, to the extent that that figure enlarges, it places an added burden on the remaining employed, and that is just not a situation that I think that we can slough off and expect that, just by not recognizing it, it's going to go away.

And northern Manitoba, in particular, is full of that kind of a problem. The Minister knows it, we know it, it's nothing new and I'm not suggesting that it's an advent of this government. But it certainly has to be attended to, Mr. Chairman.

MR. FERGUSON: There's sure been a change in you, since you became a taxpayer.

MR. USKIW: I've always been a taxpayer, for your information.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, last year, through the programming, it was negotiated the federal sponsored end of it - and there was a good number of others went through and we can dig that out on the provincial end - But there were 14,547 people took advantage of the industrial and institutional-type training last year. We've negotiated moneys for what we believe will be more than that this particular year. The member can wander on, and ramble on all he wants about me not doing my job. I think part of the reason he's sitting on that side of the House is that him and his government were not doing their job.

MR. USKIW: Well, I would like to ask the Minister then, Mr. Chairman, whether in 1980 we will have the spectacle of this government asking the Government of Canada to allow a number of people into this province to provide labour services to the people of Manitoba?

MR. MacMASTER: We'll deal with that under Immigration, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)--pass; (2)--pass; (b)--pass. (c) Immigration.
(1)Salaries--pass.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: The Immigration and Settlement Branch works with the federal and provincial departments concerned with migration of Canadians and the settlement of immigrants to meet identified manpower and population needs, family reunification and humanitarian considerations. The specific objectives of the branch are to provide, in conjunction with other departments; to analyze of issues concerning immigration, citizenship and demography; to ensure that orientation, language and citizenship materials are delivered and co-ordinated; to participate in the development of migration, data collection system, and to ensure that on-going population data analysis is carried out; and to review and assess the delivery of federal, provincial and voluntary sector settlement services available in Manitoba.

The New Federal Immigration Act was proclaimed on April 10, 1978. The Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration must consult with the provinces prior to announcing the annual level of immigration flow into Canada, and also about the measures undertaken to facilitate the adaption and settlement of immigrants to Canada. These activities involved federal-provincial consultation on matters of immigration, citizenship and demography, and the development of a co-ordinated approach to settlement services.

The workload associated with these provincial activities emphasizes the need for a branch to provide ongoing policy, analysis and to advise with respect to

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immigration and demography, as well as to co-ordinate and develop settlement services within the province.

The establishment of the Immigration and Settlement Branch makes possible the centralization of immigration level planning, policy development, and the planning and co-ordination of immigrant settlement services of Manitoba. The presence of a centralized provincial agency with resources to identify widespread needs, and to develop programs and materials to respond to those needs, will better facilitate the increased provincial focus on immigration.

The allocated staff of the branch is four full-time persons and one-half S.M.Y. Last year there were two people attached to the previous program that we talked about, and those two have transferred over and there's an additional two.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister did explain the role of that particular section in the department. What I would like to know is what the performance was in the last 12 months, and what are the expectations for the next fiscal year? We recognize the role, but what has been the performance? What has been the consultative relationship between the Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada on the amount of immigration brought into Manitoba, for what purpose, whether it's in the industrial area, whether it's in the agricultural area - what have we achieved through that particular exercise? Certainly the Minister must have some statistics.

MR. MacMASTER: While we're digging out a couple of those specifics, which is the question that was asked, I should say to the member that when it was established that the federal government would, in fact, in future consult with the provinces, there has been one such meeting. I expect that there may be others, I note that the new Federal Minister made some pronouncements in the paper. I don't condemn him for that. He was brand new, and I suppose the newspaper people were talking to him about some of his expectations on immigration to Canada. And, of course, he wouldn't have been totally familiar with the federal legislation. It says, in fact, he should have been consulting before he was talking that way, but that's neither here nor there. I'm sure that in the near future, he will be calling such a meeting and I think that's of interest to the Member for Lac Bonnet that that type of process does, in fact, take place.

Manitoba has traditionally taken in the neighbourhood of 4 percent, sometimes it's gone higher but mostly 4, 4.2, 4.4 percent of the federal immigration that comes into our country. Last year, in Manitoba, there was - if you could just wait for a second, Mr. Chairman - all landed immigrants for all reasons last year in Manitoba was 4,894. Now, if the member would wish, I could break that down - he'd have to give me some time, but I could break that down even further in categories, if he so desires.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, what the Minister hasn't told us, however, is the number of people brought in on a short-term basis from outside of the country. --(Interjection)-- Oh, all right, and how many are expected to be brought in, in 1980, and for what purpose.?

MR. MacMASTER: On a temporary basis last year, not landed immigrants, there were 1,021 in the performing arts; 363 teachers; and service occupations, 384. Okay, let me start again. Total in the province of temporary was 3,263; and the three highest categories were the ones that I gave to the member. And there's a whole host of others and I know that he wants the one from Portage. I haven't got that, but I can assure him that I'll get it. I'm not sure if I can get it even this evening. In 1979, there were 21.

MR. USKIW: Yes, I would like to know from the Minister whether or not he expects a reduction or less dependency on outside employees coming into Manitoba on a temporary basis in 1980, as compared to 1979.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, have great optimism that the critical trades list, once we get into that this year - and I say again that we think we've done a reasonably thorough job of that and we're negotiating that fund presently with the federal government. We're looking for in the neighbourhood of \$5 million in that particular area. There's really no question that we have to get into the critical

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trades. I'm sure that the member is aware that Canada and Manitoba have been going to Europe and a lot of other places to get trades-type, professional-type, semi-professional-type people to fill an awful lot of jobs. The Member for The Pas and the Member for Flin Flon, I'm sure they're aware of some companies in the north that have been bringing in tradesmen from out of the country.

We're not satisfied with that. Very selfishly, we are not satisfied, really, that they have to come in from other provinces. And we are going to be making a lot of efforts this year into some of the trades that are in short demand in the north.

And again, to - it's not part of this particular section - but I know that the Member for The Pas is quite interested in particular - I suppose the others are too - about the opportunities for our native friends in northern Manitoba, and we are hoping. We have some ideas which we are prepared to discuss when we get farther into this, on trying to get some of the native people more involved in - if I can use the expression without getting criticized for it - "non-traditional"-type jobs that they have had the opportunity specifically in the past to get into. We've done some things in that area. We have expectations which I am prepared to share with the members opposite, of trying to get people into other types of jobs.

So, yes, we hope that there will be a reduction. We hope, in a couple of years, once the critical stage really starts taking a hold and people and people start coming onstream, that those type of requirements - and I'm not condemning those who came in, because I'm sure they fulfilled a very meaningful role within our community of Manitoba - but we hope that we can upgrade our own people in enough areas that we can look after ourselves to a greater extent.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister confirms that, in the area of unskilled agricultural workers, they are not making any progress. Because as I recall the discussion a year ago - and I believe a year before that - the numbers game there was always around 20 Mexicans that have to be brought in to Manitoba to harvest our production. I find it mind-boggling, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister, with all these millions of dollars - some \$15 million - can't train 20 people after three years.

There are 20 people, Mr. Chairman, that are brought in from Mexico every year. Now, why are we not training 20 people to take those positions, Mr. Chairman? We've got \$15 million and a training program, and the Minister can't cope with 20 trainees.

Now it seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that there's some lack of initiative somewhere within that department that just has downplayed the importance of training people for that particular area of our labour force. Somehow, that is not an important part of the government's consideration, as far as allocation of training funds go.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it's just ridiculous to each year have the Minister stand up and say that, "Yes, it was 20 Mexicans three years ago. Yes, it was 20 last year and we need 20 more this year." What the devil is the department doing, Mr. Chairman. --(Interjection)-- Twenty people cannot be found and trained in Manitoba to pick up the vegetables in Portage la Prairie. Mr. Chairman, that's insanity. That is insanity.

I would like to ask the Minister what specific program he has to deal with that problem with respect to training people that would be able to undertake those responsibilities so that we wouldn't have to have those 20 people every year.

MR. MacMASTER: I have never seen anybody make such a fuss over 20 people.

MR. USKIW: Well, it's about time.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I guess there must be some improvement because in 1976, when the gentleman from Lac du Bonnet was sitting over here - God forbid he ever gets back over here - but there were 24 that year. So maybe we are making some progress.

Part of the problem seems to be, on a large scale, and he knows this, is the housing situation and the bussing situation. That seems to have been part of the problem.

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I understand the Department of Agriculture is working on that and maybe he, on that particular program, can direct some of his questions to his good friend, that he has so many good debates with here on agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

MR. HENRY J. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm not rising for the reason that the Minister of Labour needs any assistance, because I think that we have a Minister of Labour who has probably performed better than any we've had in this province for a long time.

But, Mr. Chairman, I would like to recall when we were on that side of the House and the now member who is the Member for Lac du Bonnet, was then the Minister of Agriculture on this side, and just for the information of those who weren't here in those days, recall the very problem that we had out at Portage la Prairie with the farm help.

And that very same member - and I'm going from memory now, Mr. Chairman - but if my memory serves me correctly, I do recall that that same member, who is so adamant about these 20 Mexicans coming into Manitoba from their country to help harvest the vegetable crop in the summertime, used to go out there to Portage la Prairie and talk to our Indian folks and say to them, "You know, you're worth more than \$3.00 an hour, you're worth more than \$4.00 an hour, you should even be getting \$10.00 an hour for your labours." It's all well and good, Mr. Chairman, for that member to stand up and make those kinds of comments. I'm just using those figures. It was something in that neighbourhood.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet on a point of order.

MR. USKIW: Yes. The Member for Rock Lake has alleged that I have made special trips to the area around Portage la Prairie in order to communicate with certain labour elements in that area, with respect to their conditions of employment and rates of pay and so. Mr. Chairman, I have never made one such trip, and I ask the member to either put the evidence on the table or withdraw his allegations. --(Interjection)--

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake on this point of order.

MR. EINARSON: All right. Mr. Chairman, the Member for Lac du Bonnet rose on a point of order. I don't know, Mr. Chairman, whether you're ruling on it as a point of order, or whether it is or not.

This is a debate, Mr. Chairman, whether the Member for Lac du Bonnet went himself personally, or whether he sent somebody to represent him from his department. I heard this from farmers in the community . . .

A MEMBER: So did I.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Order please. The debate is getting a little out of hand. We are in the Estimates of the Department of Labour and Manpower, and I think that if we all get down to business, we can get through these Estimates instead of making accusations on hearsay, and counter-accusations on hearsay. I would suggest that we get down to discussing these Estimates and we can get them finished.

I think the idea of the Estimates is that the opposition are allowed to question the Minister on the expenditure, and I think if we stick to that and without too much repetition - and I have allowed some latitude - I think that we can get them finished before next summer and get into another department.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, yes, the Member for Rock Lake made certain allegations, which I asked him to withdraw. He has since admitted that he doesn't really know if they're accurate, but he still refuses to withdraw. So I would expect him to withdraw those comments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rock Lake.

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MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, at the outset when I rose to speak, I said I was going by memory. I could be slightly wrong, and maybe totally correct. But, Mr. Chairman, the general situation that the Member for Lac du Bonnet is talking about now, is 20 Mexicans coming into this country, the problem that the Member for Lac du Bonnet created.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Again, it's getting out of hand. I think that if we get back to the Estimates, we can get them completed. And if I'm not able to get you back on the Estimates, I think you're going to have to get another chairman to get you back on the Estimates. But I've tried, and I would suggest that we get back into the Estimates.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I certainly won't be asking you to leave the Chair. I think you're doing an excellent job, and I think we should get back to the particular department.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On a point of order, the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your admonitions, but the Member for Rock Lake, on two or three attempts just a few moments ago, has indicated that he did not have the information on which he was basing allegations, and yet refuses to withdraw the allegations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, for the record, that the Member for Rock Lake did say that he had no basis for his comments, other than hearsay, and it is on the record.

MR. USKIW: Well, that's not good enough, Mr. Chairman, that is not good enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I think what will happen now is that we will follow the rules. I would ask the Honourable Member for Rock Lake to withdraw his remarks.

MR. EINARSON: Mr. Chairman, I'm not one to be other than co-operative in this House and to you, sir, and to save time in debate, I will withdraw those comments. Mr. Chairman, I am going to say now to the Member for Lac du Bonnet that having sat here for the last 20 minutes to half-hour listening to his comments, and what he did when he was the Minister of Agriculture --(Interjection)-- Well, certainly, I stand up in this House and we debate on things. I said at the outset I was going by memory, but I do recall hearing many problems that we had when we were on that side of the House because of that member who was the Minister of Agriculture, insofar as labour was concerned as it pertained to the vegetable growers in Portage la Prairie. And that then Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chairman, did the greatest disservice to the labour situation as far as agriculture was concerned than any Minister of Agriculture this province has ever seen in its history.

And I merely rose, Mr. Chairman, because of the comments I heard from the Member for Lac du Bonnet when he talks about the 20 Mexicans under the resolution we're discussing under Immigration, were brought into Manitoba to be employed, because of the kind of a reaction and the kind of attitude that the then Minister of Agriculture, or the NDP Party, were perpetrating on the Indian people, who had been relied upon by the farmers in that particular part of Manitoba, to seek help to harvest their crops. But the then Minister of Agriculture, the now Member for Lac du Bonnet did not do any service to the farmers in the Portage area insofar as the 20 Mexicans that he talks about.

I just want it for the record, Mr. Chairman, that the Member for Lac du Bonnet is not serving any useful purpose in the way he's carrying on his debate with this Minister of Labour.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I acknowledge the next speaker, I would suggest to

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the honourable members that we will be following the rules, and I will be ruling repetitiveness out of order.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I suppose it's not difficult to understand the sensitivities across the way, because it is somewhat of an embarrassment that after millions of dollars of expenditures on training in Manitoba, that we still are unable to train 20 people to replace 20 Mexicans that come into Manitoba every year to help in the assistance of our vegetable harvest in Portage la Prairie.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it's fully understood why members opposite are somewhat touchy on that subject, because what it is demonstrating, Mr. Chairman, is that this is an area that they have paid little attention to, and they were hoping that they could kind of sweep this under the rug, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have, Mr. Chairman, within a few miles of the community of Portage, hundred and hundreds of untrained, unemployed people, and this Minister talks about \$15 million in a Training Program, and he can't even deal with a small problem like 20 people having to be brought in from Mexico every year in order to carry out certain responsibilities in that particular part of this province.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Minister, what are the conditions under which these people are brought into this province; what are their rights as employees; what are their rights if they wish to leave their jobs at any given moment; what kind of arrangements are they brought into this province under, Mr. Chairman? What is the contractual obligation of the employer to the offshore employee?

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, there's a contract established between the employee and the employer, approved by the Federal Government and the Department of Agriculture is involved in those particular dealings; but there is a contract in effect between the employee and the employer, agreed to by the Federal Government.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, what protection is provided to those people should they decide after a day or a week that they don't like the working conditions in Portage la Prairie and that they wish to go back to Mexico?

MR. MacMASTER: I don't have a copy of the contract with me, Mr. Chairman. If in fact the Agriculture Department is involved in it, when they were bringing in Mexicans during the time that the Member for Lac du Bonnet was Minister of Agriculture, maybe he was involved at that time in the contract and has seen one. I haven't specifically seen one.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of the Minister, the government of the New Democratic Party never made one request to the Government of Canada for Mexican labour into Manitoba and therefore we were not involved. To the extent that any were brought in, they were brought in notwithstanding the objections of the Province of Manitoba at that time, under federal jurisdiction.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it would seem to me that this Minister should be concerned about the working conditions of people that are (a) Manitoba citizens, (b) brought into Manitoba to perform certain responsibilities and duties in our industries. It seems to me that again there is a demonstration here of a complete lack of interest in this particular field of involvement, Mr. Chairman, on the part of this Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, that's so much rhetoric and he knows it, Mr. Chairman. I'll get a copy of the particular contract. Now, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to get on his feet, he's quite welcome to get into the debate.

MR. USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us what the wage scale is; what is the hourly rate, the weekly rate, or what is the arrangement on wages? Can the Minister tell us, what is the arrangement on compensation, on health benefits, fringe benefits, housing? What are the conditions under which these people are employed? --(Interjection)-- Yes, I would like to know all of that; it's very important.

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MR. MacMASTER: I have told the member that I'll attempt to get a copy of the contract. I'm sure he perused one, if he was sincerely interested in the agriculture industry in this province when this was taking place under his jurisdiction.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think we have come now to the point where it's not difficult to understand the problem the Minister is having.

He has a problem because a good number of his colleagues, Mr. Chairman, are not with it with respect to basic human standards that we have to establish in terms of minimum wages, in terms of living accommodation, in terms of fringe benefits or compensation programs. These things have not yet arrived on the scene as far as the mentality of a good number of people on the government side, is concerned, Mr. Chairman. --(Interjection)-- Yes, that is correct.

Because, Mr. Chairman, at the time that the Workers' Association was established in the Portage area a few years back, one of the reasons that that organization was established was, (a) to find the people who were willing to work on those farms; (b) to help promote a training program, to make them proficient in these jobs; and (c) to negotiate basic minimum standards of employment.

Mr. Chairman, I am embarrassed by that last point. I am embarrassed, Mr. Chairman, because we were the government and we didn't deal with it either. But I think it has to come and I think the Minister has to look at it. And that is, that that particular element in our labour force has virtually no protection in terms of fair wages, in terms of employment standards, as do other sectors in our economy. And unless they are brought up to standard, Mr. Chairman, there is no way that there is ever going to be any desire, or incentive, on the part of those people who are under-employed, or unemployed, to want to participate in that area. For what reason, Mr. Chairman?

I ask the Minister how many people in the high schools have decided that their career in life is going to be to take one of those jobs. I don't think you'll find one. Unless you make the industry credible for employment, Mr. Chairman, you will always have to bring in Mexican labour.

Why are we bringing in Mexican labour? Well, perhaps their conditions are a lot worse in Mexico than are the conditions in Manitoba. But that doesn't justify the exercise, Mr. Chairman. The longer we have to do that the more we are admitting that our system isn't working. The more we have to insist that we have to bring into play the responsibilities of the government and the Legislature, in assuring that every human being in Manitoba has to have basic minimum standards established by the law of the land, Mr. Chairman, that's when you will have a labour force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)--pass; (2)--pass; (c)--pass. (d) Training and Development. The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I was standing before you passed those items.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On which item? Which item do you want to go back to?

MR. McBRYDE: Immigration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Immigration (1) or (2)?

MR. McBRYDE: (1).

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)?

MR. McBRYDE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) Salaries. The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, the interesting situation that we have, Mr. Chairman - and I can recall once being at the Friendship Centre in The Pas and a farmer came in one day and said that he would like to have a native person work at

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his farm; so the director said, "Yes, there are a number of guys who would be interested in going to work. What do you have to offer?" And he said, "Well, he could stay at my place and I would feed him and maybe \$10 bucks a week I'd pay him for coming to my farm." Well, Mr. Chairman, we couldn't find anybody to meet those kind of working conditions.

Mr. Chairman, that's where we're getting back to the root of this situation; because historically what has happened with farm labour, is an attempt (1) to have an over-supply of workers or to import workers and, Mr. Chairman, what has the pattern been? To have an over-supply of workers to falsely attract people to agricultural areas, for the harvest, so you have a surplus of workers and then you can keep the wages low, it doesn't matter what kind of working conditions you have there, you get the job done at the lowest possible cost to the farmer, without concern for the people who are actually doing the labour in the fields, Mr. Chairman.

And historically what has happened is that - and you can look at this especially in the United States and in California - where what they did was that they brought imported workers. They'd import workers from one country for a year or two. But then the workers from that country, when they came back the second year or third year, would start asking for better conditions.

So what they would do is not bring people back from that country any more, they would find another under-developed country where people were living in poverty and squalor and where they wouldn't demand decent living conditions, where they wouldn't demand decent pay, and they would then bring them in and say, "Well, these people are much better workers. The other people we had before were lazy; they wouldn't do the job; they wouldn't produce." But, Mr. Chairman, the problem was that the group that they brought in would start to realize that they were getting shafted and they would start to ask for a little bit better working conditions and a little bit better pay. Get rid of those people and import somebody else.

After a year or two the next group would start realizing that they had a few basic human rights and a few rights as workers and as labourers; that they would start asking for a little bit more pay or a little bit better working conditions; and so those people wouldn't come back again the next year. They'd get people from another country to come back.

So, Mr. Chairman, what we could see here is that as we bring in people from other countries - and, Mr. Chairman, it doesn't matter whether they happen to be from Mexico, it's any country where there's serious unemployment, serious poverty, where people are desperate and they're willing to accept whatever conditions are provided by the host country, and that's the kind of problem that we're up against.

So, Mr. Chairman, as long as this government is encouraging the importation of farm workers when we have people in Manitoba who can do the job, then, Mr. Chairman, they are falling into that same trap. They are not willing to fight for basic rights in terms of working people. Mr. Chairman, we are dealing not only with the Minister of Manpower, we are dealing with the Minister of Labour.

The Minister of Labour should have some basic understanding of organization, too, and the benefits of workers being organized. Mr. Chairman, what would have happened if the Minister of Labour was organizing miners at Thompson and they imported workers from under-developed countries in order to break that union? How would the Minister of Labour feel about that situation? Because that's what he is basically a part of.

The Manitoba farm labourers in the Portage area are mostly native people who have been doing those jobs before, and they do those jobs throughout southern Manitoba. They come from my constituency for the sugar beet harvest to southern Manitoba, Mr. Chairman. And what the former Minister of Agriculture did, what the Member for Lac du Bonnet did - which was necessary and worthwhile and shows his basic human decency as a Minister of the Crown - was to say it would be worthwhile to give some assistance to those people to be able to get organized, (1) so that they could provide the labour that was necessary. Because, Mr. Chairman, what was the situation before? I mean, people could wander from farm to farm or the farmer wouldn't know where to start in terms of finding the people.

If it was organized in such a way that he could say, "I needed 10 people" and then the Farmers' Union Organization could provide the 10 people, that's far

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better. That's far better than leaving the farmer without somebody to bring his crop in.

Mr. Chairman, if there were problems, if the members opposite say that there were problems with that arrangement with using Manitobans, with training Manitobans and providing them the opportunity to work in farm labour, Mr. Chairman, let the Member for Gladstone stand up and say the things he has been saying from his seat; let him say them into the microphone, into the record. Let the Minister without portfolio who is saying things from his seat, stand up, and on the record say what he was saying. Let the Member for Roblin, and Pembina, stand up and put on the record. Mr. Chairman, the Member for Gladstone wants to make his contribution so I will sit down and allow him to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly have enjoyed the debate up to this point. It proves several things. One of course would be that the the former Minister of Agriculture in his wisdom made a very good job of doing one thing and that basically was disorganizing the labour force in that area. And number two of course would be the Honourable Member for The Pas, who really I have yet to see make one sensible suggestion since he became a member of this House.

I can recall during the war years whereby I worked with the native people and at that particular time we all got along very well. We didn't have too much, as a matter of fact, we were thrashing for \$2.00 a day, from seven till seven, and nobody was doing too much complaining about it. What's basically happening is that when we go into an area, which is the Portage area, whereby we have very highly specialized crops, starting off, number one, which would be the asparagus crop, and you talk to the farmers there and certainly, they would be only too willing to pay, and certainly they would be only too willing to pay as high as a thousand dollars a month plus. But the simple fact is that there is not a reliable source of labour.

Now they are not bringing Mexican people in because they like the Mexican labourers any better. My God, they would only be too happy to go out to Sandy Bay or out to Long Plains or any place else, providing those people would come to work. But any one of you people sitting over there can recall not very long ago, I think it was about two or three years ago, a picture of an empty bus coming in when there was a major crop to be harvested. It's very well for the Member for The Pas to stand up and say, you know, if we can unionize the people, we can do that. It doesn't matter a damn whether the ore is taken out of the ground today, tomorrow or six months from now, but if a crop of asparagus is out there, a crop of tomatoes is out there, a crop of corn or something, it's got to be done immediately.

That is one thing that you don't know. You really haven't any grasp of what goes on outside of your own back yard. And what's happened basically here, Mr. Chairman, is that the people, the farmers of the areas, have been driven to mechanization. You can talk about \$15 million being spent, trying to train people and to educate them, get them into the labour force. We would be only too happy, I have made this statement in this House several times, to hire two or three guys, or whatever, at a price that is quite compatible to all, but there's got to be one thing and that is reliability of supply, and that is one thing that you cannot get.

Sure, labour is not being gouged any more. Labour really doesn't need unions. I can tell you that. What happened? What is happening, what is happening in the trade unions in this town, the City of Winnipeg, after that major strike a year ago? The people that want to work and still can go and talk to the contractors, they are the boys that are going to have the jobs. No developer today can afford the fact that they're going to be held up again like they were six months ago. And you fellows across the way know that. Nobody today is being gouged, not very much, not too much, not even a little bit as far as that goes. And if you want to go back, who's getting the minimum wage? Who's getting the minimum wage? Is any trade man getting it? Is any farm labourer getting it? Today you are running farm machines worth \$100,000; you're not going to put a \$3.00 an hour man on it, or \$3.50. Most of them are getting five, six, seven. We'll pay a man here \$800 to \$1,000 plus everything after that and you can't hire one. And it wouldn't make

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any difference whether the Minister of Labour offered another \$30 million, you couldn't train anybody; they don't want to work. And I'll tell you why. Because under eight years of your honourable government, you people developed so many classes of people that didn't want to work. To start off with, they would work. But you said, oh, you don't have to, we'll give you a program and my God, you spent yourselves and you spent this province into a bloody hole where nobody wants to work. Take the best man in this country and put him on unemployment insurance for six months; next year he's going to be going back on it. And I don't blame these young fellows. They're going out riding bulldozers out in the north and everything else. Most of them are paying \$3,000 and \$4,000 a month. And who are they keeping? They're keeping the people that are physically fit that you people put on welfare. That's who they're keeping. And it's a fact, and deny that. You deny that, and you and you. Not one of you can.

And for the first time since I came into this Legislature, the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet, it started to hurt him. He's paying some taxes. He says, you know, the group is shrinking. That group is paying taxes. And why? Because you people encourage them, that's why, and you know it and deny it. Stand up after I'm through and deny that. You can't do it. You train them to be just exactly what they are. They're not lazy. The group of people we're talking about are probably as good a people, as hard working a people as they can, but you people have taught them that they don't have to work. They can live off the state, to pick up those extra votes, you know. Let's just sweep a few things under the rug. Talk about us sweeping things under the rug, I'd like to know what you fellows are doing and have done in eight years. You've done everything that you possibly could to destroy the initiative in the working force that those people are. And you've got a lot to be proud of I can tell you. It won't be on your conscience because most of you don't have one. I can tell you that too.

But on the other side of the fence, I just couldn't sit here any longer and listen to that phony from The Pas; the Minister of Agriculture I will listen to. I do have a little respect for some of the things. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): I believe the reference of one member to another member as a phony does require some action on your part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would recommend to the Honourable Member for Gladstone to please choose his words a little more wisely. The word "phony" is unparliamentary and I would ask the honourable member to withdraw his remarks as the member being a phony.

MR. FERGUSON: Mr. Chairman, in the heat of the debate, I probably forgot myself and I certainly will yield to your judgement and withdraw the word "phony". Whether I could add "counterfeit" or whatever else after would be . . . but I will withdraw.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call on the honourable member to resume speaking, I would just like to say that I've learned an awful lot of immigration here this evening. I didn't know that all of these things really did belong to the department that included immigration, and I'm getting a feeling that there's really no need for the Minister and his staff and the Chairman to be here this evening, unless the honourable members will give us a little bit of co-operation, just a little bit. I'll bring my French in, . . . just a little bit of co-operation so that we can get into this Estimate and get it completed to the satisfaction of all.

The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will certainly endeavour to follow the admonitions that you have given, and with my contribution up to this point, I will certainly conclude now and let the Minister and his staff get on with the business of moving the Estimates along. So with those few words, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MRS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't want to talk on precisely the same matter of immigrants on farms. I hope it's all right for me to proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well as far as the . . . applies, you may proceed.

MRS. WESTBURY: I hope it applies. I'm sure you will tell me if it doesn't. A great many people are very concerned about some of the conditions under which some immigrants are working in the city, and I was wondering if the Minister could tell us whether he has somebody in his department who is watching over these conditions, and particularly some of the immigrant women, and I'm talking about those who have come as refugees from other places, who perhaps may be working under very difficult circumstances, untenable circumstances, because of the fears that have come with them from their previous experiences, they are afraid to complain, and I'm wondering if the Minister and his department take any interest in this sort of thing, being aware of the fact that some of these people would not come to the department seeking help, and whether there is anyone in the department who goes out to make sure that some of these immigrants are working under reasonable conditions. Could he give us his assurances on that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister

MR. MacMASTER: Both the federal government and the provincial government are generally satisfied that immigrants and refugees are working under reasonable conditions, but if the member could just take this as an answer as being satisfactory, our department and the federal authorities are aware of some situations which neither the provincial government or the federal government feel to be satisfactory. We are looking into that presently today, and I'm really not at liberty to go any farther into that except to say that quite possibly some of the situations that the member is talking about are just exactly what we're looking into today. I'm not at liberty to go into that any farther but the precise answer is by and large generally the refugees and immigrants in Manitoba are working under reasonable conditions, are living under reasonable conditions, but we are, in fact, aware of some conditions that we're not satisfied with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I regret that the Member for Gladstone is not here because I'm sure that he would want to hear some of the comments that I have for his government.

If you listen to the Member for Gladstone, Mr. Chairman, you would assume that the formula, the best formula, for employment is to have no sort of standards whatever, that the province shouldn't be involved in determining conditions of work, hours of work, whether there should be compensation programs on injuries or whether they're shouldn't be. Suppose if all of those things were removed, according to the Member for Gladstone at least, if he is speaking for the Conservative Party, then of course things would be a lot better out there in terms of being able to hire people to carry out certain functions in agriculture or in industry and so on. At least that was the tenure of his comments, Mr. Chairman.

The Member for Gladstone talked about the problem of reliability of supply, that, you know, the natives of Manitoba are good workers but not dependable is really what he was suggesting. He said that they are not reliable, we could not depend on the fact that they would be there day after day or whatever. And I want, Mr. Chairman, the government benches to examine that because he's probably right. He is probably right, Mr. Chairman, but what is fascinating to me is that the Minister has a huge research arm in his department and he has yet not discovered why that is so. And that is where the issue is. Why is there unreliability? Why can we not depend on the labour force in this area? Well, let's take a look why, Mr. Chairman.

The Member for Portage is keenly interested at the moment I observe, Mr. Chairman, perhaps he will make a contribution. But I suggest to you that one of the problems, Mr. Chairman, of having a labour force, a consistent labour force, is

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the lack of: (a) basic minimum standards that are required by the law of the land with respect to any human being that is employed in this province. That is the nub of the problem, Mr. Chairman. I mean why should anybody want to or aspire for a job opportunity in an area where there is no compensation if one is injured; there's no pension plan after working a number of years. You know, there's Old Age Security and supplements but that's welfare. How does one get out of welfare, Mr. Chairman, without these minimum guarantees in the labour market? What happens with respect to living accommodations where one has to live away from one's own residence, especially if you're dealing with seasonality in terms of employment, away from home. You know, what are the facilities, what are the standards written in law if you like with respect to facilities to house workers in Manitoba? These are the missing links in terms of developing a consistent supply of working people to carry out these responsibilities.

Now, Mr. Chairman, maybe the Minister has the secret and he hasn't revealed it, but I know that in statute law in this province that there is no protection of this nature for seasonal workers involved in agriculture and in other categories but in particular in agriculture. Now ask yourself whether you would aspire for that kind of a position or job opportunity given the fact that in the labour market, in the industrial area, everywhere around you, Mr. Chairman, the competition is keen for workers. There are agreements between labour and management that are fairly decent today. Some perhaps are even extravagant, I don't know, Mr. Chairman, that's something that the two parties, of course, if they've agreed to must have considered them to be reasonable. Some will argue that they are extravagant. But I think it demonstrates that those people that have an element of bargaining power are able to extract more benefits to themselves through collective bargaining than those in the community that don't have that facility. And so to the extent, Mr. Chairman, that we have quite a number of people, in fact, the highest percentage of workers in this province, still don't enjoy a collective bargaining facility. They are still bargaining independently, one to one with their employers. No security of tenure other than what is either verbal or something of that nature between the employee and the employer. No assurance that their welfare is looked after should they become disabled as a result of their activities on the job or whatever. These things are not built in for a great percentage of our labour force in Manitoba.

And we talk about The Fair Wages Act, we talk about The Employment Standards Act - all of those pieces of legislation don't apply to a good sector of our working people in this province. And then the Member for Gladstone has the audacity to suggest that there's no reliability in the labour force. That's why we have to go to Mexico, Mr. Chairman, because we can't rely on these people here and the only reason you can rely on the ones in Mexico is because their conditions are worse than the conditions in Manitoba for that category of people; and then when they come here they are trapped, they can't go back, Mr. Chairman. That's why, that's why. And so this government is prepared to continue to tolerate that kind of nonsense - to turn a blind eye, Mr. Chairman, on that problem, and what they are doing in the process is destroying people, destroying their willingness to develop, destroying their dignity, destroying their opportunity to participate fully as citizens of Manitoba.

The Member for Gladstone went on to say that the New Democratic Party government created a tremendous welfare system, and that we spoiled all these people and that is why we can't now get willing workers, Mr. Chairman. How absurd can he be? The Member for Gladstone was in this Chamber throughout the course of those eight years of good government, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of a government that felt that there was a role to play for the Province of Manitoba with respect to those categories of unemployed. That sure constitutionally could be argued with the responsibility of the Government of Canada. But, Mr. Chairman, we did not say that. Yes, we argued with the Government of Canada that they had a responsibility but in the absence of their actions there were provincial activities, Mr. Chairman, that involved people in the area of work created by the Government of Manitoba, even for those people that were not our constitutional responsibility. So, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Gladstone has no credibility whatever with his comments, his contribution to this debate this evening.

If you look at the statistics, Mr. Chairman, you will find that during Tory years of government, you have a higher dependency on welfare roles than you did

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during the NDP years of government over that eight-year period. Examine the record, Mr. Chairman. I dare challenge the Minister of Labour to examine the record and he will know because the statistics are there. The statistics are there, Mr. Chairman. And especially Mr. Chairman, in those areas where we have chronic un-employment. There were tremendous efforts undertaken. The members opposite some- times, you know, they argue well but you created these jobs. They were really not long-term jobs, and therefore, it's a waste of money. Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask every so-called business head on that side, which is a waste of money, Mr. Chairman, to ask a person to participate in a job opportunity created by the state, be it a make-work project, for the benefit and improvement of the local community, or is it better, Mr. Chairman, to follow the traditions of the present party in power and to suggest to them that there are no opportunities and that a welfare cheque will come in due course. And that is really it, Mr. Chairman. The Conservative philosophy is a welfare philosophy, it is not a make-work philosophy, Mr. Chairman.

The Premier of this province has enunciated very early that the responsibility for employment is not his. It is the responsibility of the private investor. Yes, his dependency on the private sector is total, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for River Heights on a point of order.
--(Interjection)--

MR. USKIW: He wants to ask a question. Yes.

MR. FILMON: Would you permit a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for River Heights .

MR. GARY FILMON: If what the Member for Lac du Bonnet has stated is the case, Mr. Chairman, why is it that we have more people employed today and fewer people are on welfare than when your party was in power?

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member for River Heights has not been with us for very long, and I appreciate that he hasn't had an opportunity to take a good look around and, Mr. Chairman, to compare what has gone on over the past and what is happening today. I don't believe that he can let that statement stand, Mr. Chairman, while at the same time his government has to admit that this is the second time in two decades that we have had a Conservative government. Yes, or two out of three decades, and in each time, Mr. Chairman, we have had massive net out-migration out of this province. Mr. Chairman, in the mid-1960s . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please.

MR. USKIW: In the mid-1960s . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Might I suggest to the honourable members that the department is immigration rather than migration, and I would hope that if you have any comments to make on the subject matter of immigration, that we would stick to this subject. I've allowed a great deal of latitude and we are getting further and further away from the department under investigation at this time.
The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, we are dealing with the Department of Labour and we are dealing with the question of people in the workforce, people coming into the province for jobs, people leaving the province for jobs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. We are not dealing with the Department of Labour as such; we are dealing with a specific item which (c) Immigration, and I would remind the honourable members that it is (c) Immigration that is under discussion at this point.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

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MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, I beg to differ with you. I suggest to you that when the Minister of Labour brings 21 Mexicans to work on the farms of Manitoba, that has something to do with immigration, and that is what we are debating.

Mr. Chairman, that is the whole point of our discussion here. And the fact that we are using examples, the fact that we are trying to present the total picture with respect to why we are doing this, Mr. Chairman, why we are importing our labour needs when we have an overabundance of labour in this province who is willing, but perhaps untrained or unmotivated - and I use both terms because they're both correct, Mr. Chairman, - and the Member for Gladstone suggested, Mr. Chairman, that there is an unwillingness on the part of our local people to participate in the labour force and that that is why we have to depend on outside people from out of the country to fill these positions.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am merely trying to outline the cause/effect situation. I don't blame any Manitoban who doesn't want to participate in the labour force where the conditions of work are such that it is not respectable to be there, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I don't believe any member on that side of the House truly believes in actual exploitation of the working man. I don't believe they do. But I believe, Mr. Chairman, that they have not yet come to realize that it is in the employer's best interest, including the farmer-employer, Mr. Chairman, it is in his best interest to have a fairly good standard of working conditions that are guaranteed in some form. If we are talking about consistency of labour supplied, then we have to talk about consistency of working conditions, Mr. Chairman.

And you know what takes place? We bring in a load of workers from Mexico and you know what happens, Mr. Chairman? They are distributed amongst a number of employers; and in the evening they get together and they say, "Well, the guy I am working for is a real good guy, he does everything for me," and the other guy says, "Oh, god, that wasn't my experience. I've got terrible standards where I am", and Mr. Chairman, I believe that that can be avoided.

I don't believe that the bulk of our employers want to neglect their responsibilities as far as how they relate to their employees. I believe if there was some uniformity, some expectation, that there were certain basic minimum standards that would cover these kinds of situations - and I'm sure it's not in the majority that we have a problem - but we do have a problem, Mr. Chairman, and that's where the Legislative Assembly has a responsibility and that's where the government has a responsibility. That we do not allow humanity to be exploited under any circumstances, Mr. Chairman, and that is the fundamental point that we are trying to make here this evening. That there is no room in our modern society for degradation of the human being in any way and that is what we are talking about, Mr. Chairman.

So the Member for Gladstone doesn't have to feel, Mr. Chairman, that somehow because we on this side believe that there ought to be systematic changes brought about by way of legislation that would provide these basic protective devices for society, that somehow we're anti-employer - heaven forbid, who wants to be anti-employer, Mr. Chairman - what we want is a decent arrangement between the employer and the employee; because the employer cannot profit, Mr. Chairman, cannot earn his bread unless he has loyal good working people working for him. That is the basis of his profitability.

So, therefore, it is in his interest to have the employee satisfied and to know that the image of that sector of employment is a good image. To know that at some point in time we will have students that will aspire for those job opportunities in agriculture, who to date have not been so anxious, Mr. Chairman, who to date have not been so anxious.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the farmers can't do this alone. They need the help of their government and the only way they can get that help is through the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Agriculture and the Premier of this province, who will take a stand and will say through the laws of this province that these are the basic minimum standards of employment for anyone, anywhere in Manitoba regardless of where they work, regardless of who their employer is.

And if these basic standards are met there should be relative peace and quiet as between the employers and employees of this province. And that doesn't always work because we are always in a position of wanting to improve our standard of living, Mr. Chairman. But that's a natural thing and it should be there. I don't

believe we should look the other way; I believe we should want to improve our standard of living. And to the extent that the employer is able to offer higher rewards to his staff because of his profitability, I believe it's perfectly in order for the employee to say that "You have had a good profitable position and therefore we feel that we are entitled to share in the profitability of your enterprise". That's what it's all about, Mr. Chairman.

Now I know that for a lot of people in the backbench there, they haven't come to appreciate that point yet. That it is labour that creates wealth, Mr. Chairman. That's right; it is people that put to work their two hands and their minds that creates wealth and there is no other source of wealth. Therefore, for the Member for Rock Lake, for the Member for Roblin, for the Member for Gladstone to think that they are providing some sort of a benefit or a service to someone who needs a job because they happen to have a job opportunity, if that is their mentality, Mr. Chairman, that is absolute nonsense.

The employer needs the employee and the employee needs the employer and the relationship has to be harmonious if it's going to function whatever. And I think many sectors of our society have discovered that a long time ago and I believe it's time that our total society accepts that now, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope the Minister of Labour would have been able to say in his Estimates that henceforth when we pass Bill No. 89, or whatever number it's going to be, that there will be no single person in Manitoba that isn't covered by basic minimum standard legislation for employment. That's what I would hope that we would get from the Minister of Labour.

I wouldn't be making the comments and I wouldn't be posing the questions that I am, if the Minister of Labour would be in that position. But he still wants to tolerate injustice; he still wants to tolerate exploitation. --(Interjection)-- Yes, I don't know why because it doesn't make any sense, Mr. Chairman, but he still wants to do that.

We are supposed to be in an advanced age. We, as a society, have made it, we were told, and yet we allow these inequities to linger on and we turn a blind eye to the needs of the people who work hard and get very little pay, Mr. Chairman.

The children of those people who work on those jobs at those low wage rates, Mr. Chairman, they're just as hungry every day as are your children. And that is the fundamental point that somehow is overlooked. The floor sweeper in the corridors of this Chamber has just as great a responsibility towards his family as the Clerk of the Assembly has to his family, and this is basically what is not acceptable as a philosophy to members opposite. --(Interjection)-- That's right.

The Minister of Labour the other day, Mr. Chairman, indicated that he preferred that there be discrimination with respect to the application of minimum wages in this province. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Chairman, he did this callously a year ago. The government took a callous position a year ago and reduced the wage levels of a sector in our economy. Yes, while all of the other sectors in the economy were asking for higher wages to cover inflation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Minister on a point of order.

MR. MacMASTER: Would the member narrow his comments to the appropriate section and we'll deal with his nonsense at that particular time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: I know, Mr. Chairman, that to the Minister of Labour in this government that it is nonsense when you ask for fair play, when you ask for equity, when you ask for human dignity, yes, that is nonsense because that is all that I am talking about, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister prefers to call that nonsense, that's fine; he has to stand on that position and he has to worry about his electoral success on that philosophy. That is for him to decide.

But let not members opposite think that they have no responsibility to assure our society that there is an opportunity for employment; that they have no role to play as the First Minister has indicated so many times; that that is the responsibility of the private sector and that he is not going to involve the government and the taxpayers of this province in that area.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: We just passed the section where we explained quite clearly and demonstrated our concern and our interest in training people in Manitoba. The member was here, I think. The nonsense that I was referring to was really some of his supposed facts, and it's typical NDP garbage; that's what we're used to hearing. He talks about the welfare rates rising since we came in. The facts are, if he wants them - and he said he defied us to get them - 23,787 in 1975 when he was a Minister of a poor government; 21,805, it went down approximately 2,000; now it's 19,282. That's the point that he was making and that's garbage.

MR. USKIW: Well, Mr. Chairman, that hardly is a point of order. --(Interjection)-- Yes, that's fine.

Mr. Chairman, we have some very relevant statistics that the Minister won't be happy to hear, I'll assure him. --(Interjection)-- Mr. Chairman, they are accurate statistics.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me. To the Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet: You were asking me if it was a point of order. I didn't acknowledge the Honourable Minister on a point of order. You yielded the floor and I acknowledged him.

MR. USKIW: Oh, okay, that's fine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the Member for Gladstone, in his comments, tried to imply that somehow I have belatedly recognized the plight of the taxpayer who has to pay for all of that group in society who is not productive, which isn't paying its own way, and so on. Well, Mr. Chairman, that again demonstrates the shallowness of the mentality of members opposite, that kind of a statement, because the tragedy isn't so much on the taxpayers who have to fund the welfare programs of the unemployed, the tragedy is that you are destroying the people who are unemployed by keeping them on welfare, Mr. Chairman. You are destroying them as individuals because they fall into a category which tends to perpetuate itself and I think we have ample example of that in a number of communities in this province, certainly in this city. A welfare ghetto is what you end up with, Mr. Chairman, generation after generation. Yes, that's the kind of thing that is a tragedy, Mr. Chairman, that our society should correct and should not tolerate.

It isn't so tragic that it costs the money; it is tragic when you destroy people's lives in that way. And to the extent that we don't provide for job opportunities for our citizens of Manitoba, to the extent that we allow ourselves to turn a blind eye to that responsibility --(Interjection)--

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, could we get back to the Estimates, please?

MR. USKIW: I'm right on target, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MacMASTER: No, you're not, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Point of order? The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, to the extent that we want to turn a blind eye to those responsibilities and simply say if we're short of trained skilled labour, we will import them, Mr. Chairman, we will immigrate them into the country, into the province, that is the essence of the problem of the mentality of those people over there. They don't believe they have a responsibility for the needs of Manitobans in the area of employment, in the area of opportunity, in the area of justice, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Portage la Prairie.

MR. LLOYD G. HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry that I wasn't in the Assembly here when this discussion first started because I can assure you it is of great interest to me to hear discussed the need of the workforce for agriculture. As you know, and as most of the people of this House knew, I spent all

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my life on the farm. My father is an old-timer in the agricultural business in Portage la Prairie and he has had and dealt with labour forces as far back as I can ever remember. He has worked with them and had no problems at all. We did not abuse our labour force in those days and I cannot believe what that man, the Member for Lac du Bonnet, has said, that we are abusing the labour force of today; I cannot believe that.

Mr. Chairman, as I say, I've spent all my life there on the farm - it's a family farm - and it's had as many as 19 labour force men on our place and never were we ever accused of abusing those same people.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to speak about our native people in the Portage la Prairie area. I've worked with them, they've worked with me, and I believe I get along well with them; I do. But, however, I've got to admit, with the Member for Gladstone, when he said this, that you just cannot rely on them to the degree that we must rely on them. We've got to rely on these people but they're just not there when we need them.

So I have to support the program that we have had in the past --(Interjection)-- Pardon me? They're just not there when we need them. And I suggest to you that possibly they were right when they said the welfare programs have spoiled a lot of our men who at one time were ready to work; but not today, no, when they can go to the welfare office and get their cheque, they're not ready to go out and work.

Mr. Chairman, for a number of years now, the Department of Agriculture has run programs in the Portage area trying to educate these native people of ours to the point where we can be assured to some point and to some degree that these people can go out and do a day's work and not destroy the machinery that's costing us thousands of dollars to take and work our land with.

If the Member for Lac du Bonnet would like very much to go out and visit some of these native people in Portage la Prairie next harvest time, I'd like him to be out there and just see what in earth is going on out there. It's very well for him to be up in the Interlake up here and he's not dealing with the investment that the farmer has today in agriculture. He doesn't know what it's all about today. --(Interjection)-- Well, we'll invite him. We'll invite him there next Fall to come on and just see what these people are doing.

I've been on the vegetable farms this last while and have a good relationship with them. They work hard. They work from morning till night but they're limited; the numbers are not there of qualified labour.

So I will have to support the program of continually bringing in the Mexican labour, and as great a number as possible, because we --(Interjection)-- You say it's disgusting. You'll see a farmer out there, a vegetable farmer, with millions of dollars of crop and it's got to be taken off and you can't get the labour force to work and we have these here people available, you say that's disgusting? --(Interjection)-- We haven't tried? I'll tell you, I'll just say it: We've had programs trying to deal with these people and educate them so we can rely to a degree on them. Some of them are good people, but for the most part they're not. --(Interjection)-- Yes, we certainly need them. So we'll have to bring the off-shore labour.

Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry that I didn't have anything prepared for it, but I must get up, and felt I had to say something in respect to this here labour force in the Portage plains.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just thought that I should enter this debate, which is completely out of order. The Department of Labour really has nothing to do with Immigration as far as getting these employees from Mexico in and this is really what the debate has centred about. The only extent that the Department of Agriculture is involved with it is that they gave approval. Outside of that, it's an arrangement made between the Federal Government of Canada and the Federal Government of Mexico and this is where the arrangements are being made.

We've been talking a lot about credibility and so on, and the credibility of the whole debate seems to have been lacking. Both members from that side, who spoke on it, I don't think are employing any agricultural workers or ever have,

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and it's really rather ridiculous some of the statements that have been made. But there is no doubt about it, that there would be a lot of vegetables in the Portage area that would perish if this labour were not to come in. They have tried everything, I would say, in the Portage area to use local labour and so on, and they have found that they were not there, as the Member for Portage said, when they were needed.

I, myself, have had considerable experience with this in the sugar beet industry, which the Member for The Pas referred to, and I tell you, it's very disheartening when you're trying to work with people like this. Some of them are excellent people and I'm not going to paint everybody with the same brush. I've had some people from the Fairford Reserve; you will find no better people than those. They did an excellent job and they made a lot of money, some of those people who came out there, because you contract your work - it's by the acre. Some of them made as much as \$20.00 an acre. They did an excellent job. But then you had some people over there who didn't earn \$1.50 and who made no job at all. All they did was party all night and when you went out there to pick them up in the morning, then usually you had either the ambulance over there because they just had some big fight going on over there or the policemen were over there and you had a hassle trying to get anybody out of the house to come and work.

So it got down to the point where my regular labour was going to quit, mainly because they said that, "We just can't live with this kind of condition." So there was just no way that I could further employ the people that we had all these problems with. I did keep the good labour, though. Since then, of course, everything has been mechanized as far as the sugar beet industry is concerned and we don't really require that labour anymore.

The Member for Lac du Bonnet made various allegations as to farm labour and how they were being treated, and I can really only speak for myself. I do know what some of the other people in my area are doing, but I would just like to say that your good man, your top man, is probably going to get anywhere between \$1,000 and \$1,200 a month and you pay him that all year round whether you need him or not, and most of time you only use him for about eight months or so because there's four months in which you cannot employ him. But in order for you to retain him, that is the price that you have to pay and you're quite willing to do that. He gets Workmen's Compensation. Workmen's Compensation is recognized throughout my area and I would say that at least 50 percent of the farmers now have their laborers under Workmen's Compensation and there are more joining into this program every year.

Your casual labour, I would say, that you hire, you'll probably go and pay them \$5.50 an hour to start off with. It's a different type of labour. You pick up whatever you can get and, by and large, they seem to be quite satisfied with them.

Your top man, you provide housing and, I tell you, it better be as good as whatever you're living in yourself or better, or else you're not going to get anybody to come and work for you. Labour is very scarce. There are times of the year in which there is just nothing that you can do; you just cannot hire anybody and you pick up whatever you can get and sometimes things that should be done today have to wait three or four days before you get them done because of the scarcity of labour.

It's not an easy thing to live with and in the latter part of the Member for Lac du Bonnet's speech there were many things I could agree with because there are a lot of areas in which we have to work. But it's very difficult to organize farm labour because you cannot say that he's going to work eight hours this day and he's going to work eight hours the next day, because you might have a rain where he would not be working for three days at all and then you'll have to do some catching up. So you cannot come down with hard and fast rules for farm labour; it just isn't going to work.

I know that the Member for Lac du Bonnet, when he was Minister of Agriculture, tried very hard to organize the labour. He tried to organize them to the extent that a tractor driver would be a tractor driver; a truck driver would be a truck driver and do nothing else. You just cannot have that type of labour on a farm; it just doesn't work. And if the Member for Lac du Bonnet was familiar with farming operations at all, he would know this.

So we have to take a look at the whole situation and approach this thing reasonably. Many strides have been made in the last couple of years and I'm sure that

many more are going to be made in the next few years, but there is going to be a problem and I must say that until that problem is resolved, we will every once in a while, we will have to import some labour from wherever we can get it, whether it's from Mexico or wherever. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for The Pas.

MR. McBRYDE: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the previous member a question. I wonder if he could comment on the possibility, from his comments, that in fact there are some good employers of Manitoba farm labour and there are some bad employers of Manitoba farm labour, and the possibility that pretty soon the workers learn which are the good employers and which are the bad employers and they start then just going to work for the good employers. So the word gets around. I mean, they say, "Well, that Mr. Brown is a good employer but that Mr. Hyde is not a good employer," or whatever they say. But the word gets around which one is a reasonable employer and which one is not reasonable. And then the unreasonable employer has trouble getting labour, right? And then it's the poor employer who's stuck for labour whose crop is going to rot in the field, who has to cry out for more immigrants. Is that a possibility?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rhineland

MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, you have bad employers and good employers as well as you have good workers and poor workers. It's just a matter of fact. But with the scarcity of labour that we have, especially of farm labour, I would say that the good employers are increasing every year because they just can't get any labour at all unless they start looking after the welfare of the employee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: If I can, Mr. Chairman, get back somewhat involved in this, somewhere along the line it was my Estimates.

I'd like to say, in answer to the Member for The Pas, he may not understand the unionism aspect of what happens in industry in the same set of circumstances that he just mentioned. What often is the case, we will relate it straight to the farmer, who is non-unionized, who is providing good sort of conditions, good sort of wages; the other farmers who are seeing the crop rot in the field are going to up their conditions and up their wages and a good many aspects to be able to get help to come in.

Now the approach that the member is talking about, from The Pas, might be true. His philosophy might be true if we brought in 200 last year. But the fact is, in the year 1976, when the Member for Lac du Bonnet was the Minister and was wanting to do these things and had all this philosophy that was so excellent, there was 24. Last year there was 21, so some things. . .

MR. ENNS: That former Minister brought in Mexican help; the NDP brought in Mexican help? Are you telling me that?

MR. MacMASTER: Yes, they were brought in.

MR. ENNS: After listening to all this nonsense all evening . . . goodness gracious.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would suggest to the honourable members that when somebody has the floor, any member has the floor, Minister or opposition, that he be given the consideration and the respect and be allowed to speak without the interference that we've been getting tonight.

Is the Honourable Minister finished, or should we proceed and try and get these Estimates through?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I'd appreciate if we could proceed. That's really what the exercise is all about, Mr. Chairman.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. HARVEY BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to get back to one thing the Minister said tonight and it follows from an answer he gave me this afternoon when he made the statement that the welfare numbers in the Province of Manitoba had gone down. I wonder if he could tell us which years he is referring to when he says that one year has gone down. Can he tell me which years he is referring to?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would have to rule that last question out of order. If the Honourable Minister is going to force the issue, I will allow him to answer but the subject under debate is Immigration, and I must remind the honourable members that we are under Immigration. You know, I have allowed some latitude but the more latitude I allow, the more is taken and I would please implore the honourable members. . . --(Interjection)-- We all have but, you know, we are members of this Legislature and we are trying to get the Estimates completed. I think it's part of my duties to get these Estimates completed and to see that order is maintained in the Legislature.

The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, before you brought us back to order, the answer was given possibly fifteen minutes ago and it will be in Hansard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, the argument about the welfare rates was used in connection with this item and that's why I brought it up. It was used before in the debates today on this general section of the Estimates and it's definitely related to this section because we're talking about immigration into the province and it relates to the numbers on welfare in the province. As members in this Assembly have tried to say on the other side, somehow there are people on welfare who don't want to work and that's why they have to bring in people from outside of the country to work in the agricultural area. So it's definitely related to this item, Mr. Chairman, and the Minister made a statement about the numbers of people on welfare having been reduced and I would like him to clearly indicate what he was talking about.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Member for Rhineland on a point of order.

MR. BROWN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That question is repetitive. The Minister answered that about half an hour ago and the question was asked by somebody else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know what years the Minister was referring to. He quoted some statistics as to the numbers that had been reduced without referring to the years that he was referring to and it would be a simple matter for him to indicate what years he was talking about.

MR. MacMASTER: Mr. Chairman, I already related that about fifteen minutes ago. I gave the years and numbers fifteen minutes ago.

MR. BOSTROM: Yes, I would like to challenge the Minister on his statement because from the information we have, and that is from the same documents which he should be using in quoting his statistics, namely the Public Accounts, which he can't claim are NDP statistics since they are published by his government, Mr. Chairman, the statistics that we have from these Public Accounts show clearly that welfare has gone up dramatically in Manitoba, gone up dramatically. Mr. Chairman, if you look at the Public Accounts, it reveals that in the first full year of the Conservative administration, the year 1978-79, the welfare paid out in social

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assistance to persons in Manitoba was \$47,486,751.00. And this, Mr. Chairman, was an increase of \$4.6 million over the year before which is the highest increase over the last eight years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The Honourable Minister on a point of order.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, the member is playing games again, which is so typical. Is he talking about numbers or is he talking about dollars?

A MEMBER: He's talking about dollars.

MR. MacMASTER: Well then, maybe he should talk about the numbers.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the Minister is clearly trying to mislead this House if he is saying that the welfare has gone down dramatically in Manitoba. The facts are, according to Public Accounts, which he should have for his statistics as well, that the welfare rates have gone up. The total welfare bill for the Province of Manitoba has gone up \$4.6 million in the first full year of the Conservative administration. And if you check back in the Public Accounts to the year 1972, which I did tonight, that's the highest increase in any single year over that period of time. And, Mr. Chairman, if you compare it to other years such as 1971-72 when the welfare rate was \$32 million; 1972-73, a year later, the welfare rate was \$31.5 million, a decrease, a drop of \$623,000; and the following year 1973-74, the welfare rate was \$31.2 million, another drop of \$307,000.00, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister tries to claim that we are using phony statistics, these are the true statistics, at least, they should be. --(Interjection)--

Mr. Chairman, I'm not referring to a member, I'm referring to the figures which the Minister supplied to this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I must again, ask the honourable members to stay to the item under discussion. I honestly don't believe, in my opinion, that welfare is associated with this immigration item.

The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet on a point of order.

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the item is directly related, to the extent that we bring in outsiders to take up job opportunities in Manitoba and to the extent that that denies job opportunities to Manitobans, the welfare bill goes up. So therefore, there is a direct connection between the two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: I think there is a retraction in the comment due from the Member for Rupertsland, if he will just think for a minute. He said that the figures I was giving was phony and I was misleading the House. That was his statements. I am going to respectfully request yourself to ask him to withdraw that. I am talking about numbers of people which is precisely exactly what I said to the Member for Lac du Bonnet. I said the number of people have decreased that are on welfare in the Province of Manitoba. The member has said that those are phony, incorrect, and I'm misleading the House, and I'm asking you, Mr. Chairman, to ask him to retract that because the numbers of people on welfare have decreased.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland on the same point of order.

MR. BOSTROM: On the same point of order, this afternoon in a speech to the Legislature that I made, I referred to the fact that the welfare has gone up in Manitoba. I did not have these figures before me at that time. The Minister, in response to my statement, said that I was not giving the correct information to the House, and quoted his statistics which related to a drop in numbers. Mr. Chairman, I found it strange that that should be the case so I wanted to check out what the Minister was attempting to say to the Legislature. I believe he was attempting to tell the Legislature that the welfare bill in Manitoba had gone

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down, and gone down considerably. Because really if there was a drop of 4,000 people, 4,000 families that is, off of the welfare roles, that would drop the welfare bill by at least half, because there are probably no more than about 10,000 people in Manitoba, 10,000 families, on welfare; that is, full-time welfare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. If this item was discussed this afternoon, it certainly shouldn't be discussed tonight on a different item. And if the honourable member has a point of privilege, there is a proper place to bring it up, not at this committee meeting. Shall we continue with this item?

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland on the point of order.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I was on a point of order in response to the Minister's point of order. You did not rule on a point of order and I did not yield the floor.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I would have to have all the facts in front of me, what has been printed in Hansard as to what the Minister has made remarks on this afternoon, and what the Honourable Member for Rupertsland has made reference to those remarks of this afternoon, and what the Honourable Minister has made remarks as to the Honourable Member for Rupertsland. So I think that I would have to defer a ruling on the point of order at this point until I've had a chance to read Hansard and see what all the discussion is about. I do recall the debate this afternoon, but I can't remember the exact figures and I would have to see them before I would rule on the point of order.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

Order please. The Honourable Member for The Pas on a point of order.

MR. McBRIDE: Mr. Chairman, my point of order is that I think you misunderstood my calling the Member for Rupertsland. He was saying that he was on the floor during . . . he was sitting down from the point of order, but he hadn't yielded the floor from his comments, so I think you should recognize the Member for Ruperstland, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I was attempting to say before I was interrupted by the point of order, which was not a point of order, I would like to refer to . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. I had just finished making a remark as to whether it was a point of order or not and I think that any assistance on the part of the honourable members before I have had a chance to peruse Hansard, would be out of order. And I would remind that to the honourable members.

The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to relate my comments to the section on Immigration which we are discussing. As I was relating my comments this afternoon on the general area of research in the department, in this case we are talking about Immigration, and I want to talk about the impact that welfare, social assistance has on Immigration, and I want to point out how this government is increasing the welfare in Manitoba, and it's very clearly indicated by the statistics.

As I pointed out, Mr. Chairman, the increase of 1978-79 over the previous year, is \$4.6 million increase in the welfare bill, which is the largest single increase in the last eight years which I have looked at in Public Accounts. And, Mr. Chairman, if we look at the Estimate Book which refers to the rate of social assistance paid to Manitobans, we see that the year 1979-80, which we have not yet completed, had Estimates of \$61 million for the social assistance in Manitoba, which is an increase of \$14 million over the previous year. And, Mr. Chairman, if we look at the Estimates that are before us at the present time, we can see that

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there is a figure of \$67 million for the fiscal year 1980-81, which is an increase of \$6.2 million.

So, Mr. Chairman, welfare costs and welfare payments in Manitoba are increasing dramatically and it's incredible that the Minister would be able to try to make the case, that the numbers of people on welfare have decreased. Because, Mr. Chairman, the government of Manitoba, the Progressive-Conservative government of Manitoba, have not increased the scale of rates, the amount of payments to any individual by any fantastic amount, at least not to this extent, not \$5.6 million in one year; \$14 billion in the next; \$6.2 . . .

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

MR. J. WALLY MCKENZIE: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland has just indicated and put in the records that the welfare rates have not been increased. I ask him to withdraw that remark.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Rupertsland.

MR. BOSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I did not say the rates had not increased; I said they have not increased to the extent that the overall payments have gone up. If you consider that from 1978-79 to the years 1979-80, which are in the Estimates Book, an increase of \$14 million, which is a very substantial increase that can't be accounted for purely on the basis of the increased rate that had been announced from time to time by the government, the adjustments and the welfare paid out to individuals. So, Mr. Chairman, the statistics on payouts would indicate to me that there are more people on welfare now than there were during the years of the New Democratic Party government.

So, Mr. Chairman, it's ludicrous for the members opposite to make the case, as they have tried to do tonight, that somehow the NDP, while they were in government, were paying out welfare to the extent that it was prohibiting people from going to work. Mr. Chairman, it was just exactly opposite. And in fact the Progressive-Conservative government is clearly the welfare party and the welfare government and is paying out greater proportions of the provincial budget in welfare than ever before and the rate is going up faster than it has ever gone up before.

Mr. Chairman, the Immigration item before us, I think, is clearly related to that information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, the section on Page 21, the numbers that the gentleman from Rupertsland is using, is titled Social Security Programs. That's where he got his numbers, and those programs are increased \$6 million. They're certainly not part of my Estimates. But the words under are fairly clear. They say: "Provides financial assistance for clients enrolled for Mother's Allowances, Aged Allowances, Long-Term Disability, Disabled and Blind Allowances, and other allowances." That's the numbers that the Member for Rupertsland was using, Mr. Chairman. I wonder, could we somehow get back to the Immigration section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment on the Immigration as it's in the Minister of Labour and Manpower's Estimates.

Firstly, I would like to say that I believe that the numbers of Canadians that are employed and Manitobans that are employed are, first of all, top priority. I think that the job opportunities that are available should be available to Canadians and to Manitobans. I subscribe fully to that principle.

But I also believe, Mr. Chairman, particularly as it relates to the vegetable industry in Manitoba - and I should just relate briefly to the situation as it was when we took over office - that the fact that we had the vegetable growers, the native workers strictly in a position where they were at loggerheads; and we had a

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vegetable industry that had a tremendous opportunity to grow and expand, but we had the farmers, who were quite prepared to invest and develop that industry, stymied because of the fact that they were unable to have the number of trained employees that they required for that industry.

The objective, Mr. Chairman, as we have stated many times, is to bring in immigrant employees so that they could work alongside the Manitobans and the native workers, to assist them in the work of the fields or in the processing of the goods after they have been harvested. And, Mr. Chairman, the members opposite some way forget that these are seasonal employees, or that they come in in the summertime and when the goods are taken off the fields, they have to be further processed for the rest of the year, which creates employment for the native people or those individuals, whether they be native or not, for year round. So that, in fact, we have seen a growing and expanding industry and more jobs created because of the fact that we have allowed immigrant labour in.

Mr. Chairman, when we allow or when the federal government allows and the provincial government of Ontario allows several thousands of people to come in to help the vegetable growers in Ontario, and the last government in Manitoba would not allow one individual in to help our producers and our workers; it's a matter of working together and not in opposition, that they work together to develop people who are highly qualified in that industry. And as a result, we have seen that industry grow and expand and a continued investment by the producers and by those people who wanted to work in it. We have seen their time investment in bettering themselves to do a better job. I think we're well on the road to having a system that is very acceptable to the employers and the employees.

We have had very little problems over the last two years because everyone, Mr. Chairman, everyone has an opportunity to sit down together and decide how many people we're going to allow into this province. It hasn't been strictly a Ministerial decision; it was a decision by the workers and by those people who were involved in employing them.

The objective, Mr. Chairman, is to see the industry grow and to see the development of those native workers or anybody who wants to work in the vegetable fields or in the processing of those goods. So, it's a total industry growth that we're working for.

And I firmly believe, Mr. Chairman, that we have to continue to allow a certain number of individuals so that our producers and our people who want to work in the vegetable fields, or in the processing of those vegetables, we have to allow a certain number of people in to help with the training, to help with the production and the processing and I believe, Mr. Chairman, something that the members opposite really don't understand is the freedom of those people to go ahead and do some of the things on their own without government telling them whether or not they need "X" numbers of people to do certain things.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Minister, in his request for money for this department, is handling it very effectively and efficiently and would like to see these Estimates passed.

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

MR. BILLIE URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I enter my remarks, I wonder if the Minister could answer a question to indicate how many immigrants will be going into northern Manitoba, in terms for employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: I don't have that precise breakdown on a permanent basis. There are people who are going north. I don't have a specific earmarked number that are earmarked in the forthcoming year to go to northern Manitoba.

MR. URUSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Agriculture, in his recent remarks, just eloquently portrayed the attitude of the Conservative government towards the workers of this province, Mr. Chairman.

First he started by saying that we will certainly have a policy of assisting workers who are from Manitoba and training them for the jobs in the vegetable industry. Then he went on to say that there should be enough freedom and choice of

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the vegetable producers to hire whomever they want and we will assist them in bringing in this labour force from Mexico, or wherever it may be.

Mr. Chairman, that certainly epitomizes the philosophy of this Conservative government in the province of Manitoba. They are prepared to allow, to spend millions and millions of dollars on welfare, increasing every year, without any direct attempt to train, to assist people into the labour force, to bring them along into the labour force, but get up and say, "Well, yeh, but they're just not that reliable; you know, they've been on welfare for so long and they're just not that reliable and we may as well forget about them."

Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to tell the Minister we have a community in my constituency that I think the Minister should know about. Historically, the entire community - virtually the entire community - was in a welfare syndrome state till the late Sixties, not as the community of Vogar, as I say, a Métis community adjacent to the Lake Manitoba reserve. Many of those people lived in what one would consider very low standard housing. They worked whenever they could in the community, but primarily their sole sustenance was from social allowances, Mr. Chairman.

In the fall and winter of 1979-80, the Province of Manitoba, the government of Manitoba, began and while members on the other side decried this Make Work Program type of philosophy saying, that make-work jobs are no good, I want to indicate to the members opposite, these people, many of them went out initially and they started on municipal works program of brushing roads; they did start on that. They then moved into the community of Ashern. There was a project which the province assisted the community of Ashern in building a curling rink. A number of the persons in the community were encouraged and went on into the community and spent a whole year, virtually a whole year, in full employment on the construction of the curling rink.

Mr. Chairman, the following winter, when things got rather tough, the province did not have the Winter Works Program continued for that one year. I want to tell you, Mr. Chairman, the Reeve of the Municipality of Siglunes called me and said, "Look, for the first time in probably a decade or more, I have now received phone calls from men in the community who would normally not phone me for work and they have got on the phone themselves and said, look, is there any work? Can we do something?" Because they had already felt the extra income that they had earned, I think the respectability that they could see in themselves by being able to go out and work and they were ready to do something else.

Mr. Chairman, the government of the province of Manitoba assisted these people in cutting 100,000 feet of lumber. These people went out on their own. They cut 100,000 feet of lumber to start the building of their homes. You now go to that community, Mr. Chairman, and you will find about a dozen new homes in that community where those people, through make work projects, Mr. Chairman, constructed their own homes. Yes, through the Manpower Corps, which this government has discontinued, which was in the Department of Agriculture. These people were brought along and a number of those people from the community went on to Red River Community College to train in the field of carpentry and have since then come back to the community and have been able to become productive citizens in the community.

That is the type of approach. And of course there will be failures, Mr. Chairman; there is no doubt that there will be criticisms from the farmers and from other people in this province, that there will be failures, that the success rate may not be high. But unless we are determined to break that syndrome and at least give these people an opportunity to hold their head up high and be able to become productive citizens of this province, we will miserably fail as citizens in this province because we will be harping back and forth and saying, "Who raised the welfare rates more?"

So it is incumbent on this Minister of Labour, to use his good offices and provide the direction to his staff, to be able to carry out the mandate of at least assisting the labour force to say to Manitobans, "Yes, we are going to try and bring a labour force together in Manitoba specifically for the vegetable growers, that they can and they will do the job that is necessary".

But we cannot say yes, we will go on and we will continue bringing them in because they are non-productive and we can't rely on them. You have to continue

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trying. We all have to continue trying because if we stop continue to try, we're all lost.

Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister says that's why we're trying. The day that I will believe him and the people of the province will believe him when he stands up in this House and says we have the program, we will stop immigration today, we will send our people into the field, they will assist the farmers, even if it does cost us more money, Mr. Chairman, even in the short run if it does cost us more money to provide the assistance to bring these people into the work force, and it will. I'm not denying that, I think in the short run it will cost us more money but in the long term, I think we will all, as citizens of this province, be better off. And I think the Minister, if he hasn't got the message - I feel sorry for him but I hope he has got the message and he will be able to repond positivately to the comments that have been made by members on this side and move in the direction that we have suggested.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)--pass. The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, two or three comments. First of all, it's my understanding that there is an association in Portage and that that particular farmers' group sit down with the producers, the farmers, and work out themselves the numbers that they feel are adequate to come in. I don't think I should be destroying that and I'm sure what they're working at in a good sensible approach, is trying to bring in, in their opinion, allegedly excellent people who can help train, in a fact, quite practical in the field. That I understand is really the premise to it. Whether they can work themselves out of it in a year, or two, or three. ... quite obviously they haven't over many many years . . . I think that is the Association's objective and that's certainly the farmers' objective and we would like to see that work its way through.

I'm sure the member, when he was talking about the make-work program and that in effect that had some benefits, I suppose there are some cases where that type of approach had some benefits but there was certainly many many people in communities who aren't totally satisfied that that was really even psychologically good for them, where they got a taste of something for a six-week or a eight-week period, and then they were down for the rest of the year. A good many people have told me that really wasn't doing them very much good.

The member happened to mentioned the curling rink that they had been working on. Well, we have the disastrous situation with the Norway House arena, which I think the Member for Rupertsland should be aware of, and the same arena situation in Wabowden, which ended up being a bit of the Department of Northern Affairs. They wanted to involve people in it. We know the price that's being paid, the hundreds of thousand dollars more that's being paid to correct those situations. And we know the dangers, the dangers to life and limb that could have been experienced in those particular cases. So all these things have their limitations, Mr. Chairman.

I have two or three answers that I'll be giving to the Member for Churchill when he comes back in. I'm sure he'll be back in before we close.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Lac du Bonnet.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the Minister of Agriculture is not here. I wish that we could have had the benefit of his attention to some of the comments that I wish to make in response to his contribution to the Chamber.

The Minister of Agriculture alleges that in 1977 he inherited a situation in Portage la Prairie whereby the growers, the farmers, that produced vegetables were at loggerheads with their workers and, of course, Mr. Chairman, he didn't elaborate too much on that point. I would hope that perhaps in my competition with the Minister of Agriculture for the ear of the Minister of Labour that I might succeed in convincing him that perhaps there is some degree of credibility to the exercise that took place back in the late 1970s, well, 1976-77, with respect to that situation.

I think it's fair to say that there were very serious problems at the time in the Portage situation. The growers were asking the government to make requests of the Government of Canada for Mexican workers and, of course, we had many meetings

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with the growers - and they were good meetings, Mr. Chairman, they were not negative meetings - but the growers were panicky, panicky that they would not be able to achieve the fruits of their labour for the year at harvest time due to lack of consistency in labour supply. And that was a legitimate fear, Mr. Chairman, that was a very legitimate fear on the part of the growers and, of course, I don't think that anyone would want to fault them for that concern because they had a tremendous amount of capital invested in the production of those commodities, and that all of that obviously could be lost in a few short weeks or even sometimes in a few days if the timing of their harvest was not right or was not carried out at the proper time. So those considerations were reasonable on their part, Mr. Chairman. But, of course, we have to recognize that the workers had concerns too, Mr. Chairman. The workers felt that . . . it's true that the growers naturally should expect loyalty from the workers and consistency of labour supply, and indicated to the government - these meetings were tripartite meetings if you like, the employer, the employee and the government - and they were merely trying to convince the government and the employers that, yes, you have a need and we have a need and let's see if we can put something together that recognizes the needs of all of us. And I thought, Mr. Chairman, at that time that was a very reasonable assessment of the situation from both sides and that really the role of government should be to try to bridge whatever gaps of misunderstanding there were, and perhaps use some persuasiveness in trying to get either side to extend a degree of compromise. And that's the natural sort of process that one would expect when you're involved in sort of bargaining positions, the give and take arguments that flow during that process.

So, Mr. Chairman, it is true that we were very hopeful that that process would blossom out to the point where there would be credibility and respect built up on the part of either side, one respecting the other, Mr. Chairman, and that they would want to function within the parameters of an agreement, that they would want to function within the parameters of an agreement. And, Mr. Chairman, we were about 99 percent of the way there. Yes, we were about 99 percent of the way there after numerous meetings. We thought we had achieved what would be a good beginning for employer-employee relationships in the area of the farmers and the farm workers. And you know, Mr. Chairman, what really took place at the sort of 11th hour, what really took place was the fact that the employer group decided to consult a lawyer before they sort of decided that they were going to go ahead with this agreement. They decided to seek legal advice. And I suppose maybe that's a reflection on our people in the legal profession. I don't know if it is, but in any event, in any event, Mr. Chairman, they would have had an agreement perhaps without a lawyer but with one they couldn't arrive at one. And apparently the legal opinion they had was that this looks too much like a union-management agreement, and heavens, if you set this precedent in Manitoba, we're going to have this problem right across Canada. So don't do it in Manitoba was the advice. Even if it isn't a union-management agreement, don't sign anything or agree to anything that looks like a union-management agreement, because we don't want trade union in agriculture. That's really what the issue was in the final analysis during that particular period of negotiations that took place between the Growers' Association and the Workers' Association.

So the growers came to me and they said, "We're not prepared to enter into that kind of arrangement . . . not a binding agreement." But, Mr. Minister, they said we will plead with you that we still need those Mexican workers. We need some of them. Mr. Chairman, I said to them and I don't mind stating it here in the House, I said, "I will agree with you that you can have some Mexican workers on the basis that this Association agrees that you should have them." If there is compatibility between the Workers' Association and the Growers' Association on that point, then why should I stand in the way. That was my position, Mr. Chairman. But, Mr. Chairman, that scared the employers' group again because they were then, if they agreed to that, we're leaving the impression, yes, that the Workers' Association really had some clout in the decision making process and it was like tantamount to some agreement. And again there was a problem because they feared that this thing could get carried away and who knows where negotiations might take one, if one enters the field of negotiations.

It's the fear of the unknown, it's the fear of the unknown that prevented that agreement of coming to pass, Mr. Chairman, it was the fear of the unknown and the

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traditions of agriculture that prevented that agreement from becoming fully developed. It was tradition, too, and I have to respect that. I recognize that there are sectors in our economy that haven't yet accepted the theory that a worker has a right to bargain for his work. Now I believe that that is perhaps not an enlightened point of view, Mr. Chairman, but I recognize that it exists.

But you know, Mr. Chairman, it bothers me when the Minister of Agriculture suggests that upon his arrival on the scene that everything was resolved, because he has given the freedom back to the producers. They can do as they wish, he said, without government interference. Well, Mr. Chairman, if that philosophy makes any sense, then why don't we repeal The Labour Standards Act, because obviously the Minister suggested the best method is where the government is not involved at all. Why don't we repeal The Fair Wages Act, The Employment Standards Act, why are those things on the books of this province? Mr. Chairman, it tells me something, it tells me that those things are on the statute books of this province only to the extent that the governments, over a period of our history which is only 100 years or so, were forced to do by pressure groups, and the groups that had the least pressure weren't able to achieve that status. That's what that tells me. That's what that tells me. But it also tells me, Mr. Chairman, that it is an inhumane approach on the part of this government and this Minister, so far as the rights of Manitoba citizens are concerned, so far as some degree of equity and fairness in employment practices are concerned. And that demonstrates to me most fully the lack of concern and the nonchalant attitude of the Minister of Labour and his colleagues towards the fair demands, fair requests of working people who are merely trying to derive a reasonable standard of living from their efforts, Mr. Chairman.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Agriculture suggested that having these Mexican workers makes it possible for continued employment during the winter months for the local workers around Portage la Prairie. He seems to presume that if we had local workers trained to do those jobs in the harvest period that there would not be continuation of employment opportunity over the winter months. I can't follow that logic, Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that it's not too big a job for the Department of Labour to be able to train a number of people in those specific areas in order that we can do what has to be done with local manpower, which would result in restoring dignity to a number of people who are under-employed or totally unemployed, which would reduce the burden on the taxpayers of this province and of this country and which would, in my opinion, do the most important thing, Mr. Chairman, and that is bring a degree of equality between various sectors in the labour force within the province.

The Minister of Agriculture talked about freedom for the employers to do whatever they wanted to do. Mr. Chairman, you know, the Conservative Party of this province has, in my opinion, a very poor definition of what is freedom because, Mr. Chairman, the freedom to do what one wants to do is to deny somebody else his freedom. That is really what that statement means, that if you are free to do as you will without regard to your fellow man, it means that you must be taking away your fellow man's freedom.

So, Mr. Chairman, it's obvious that we had total freedom in this land when only one person existed and when the second person was created, 50 percent of our freedom was lost. Mr. Chairman, that is something that is not recognized on the other side. That is something that is not recognized by members opposite, that there has to be a degree of compassion, a degree of tolerance, a degree of accommodation as between neighbours, as between employers, as between employers and employees in order to make our system function in an equitable fashion. And this is something that has yet to be learned by many of my friends opposite. Freedom, in the final analysis, is not determined by the right to do things, but by the actual distribution of the wealth and production produced by the people of our land, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, will the honourable member permit a question?

MR. USKIW: Oh, yes, most certainly.

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MR. MCKENZIE: I wonder, the fears the honourable member is expressing, if he saw the latest Gallup Poll that's released in today's Free Press, that the biggest concerns of most Canadians today are big labour, rather than big government.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Chairman, let me put my honourable friend's mind at rest. I am concerned about anything that destroys the opportunities and freedom of somebody else, or any person or any organization. --(Interjection)-- Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is the point that my honourable friend doesn't understand. I respect the fact, Mr. Chairman, that organized labour in the context of our adversary system can be harsh, just as much as an employer can be harsh towards his employees. I recognize that that can happen from time to time. I don't believe that society has to take a blind eye towards it and I think this is part of the educational process that is so important which, by the way, this government is certainly not willing to undertake. I believe that our school system should prepare our children for their adult period in life so that they understand the relationships that are expected between employer and employee and the contributions that a human being must make towards his own community to make it a decent community to live in, and that's what it's all about, Mr. Chairman.

And anyone that has a big stick, yes, I fear, Mr. Chairman; I even fear, Mr. Chairman, government. --(Interjection)-- Yes, oh, yes, there have to be checks and balances; there have to be checks and balances, yes. I'm not suggesting that there shouldn't be. There have to be mechanisms to make sure that people are not trampled on simply because of the size of the individual, the group, the empire, or whatever it is. There has to be some balance, Mr. Chairman. But ultimately the responsibility for assuring it has to rest somewhere in the public domain and this is the point that members opposite want to shirk the responsibility from because they say that government should play no role, if it's possible, but certainly as minimum a role as possible. And that, Mr. Chairman, in our complex society, just won't work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. LEONARD S. EVANS: Yes, I have a couple of specific questions to ask the Minister respecting a different industry. Specifically, I would like to know whether the Minister, as the Minister responsible for Immigration policy in the government, was involved in the bringing to Manitoba of a number of garment workers from the Phillipines? I believe there were about 50 or so, I believe was the report in the paper. I wonder if the Minister could explain the involvement of the Government of Manitoba in that.

MR. MACMASTER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased that finally we've all finished with the speeches and we're getting down to . . . There was a request from the garment industry for assistance, precisely that. Yes, we were involved in a three-way approach to going along with their request and, yes, I think the number is 50 or 60; the number is very close to that particular number.

That was one portion of it. The other was that the garment industry runs a training school here in the city and we told them we wanted them to up their training; we wanted them to go on a greater advertisement program to try and attract more people into the business; and we wanted them to specifically zero in on some of the core area citizens, if you wish, because there certainly is a problem of lack of employment in that particular area of the city, and they did that.

In addition to that, there is a committee established which is working on the possibility of attempting to establish a 25, 50, 80, 100 person operation someplace in northern Manitoba. They haven't reached any conclusions on that study yet; it's still taking place. And that was part of the three-prong approach that we took to that particular problem. So the member is exactly correct; we were involved in that area.

MR. EVANS: Can the Honourable Minister advise whether the government paid out any monies, provided any subsidies for bringing the workers from the Phillipines here, or indeed any other immigrants? But I believe it was only the

Phillipines; that was the only country I read about. Can the Minister advise how much money was involved, how much expenditure was involved in bringing these immigrants to Manitoba?

MR. MacMASTER: I'll check that question out during tonight and tomorrow, but to the best of my knowledge, Mr. Chairman, there was none on the part of the provincial government.

MR. EVANS: Because the Minister indicated that it was a matter of liaison and co-operation between the Manitoba Government, the industry and the Federal Government, could he advise us, through that involvement, of any expenditure by the Federal Government, any subsidy provided by the Federal Government, which he obviously supported, or has he some idea of the amount of money spent by the Federal Government, if there was any indeed spent?

MR. MacMASTER: I can endeavour to get those figures but, again, to the best of my knowledge - and it may be corrected tomorrow - I don't think there was any additional cost in relationship to that arrangement than there would be for any other normal immigration portion of a program into our country or into our province.

MR. EVANS: Is the Minister and his department, again in co-operation with the Federal Government and the industry, I suppose, developing a policy to bring in additional immigrants to support the garment industry?

MR. MacMASTER: The needs of the garment industry is an ongoing review and it's being reviewed constantly, as is the training program that's going on in the city, as are the efforts to establish a garment-type industry, or a garment building, something to employ people, and certainly outside the city area. That's an ongoing thing, Mr. Chairman.

I should say to the member that we're certainly pleased, as I'm sure he is, that a good number of the immigrants that have come to Manitoba, in particular the Vietnamese, are working into the garment industry. So I don't today know of their immediate needs, but they certainly are finding some of the people that . . . For humanitarian reasons, Manitoba has opened its doors to the Vietnamese people. They are finding in that particular industry, and other areas, that these people are very adept and very quick to get out and find jobs and certainly are in no way, in any way, shape or form, a burden on society in Manitoba.

MR. EVANS: Can the Minister advise whether there are some specific estimates provided by his department, perhaps in conjunction with the garment industry, as to the need for additional workers in that industry, that may be supplied through the process of immigration? In other words, is there some estimate provided by the industry as to their needs for immigrant workers in the next year, the next two years, or perhaps the next five years? Are there some intermediate or long-range plans where targets are set down, targets or estimates of workers that may be required from other countries that the garment industry would like to have the Minister and his department assist them in bringing them into Manitoba? Because as I understand it, the Federal Government, which has the major responsibility, from my recollection, the Federal Government, in this type of situation, would not move to bring in garment workers unless the provincial government supported that effort.

Now, the Minister can correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is 50 workers or any number of workers from a foreign country would not be brought into Manitoba to work unless the provincial government concurred. I would think in this specific instance, and I think the Minister indicated a three-way approach, so I just imagine that this is what he telling us, that there was concurrence on the part of the provincial government to bring in the garment workers from the Phillipines. Again, I guess I'm just repeating my question: Could he advise us of some targets or some estimates of future immigrant labour needs that the industry foresees?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I can spell out to the member that their needs are in the hundreds with the proposed expansion of the industry in the province. How successfully those needs are being filled by people here in Winnipeg going through training programs, people applying for jobs, the Vietnamese people filling those positions, I don't have those up-to-date figures but I know that their needs are in the hundreds, as their projected expansion of their operation here in Manitoba.

On that particular industry, we certainly want to upgrade our own people and get our people trained to get in there. We want to fill those positions for a multitude of reasons and I think one of the basic, well-known national reasons is that Quebec is booming ahead in the garment industry and if we are to maintain our strength in that particular industry and maintain employment opportunities in that industry, we are co-operating in every way we possibly can in the areas I have specifically outlined in particular.

MR. EVANS: Well, it wasn't quite clear from the Minister's remarks whether there are these figures available or whether there's been any studies by your own Economic Research staff or the research staff in this division. I understand there is money for research. Would there not be some research work done on the needs, the labour force needs of the garment industry, and to what extent that might be met by immigration as opposed to use of manpower that's available within Manitoba or indigenous to this country?

MR. MacMASTER: I've been informed that they could use, in the next year or two, with their expanded operations, a good 1,000 more people. Now, where they're all going to come from, I think I've elaborated or tried to explain some of the sources that we hope they come from. We also had approximately 5,000 people come in here as immigrants this particular year on a variety of programs. How many of them are filling in, I don't know. How many will fill in as the months progress, I don't know. I don't have a specific number and nobody has a specific number of the demand that we would have to make to a foreign country to fill a specific need. I've tried to be as open as I can with the member that there are so many factors, so many other groups of people under a variety of circumstances that will be plugged into that industry, hopefully. Month by month, there's more local people; there's more people being trained; there's more people coming in off the street going into the plants. That's not a number that you have fixed. But I said to the member, I knew it was hundreds that they have projected that they will need. There are many industries that project they are going to need hundreds or fifties or twenties, you know, we hear it all the time. But exactly how that particular need will be filled, has not been determined.

MR. EVANS: Well, I appreciate what the Minister is saying and I know he hopes, as I guess all of us in this House do, that as many of these jobs as possible can be filled by people here who are among the unemployed. But what I am trying to find out, I guess, in my questioning, is whether there is an immigration policy that the Minister has or that this government has. A few days back I recall reading in the paper where the former member of the House, the now Minister of Immigration and Manpower, Mr. Axworthy, has stated that he believes in increasing the amount of immigration to western Canada. I suppose he had in mind especially Alberta and Saskatchewan because of, presumably, problems in filling positions here. So apparently, Mr. Axworthy, the federal Minister, is evolving some sort of a liberalization of immigration into Canada.

But I was wondering whether the government, whether the Minister of Labour, has evolved some sort of a policy position on immigration that he is following. Is it immigration if necessary but not necessarily immigration to bring in workers to supply whatever industry needs there may be? Can he advise us if there is some policy criteria that he is working by in this field of immigration of workers?

MR. MacMASTER: Well, I mentioned earlier this evening, and the Member for Brandon, I would assume, was probably at the other committee meeting. I did make reference to what the federal Minister, Mr. Axworthy, said about thousands and thousands. In fact I think the figure he used was 600,000 jobs. I don't know what number of them he felt was going to be filled by immigrants. I do know and I think it's worth repeating to the member - I certainly said it earlier this

evening - that since spring of 1978 there is a provision now in place where the federal government must consult with the provincial governments, provincial counterparts, of which I am the Minister responsible for Immigration in Manitoba. I expect, as I said before, that the federal Minister responsible for Immigration being Mr. Axworthy, in town, will be calling a meeting of the provincial Ministers to discuss what may be perceived by him to be a new sort of a philosophy in trying to fill all jobs in the country with immigration.

I have made it very clear as we went through Manpower, the previous couple of sections, and as we go on into it, that my main emphasis and this government's main emphasis - and I think it's shared by everybody in this House - is to try to do our very best to upgrade our own people presently holding jobs who want to upgrade themselves, because there's a lot of people in positions today that aren't totally satisfied with their particular jobs. Our emphasis is, in addition to that, to try and get people who are unemployed at the moment into training programs, institutional-wise, and industrial-wise. We've talked about the kind of moneys we are putting into that. We've talked about the critical skills, areas. We've tried to get people into that. We're now negotiating with the federal government. We have asked them for \$5 million to try and get into that field.

So I don't know any more than the member opposite what Mr. Axworthy's thoughts were. I am sure that once he sort of gets his feet under the desk and looks at the legislation and looks at the country as a whole and looks at the needs and his staff inform him of what Manitoba's plans are and other provinces plans are, that he'll be calling us to Ottawa or some other such place to sit down and talk to us about the numbers of the immigration total that the federal government perceives would be appropriate for the forthcoming year.

I have said, and again for the member's information because he wasn't here, that Manitoba has traditionally taken roughly between four and five percent of what happens on a Canadian level. So if it's 100,000, then we take 5,000. Now that isn't a firm figure. We don't say we won't take 5,010, but that's generally what is in place in Canada today.

MR. EVANS: Well, it's getting late, Mr. Chairman, and I don't intend to prolong this but I just have one or two comments and questions and that will be it as far as I am concerned.

The pressure point has been, not only now but in years gone by, in fact ten or fifteen years ago I can remember, from the garment industry, that's one industry in particular . . . Well, vegetable growers to some extent as well but the garment industry has been one industry that seems to have been very anxious to obtain immigrant labour. And I can appreciate of course the reason they have a demand for labour now and that is because that industry is protected by a federal quota system. The federal quota system which is aiding and abetting, of course, the growth of the garment industry in Quebec. The two major centres of course, Quebec essentially, and of course Winnipeg; Montreal in Quebec and other points in Quebec, and then the City of Winnipeg in Manitoba, are two areas that are affected.

The irony of it is that because of this quota system now plus the devaluation of the dollar, you have a great demand for the output of Canadian garment industry. The unfortunate part of it, from my point of view, Mr. Chairman, is that this is one industry that is characterized by relatively low wages. It's known throughout the world as a low-wage industry and of course this is why it's now flourishing and prospering in southeast Asia and in other developing countries of the world, where wages are lower than they are found in either western Europe or North America.

But for one reason or other, the federal government, in co-operation with the provinces, has put this quota on and of course one reason why the province and this Minister of Labour, or former Minister of Labour, would want to go along with this is that it does provide jobs. But the irony, as I said, and maybe this is a paradox really, is that there is plenty of protection for the industry but the people in the country don't want these particular kind of jobs. And I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that therefore that this is one industry that's over-protected. I am not suggesting that the industry shouldn't get some help to be sustained and so on, but we've got a situation of over-protection if it's necessary for that industry to then put pressure on the government to bring in immigrant workers to sustain it.

The trends in the world have been, for garment industries, not from Canada or Manitoba but from the high wage areas of the world to shift to the low wage areas of the world, to shift from Europe to Hong Kong and Taiwan, to shift from the United States to India, to Indonesia, to shift from Canada to southeast Asia. That's been the trend. But we've put these quotas on and now we have a demand within Canada, which is fine. But as I said, it seems to me that there is some over-protection if the only way they can get adequate manpower is to have immigration. It's not the only way but it seems to be a way that they're driven in desperation because . . . I mean, you can look at the papers any day of the week, the Winnipeg papers, and there are columns upon columns of job advertisements for factory workers in the garment industry. Anybody who wants to have a job, really, and wants to work in the garment industry, there is a job. Of course, you must be able to earn the minimum wage in what you do because they have to pay the minimum wage so you've got to be able to produce enough garments, or whatever you produce, to earn that minimum wage or the employer is not going to keep you, obviously.

But apart from that constraint, there is a job for everybody. Right now you can . . . I don't have any papers with me but I am sure we can go out and look at the columns of factory help wanted and you see many a factory in Winnipeg wanting people, so there is no shortage of jobs in that area. But Manitobans, for whatever reason, are not flocking to the garment industry. And I say it's very ironical that we have protected industry, which then is crying out it cannot get labour, and it's now putting pressure on government to bring in foreign workers. And there is something wrong with that; I don't know what, but there is something wrong with that system. I would hope that we can be successful in encouraging our disadvantaged people in our own midst to perhaps somehow or other become more interested than they have been. And attempts have been made in the past. God knows there have been garment industries that have been even subsidized by past governments in this province into the Interlake and other parts of rural Manitoba to try to bring the factory out to where the workers are, to get them involved. And there have been many experiments. Some have been successful; some haven't been too successful. I think, on balance, it hasn't been too successful but one has to try.

I think the Minister is going very easy in this area; he wants to be reasonable, and I share his concern. I think, first and foremost, that we have to give priority to the unemployed in this country. I mean when we hear of over seven percent of unemployed in the City of Winnipeg, which is quite a high figure, and that's seasonally adjusted. If you go on an actual basis, it's higher than seven percent; it's got to be. In the month of February, a seasonal adjusted figure of seven has got to be quite a bit higher than seven percent. I don't know what it is but once you take the actual and adjust for the seasonality, you bring it down to seven point something percent for the City of Winnipeg. So that's a pretty high figure. It's about the national average.

So I say, Mr. Chairman, that one would hope that you could find the workers for this particular industry from among those unemployed but when you look at the unemployed you find that they are from various walks of life, different occupational backgrounds, different skills, different interests, and they are just not ready and prepared to go to the garment industry.

And so I am concerned about this and I think I detect the Minister's concern as well. I think we have to be very careful, in my view, to the extent to which we want to promote foreign workers coming into Manitoba when we have a large number of people unemployed in our midst. And I don't think there is really any policy difference on this. I just wanted to express my view on it and to highlight one or two points.

I am not stating that I am opposed to immigration or opposed to bringing in workers from time to time because all of us or our forefathers were immigrants at one time or another. And indeed there are parts of our economy where we do perhaps need skilled workers, but on the other hand, in this province at least and in other parts of Canada, have a rate of unemployment that I think causes us or should cause us to think twice before we spend any taxpayers money, before we use our Civil Service personnel, our staffing, to encourage a great deal of immigration of workers. Because in the final analysis I think the taxpayer out there is very very concerned, particularly if there is a subsidy involved in bringing in

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the foreign worker when they know that there are other people around in their midst in their community who have not been able to find work.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, a couple of comments. If the member . . . he'll have to excuse my ignorance. If the member knows of the quota aystem that he was making reference to or has any documentation relating to that, I would appreciate it if he would forward it to me because I don't know what quota system he was talking to.

I do know that the garment industry today is not really what it was many years ago and I would invite the member, the former Minister of Industry and Commerce in the Province of Manitoba, at his leisure, I would ask him to inform me when he would like to and I will assure him of a tour of some of the new garment industry operations that are opening up in Manitoba. I don't say that they are all that they should be but I have toured some of them myself. I make a practice of doing that kind of thing and I have found them not only an attractive place, bright, clean. Some of them have music now piped into them. The areas are laid out. They are not the sweat shops that they were a few years ago. And I think the media, and particularly here in Winnipeg, the Tribune and the Press, I can't remember who it was, did an article on that; the philosophy of what the garment industry was and what it is today; and it is the same philosophy that we talked about here earlier this evening, that in today's society, in the 1980s, you just can't run that kind of an operation or you're not going to get people at all to work, in any way, shape or form.

Certainly they do not have the numbers that they would like, but I'd also suggest to him that even the wages certainly have increased. In general round terms the garment industry people in the city here can make between \$10,000 and \$14,000 a year. Not big big money like our tradesmen and some of our highly industrialized workers but it's not bad money either.

Another effort that we have made that I think the Minister will appreciate, again being the former Minister in Industry and Commerce, in the years I am sure when he was involved, that this same industry was asking for help and I'm sure that they, in their wisdom, thought it out and allowed a number - I don't know what the number was and I don't think it's really worthwhile digging it up to find out what it was, we're not trying to score any points on that - but I think he'll remember that one of the real needs in that industry is the sewing machine mechanic. That was always a crying need, because if you're short of them you can have machines down, it doesn't matter if you've got operators or qualified people you cannot get those people working if you don't have the sewing machine mechanics.

I think the member - I'll just wait, I'm sure he's interested - I think the member would be interested in knowing that we have expanded our operations in Red River College to include and upgrade an additional, put in a sewing machine mechanics course and we are running people through there because the sewing machine mechanic is a pretty high paid person, and the industry itself is short of them. If you throw all this together, if one mechanic can service 30 machines or 40 machines, and if the industry doesn't have that mechanic, there's just no sense of them trying to get the operators.

So in some cases the industry is being held down because they didn't have the mechanics to keep the machines going. So that's another effort that we've made to try and help the industry and help our people, to help people in Manitoba.

He was talking about so many things I can't remember them all. He did say that the seasonally adjusted I think - we've got so many figures thrown around the last few days on the statistics - but the seasonally adjusted unemployment figure is 5.8. He was talking about the Winnipeg rate or the actual rate.

I think that's basically what I have to say about it. We're working at it. We think by getting more of the mechanics on-line it's going to help the industry as a whole.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Brandon East.

MR. EVANS: Yes. Well, very briefly, the Minister made the point that he didn't understand what I meant by "quotas". I thought that's what he said. I'm not talking about quotas on people, I'm talking about quotas on the actual number of garments that can come into Canada in different categories. It's a form of

protection over and above the tariff, over and above the actual import duty.

I can just tell you that we co-operated with the federal government when we were in government and with the industry, to help bring these quotas. I mean, we wanted to help the industry, I'm not saying we're against the quotas, I'm just saying in hindsight it looks as though there's a little bit too much protection or maybe there's over-protection.

But we went along with this idea and we worked with the federal government to bring in the quota system. So I'm not knocking it, I'm just saying that's the fact and I don't have the details, but I just wanted to make it clear. The quota relates to the number of garment items in different categories. --(Interjection)-- I beg your pardon? No, not people, no no, not the immigrants; the commodities, the garments, so many shirts, so many overalls, so many whatever, blue jeans and the like.

And on the conditions, I agree. I think the industry has come a long way. I think the working conditions are a lot better than they ever were before. You don't have to take me on any tour, I've been to a few of them - not in the last two years - but I've been to some before.

But I would just say this, and I don't want to prolong this. For all the improvements that have been made in working conditions, for all the adjustments in wages, and so on, the fact is that there obviously seems to be a shortage of availability of manpower supply into that industry; obviously they're advertising like crazy and there are all kinds of efforts made by the industry to attract people into it.

I'm asking the question, I don't know what the answer is, I'm asking the question: What is it that can attract more Manitobans, more Canadians from all walks of life, whoever is interested, to come into that industry? Because you don't find that in most other manufacturing. I mean you don't find that in the aerospace industry. I don't think - at this point in time at least, maybe there was at some time in the last 10, 20 years, I don't know - however some of the other major industries, packing house industries, other food and beverage industries, breweries, you don't find the shortage of workers, the workers are there. In fact we've got a surplus of workers in a lot of categories, but not in the garment industry.

So I ask the question: What is it that is causing this shortage of available manpower, person power, for the industry? There has to be something.

I would suggest - and I'm only suggesting and I don't know whether that's the answer - it's probably that relatively speaking given the amount of money you can earn for what you have to do to earn it, it's probably not attractive vis-a-vis in relation to what can be earned in other industries, in other occupations. There has to be something. It must compare unfavourably somehow or else there would be adequate manpower supply, there's got to be, and I don't know what it is.

So I still ask the question but I don't really invite the Minister to make any long speech to reply unless he wants to, because I don't want to keep him here any longer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1)--pass; (2)--pass; (c)--pass. The Honourable Minister.

MR. MacMASTER: I appreciate it passing but just before committee rises, if whoever suggested that opposite could sort of hold it for a minute. Was it the Member for Kildonan? I have two or three things I want to clean up.

I have a copy here of the courses that are laid down in firefighting throughout the province which I wish to forward to the Member for Churchill.

He will note on the last page, even though a lot of the ones that are presently scheduled, are scattered throughout northern Manitoba, central Manitoba, all throughout the province. The bottom of the last page reads:

"Northern Communities. In addition to the above listed locations, members of the training section shall consult, advise and train community and fire department personnel on all northern communities," - and I've written in for his benefit - "yet to be determined".

And we talked about the progress that we must make in getting these communities organized, so it's virtually impossible at this time to say, yes, we'll be in the Norway House region for a training session, until we get three or four of the

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groups together. I think he'll understand that explanation. If that could go to the Member for Churchill.

I believe it's the Member for Churchill or the Member for Kildonan asked if I could get a general figure on the number of new organized people in Manitoba in the last year and it's approximately 1,120 that were organized.

For the sake of the record, I have talked to the Member for Inkster personally, but I told him I wanted it going on the record because he'd asked the question, whether Harold Piercy's company had done any consulting work of which they were paid for by the Department of Labour and Manpower in the last year, and the answer is no. I just want that for the record and I have explained that to the Member for Inkster because he had asked the question.

That's all, Mr. Chairman. I'd be quite pleased to have committee rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prior to that I would just relate to the honourable members that earlier this evening I had gone home to supper and my son, Larry, had mentioned to me, he says, "Dad, what do you do as the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committee?" And I said, "Well, I just sit there and I rule", and he said, "Well, you don't get much chance to speak in the Legislature".

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the honourable members for allowing me a chance to speak this evening.

Committee rise.