

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
Thursday, 12 March, 1981

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. Harry E. Graham (Birtle-Russell): Presenting Petitions . . . Reading and Receiving Petitions . . . Presenting Reports By Standing and Special Committees.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS AND
TABLING OF REPORTS**

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. L. R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Annual Report for 1980 of the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of Motion . . . Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: At this time I would like to draw the honourable members' attention to the gallery on my left where we have 21 students of Grade 6 standing from Chancellor School, under the direction of Mrs. Pickett. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Minister of Health. On behalf of all the honourable members we welcome you here this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Economic Development: We are aware of the fact that a possible helicopter plant in Gimli has always been very close to the Minister's heart, because it was the Minister that gave such a helicopter plant extensive coverage, Mr. Speaker. Then I ask the Minister this question: Due to the fact that the company has announced that it had arranged \$40 million in private financing and all that it awaited was clearance from FIRA and from Immigration officials in Ottawa, then I ask the Minister why did he state in this Chamber on February 11th of this year that he was not aware of where the West German company is trying to obtain its money?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition just answered my question, his own question. He asked me if I was aware of where they were obtaining their money. I received a telex from them, at least one of my staff did on December 15th, saying that they had arranged some financing. The telex also invited, it didn't say that they would pay people's way from

Manitoba to Germany. It said it would invite us in early January to be there towards the end of January to look at the prototypes. We have never received an invitation and, Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the way they are raising their money. It could be from banks or private people, I don't know.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Minister responsible for Economic Development isn't much aware of anything pertaining to the operations of his Department. I further ask the Minister whether or not the company has been offered specific space at specific rental rates in either Gimli or in Winnipeg, and further has the company been provided by the province with specific information as to tax rates, land prices, lists of suppliers, estimates of heat, water, hydro, and other costs such as telephone?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the company made a request, although the article says they didn't, we have on record requests of funding, requested from them which was made to us approximately a year ago. At that time, I wrote Mr. Heydecke, pointing out our position in the Province of Manitoba. In that letter I told Mr. Heydecke there would be available to him reasonable office space at 155 Kennedy Street, where he or some of his staff could work out of, on the basis that they were to indicate that they were serious in going ahead with the project in Gimli, Manitoba.

Mr. Heydecke, on three occasions was accompanied by my staff to the Gimli base, and at that time they were shown with their accountants from Burch, Findlay, McFarlane the published rates in the Gimli project up there, the Gimli Park. We also made it very clear that when he asked us verbally, we had nothing on file, Mr. Speaker, at one time wanted us to expropriate the farmland around and sell it to him. That wouldn't be acceptable. Then he asked what the taxes were in the area; he asked all the different questions about land prices. These are readily available to his accounting firm or his lawyer, at any time, Mr. Speaker.

I may as well clear up the next question, Mr. Speaker, regarding information. The article says, when he spoke about the \$59.60, he says, — this is to Mr. Jerry Gunn, signed by Mr. Mitchell of my department — "I understand that your clients in West Germany on the helicopter project are looking for a comprehensive directory of potential Canadian suppliers to the aerospace industry. I also understand that you have been supplied with a list of companies in this country that can produce certain aerospace components, but this does not include the list of foundries and other general backup facilities. I am enclosing a copy of the Manitoba Trade Directory, which outlines all the services for manufacture and distribution within the province and which can be made available to your client.

"I recognize that this is not the national listing, but should be of some interest to you and your associates. Should you desire a reference for the availability of manufacturers on a national basis, I suggest you contact the Canadian Manufacturers Association at 408-428 Portage Avenue, in Winnipeg

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

and they can supply you with a 1980 Canadian Index at a cost of \$59.60 plus 2 cents postage."

Now, Mr. Speaker, "There are also various trade indexes available for reference in our departmental library and there is one of the trade indexes available there and the public is encouraged to make use of them. I am sure that through these various sources, your client will be able to arrive at a good cross section of potential suppliers across Canada."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, further to the Minister of Economic Development, is the Minister of Economic Development indicating today, in this Chamber, that he has provided to the representatives of the helicopter company all information requested by that helicopter company, or indeed that there is still some information that that company is awaiting?

MR. JOHNSTON: If the Leader of the Opposition would read the article that he's referring to, I believe that one of the officials of my department stated, that we feel that we have provided the information that has been requested from us, certainly the information in writing. The official also said if there is more information they require and if they're not satisfied, they could contact us and we will do our best to supply us.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Leader of the Opposition with a fourth question.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, since the company has not requested any funds from the Province of Manitoba; and since the company has indicated that the delay and the holdup is due to inability on its part to obtain information from this government; and since this government is represented by this Minister of Economic Development, who has given this matter his top priority, his top priority: Can the Minister advise whether or not he intends to instruct his department to undertake a complete review of his department's handling of this matter?

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise whether or not he will review his general policy pertaining to providing information to potential new businesses interested in coming to the Province of Manitoba?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, we had a brief review this morning, and I'm satisfied that the information to this company, that they requested, was provided. I have said if they feel they need anymore, it will be provided. I don't know what more I can tell the honourable member. When he talks about the review of supporting companies to come to this province, when we have a list of over 300 companies or more, that have started business in the Province of Manitoba through DREE grants or Information Assistance from our department, etc., I would say that the department is doing a very good job working with people at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

The position of the province, which I outlined to Mr. Heydecke last February; it was outlined to him again by one of the officials of my department on

February 24th of 1981, it does not change. The helicopter

company which is owned by Mr. Heydecke or lead by Mr. Heydecke must provide a business plan for the Federal Government and until that time, until they do that, I can assure you that the province will not be making any move on that particular program.

We did a study on it. The study was three-quarters paid for by the Federal Government and one-quarter paid for by the Provincial Government; the study apparently does not satisfy the Federal Government at the present time. If the company is not able to satisfy the Federal Government, I can assure you the Provincial Government will not be moving on it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SIDNEY GREEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour, in view of my failure to make any impact on the Minister of Consumer Affairs.

Is the Minister of Labour aware of the Greater Winnipeg Gas Company standard instructions regarding service to their own service people, which called for, amongst other things, free inspection of all residential appliances and adjustments as required on all gas burning portions of the appliance; cleaning of all domestic furnaces, boilers, water heaters, refrigerators, when requested? Is he aware that in view of the . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Questions of awareness are hardly questions seeking information. Would the honourable member care to rephrase his question?

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, is it of concern to the Minister of Labour, in his capacity as Minister who has concern over industrial disputes, that the Winnipeg Gas Company is prolonging an industrial dispute by taking advantage of the fact that they are no longer supplying services to their customers?

Mr. Speaker, I would like a Page to provide the document to the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Labour.

HON. KEN MacMASTER (Thompson): Mr. Speaker, work stoppage issues are won and lost in a variety of ways. Let me suggest to the Member for Inkster a different line of thinking. He is suggesting now that the government or that the Greater Winnipeg Gas Company is now charging their customers for a service that previously to the strike was allegedly given for free.

Mr. Speaker, there is a possibility that union leaders could consider that advantageous to their position and I say to you this, Mr. Speaker, for consideration. If I was a union leader and had some people out on strike and I found the person that I was striking against was doing something adverse to some of its customers, I would do, I think, what the union people are doing in this case. They're making a fair amount of noise about it, they're bringing it to a lot of people's attention, that the customers in fact allegedly are suffering some lack of service that they had before the strike and it's creating public pressure on the company to get themselves damn

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

well back to the bargaining table. That's what I might think if I was a union leader. What I might think if I was president of the particular company would be kicking some of my advisers in the you know where for allowing that type of public pressure to be generated on behalf of the union.

MR. GREEN: In view of the fact that all of the advice the Minister of Labour has given and all of the pressure has no effect whatsoever on the Minister to whom the Gas Company reports, Mr. Speaker, the Minister to whom the Gas Company is responsible through the Public Utility Board.

Would the Minister, in view of the fact that this is an essential service, now consider it having had no effect on the Government or on the Company and consider convening an industrial enquiry, not for the purpose of intervening in the dispute but to determine whether an essential service company is refraining from providing services to the customers to whom it has an exclusive franchise of services, to determine whether they are doing that in order to save money and prolong the strike?

I ask the Minister whether he aware of the Gas Company's advertising, which says, Mr. Speaker, that trained and licensed Gas Company servicemen are on call 24 hours a day to provide a free inspection, adjustment and advisory service? Again, Mr. Speaker, I want this document made to the Minister of Labour.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, Mr. Speaker, I suppose the Member for Inkster should be excused from not understanding what I was saying. I suppose if I look opposite, the Member for Kildonan and Logan would be the only two that have had the years of union experience that would understand in fact that you use a lot of weapons when there's a work stoppage. What I've said to you, and it's recorded in Hansard, I believe to be a valid point. I believe that the union people feel that way. It's a pressure point that's being applied at this particular moment, and the union people don't need to be told what to do about that particular advantage that they have today in this dispute.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Inkster with a final supplementary.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister now appears to have changed his song from last year, when he said that the only person who understood the labour relations has left the New Democratic Party and now sits here where I am.

Would he, Mr. Speaker, would he —(Interjection)— Mr. Speaker, those were the Minister's words. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister consider, since two weeks have elapsed since this matter was brought to his attention, and there is neither a settlement of the strike, which I agree should not be brought about by any kind of government intervention, nor is there service to the customers of Manitoba Hydro such as has been promised by the Gas Company. Would the Minister consider convening an industrial enquiry not to settle the strike but to determine whether the Gas Company is fulfilling its responsibility to the customer which it has an obligation to serve by The Public Utilities Act . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I believe the question is repetitive; if the member cares to rephrase it.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the first question was answered on the basis of not under my lack of understanding, I am repeating the question on the basis of the Minister's lack of understanding because he didn't answer it, and I'm merely asking him whether he will now consider convening a public enquiry to determine whether the Greater Winnipeg Gas Company has deliberately prolonged this strike because it is saving money on the amount of services which it is supposed to provide to its customers.

MR. MacMASTER: Well, the first thing I'd better clear up is the statement that I said last year and there is no question. The Member from Inkster understands the philosophy.

We're talking about strikes and we're talking about negotiations, and there's only really two other people in this House that understand it. On that side in particular the Member for Kildonan and the Member from Logan who have years of union experience, have gone through the conciliation, arbitration, negotiating in strike problems — they understand it. I can be corrected if the Member from Inkster has been involved in that process from a practical viewpoint rather than a legal viewpoint. Maybe he has.

As far as I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker, to precisely answer his question, I don't think at this stage that there's a need for an enquiry. I do know, and maybe it's public and maybe it isn't public, but I don't think that it's confidential that the two parties are in fact talking.

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

MR. SAMUEL USKIW: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister for Economic Development if he can indicate whether or not the lack of funding was partly the reason for failure to reach an agreement as between the Province of Manitoba and the helicopter plant people in Gimli.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of whether it was lack of funding from the province or the Federal Government that stopped the helicopter program from moving ahead or not. They made a request as I said, to us, for some funding regardless of what the newspaper article may say, approximately last February. It was not granted. We in the province agreed with the Federal Government to do a study; the study was returned to us. There was a request by the Federal Government to do a business plan. We also informed them that they would have to find their financing, we informed them that the Gimli Park had not been rented at this time and that it would be on a first-come, first-serve basis. They were up there three times. I don't know whether it was the lack of funding from government that stopped it or not.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the Minister acknowledges that there was indeed a request for provincial funding of the helicopter plant proposal for Gimli, could he indicate why the

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

province chose not to provide any funding for that plant?

MR. JOHNSTON: I thought the answer to the question is obvious. Would the province provide funding before we had had the report from the consultant, which was paid for by the Federal and Provincial Governments? Would we go into funding of an aircraft that did not have proper certification, the way the previous government did? No, Mr. Speaker, we would wait until we had reports from the consultant. The consultant's report was in; the Federal Government has read it; the Federal Government has asked for a business plan; the Federal Government has asked for that on the basis that up to now it is a paper company; the Federal Government asked for it because their representative went to Germany and found that there were only two helicopters in a crate on the border of Switzerland. Mr. Speaker, the company had not presented to us any kind of reason for the Provincial Government to go into it; they haven't satisfied the Federal Government at this point either.

MR. USKIW: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe anyone would suggest that the Government of Manitoba advance moneys to a proposed plant operation wherein it is deemed that it is not a viable proposal. My question of the Minister, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not the province at least indicated to the firm that they would be prepared to fund, to some degree, that particular plant if indeed the consultant's report was positive?

MR. JOHNSTON: The province, Mr. Speaker, indicated that if the report was favorable and the Federal Government — who are the experts, Mr. Speaker? We do not have experts in the aerospace industry, as such, in the Province of Manitoba. There is a department of the Federal Government that has, under Industry, Trade and Commerce, a special section. We rely on them for a lot of advice.

Mr. Speaker, we have indicated that we would take a look at the whole project if the report was such that the Federal Government believed that it would be viable. Mr. Speaker, I don't think that the government can do any more than that, other than, Mr. Speaker, that we did indicate that if they were serious about moving into Gimli and could produce the financing and everything that would be required, that we would consider letting them have the space in Gimli at a reasonable rate.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

HON. GERALD W.J. MERCIER (Osborne): Mr. Speaker, last week the Member for Burrows asked me a question with respect to transfer of liquor vendors' permits. I am now advised by the Liquor Control Commission that transfers of liquor vendors' permits are being processed, as received, with no delays. With reference to new liquor vendor applications, there are currently 22 applications involving 20 different towns and villages, and these requests are being held in abeyance pending receipt of the report from the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Liquor Control and the applicants have all been advised in writing.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere.

MR. VIC SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Economic Development. In view of the fact that that portion of the Enterprise Manitoba Program providing grants to rural businesses is not achieving its goal of expanding our economy, will the Minister renegotiate that agreement with Ottawa in order that those funds can be used instead to reduce interest being paid by existing businesses, which are in serious trouble because of the economic mismanagement of this government and because of the higher interest rates brought on by successive Federal Conservative and Liberal Governments?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would just like to briefly say what I said, there are no experts in the aerospace industry in the province. There are very good people in aerospace in the province, but within our department we do not have the expertise the same as the expertise that they have in Ottawa. It is very hard to answer the honourable member's question, Mr. Speaker, because I don't agree with him about the economic condition of the province.

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, if these are the good times promised by the Tories in 1977, I wonder when the bad times are going to come.

I would like to know how many of these businesses that have received these grants from this Minister would have expanded in any event without those grants?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the present study that is being done on the program, I can tell him that the consultants have been in contact with approximately 67 or 68 of the people who had grants from us. The indication at the present time is that over 60 percent of those questioned said they would not have gone into the project without the assistance of the Provincial Government, and others have said that they would not have been able to buy as modern equipment without the assistance of the program. We hope to have the full report very soon, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rossmere with a final supplementary.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would welcome that report, but I would again ask the Minister to determine, while he is getting this report, how many businesses would still be in business had we had some interest rate subsidization, such as Lambair and many of the other businesses that have bitten the dust in the last year, if we would have used that money to subsidize those rates, which were brought about by the Conservative and Liberal Federal Governments, instead of pouring the money into other businesses which appeared not to have needed it in the first place.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the member has had it explained to him five times. I think I could go to Hansard in my Estimates last year and see questions from him. The Enterprise Manitoba Program has five sections to it. It is a \$44 million

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

program. The last section, Section 6, is the Rural Incentive Program. It is \$5 million over five years, of which the province puts in \$2 million over five years. It was designed to help increase the manufacturing and to expand the manufacturing in the rural areas. There are approximately 465 manufacturing companies in the rural area of the Province of Manitoba and that has to be corrected. This program was brought about because there was nothing for those small manufacturers in the rural area to help them expand or help them to go into business. There were all kinds of programs, DREE, FBD, everything else for small people. The provincial government and the federal government sat down and came to an agreement that we would try, which cost the Provincial Government \$2 million over five years, to try to do something to help expand the manufacturing in rural Manitoba. If the honourable members on the other side don't want to do that, they should stand up and make it known right now.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Leader of the Opposition.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Economic Development, the Minister of Economic Development has left the impression that the company was seeking funds. Will the Minister acknowledge that the \$3 million to \$4 million which were involved in the initial discussions between the Province of Manitoba and a helicopter company were the result of an indication by officials within his department that there was a slush fund within his department that could provide \$3 million to \$4 million; that that was later found to be incorrect; that statement was then withdrawn by officials within his department and that ever since that particular stage in the negotiations, the company has not requested any funds whatsoever from the Government of the Province of Manitoba?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I know of no indication made by my department; I will check it. As far as I am concerned, I know of no indication that was made by the department since I have been in the department, but we have gone through the files, and the Province of Manitoba has never made it known to anybody that we had a slush fund. The Province of Manitoba says that they would consider each individual application. That has been the statement that we have always made. Mr. Speaker, there was a request made in February of 1980.

MR. PAWLEY: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that the plant is not viable and that is certainly not for members on this side of the Chamber or elsewhere to determine. But it is interesting, Mr. Speaker, and I ask the Minister to advise why he announced this project with such tremendous fanfare, with such extensive coverage, in the midst of the Federal Election in 1980, in order to try to salvage the sinking ship of the Progressive Conservative candidate in the Constituency of Selkirk-Interlake?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, it was with the greatest disappointment of this government that that project was ever announced at that time. Mr. Speaker, the announcement was made about the

helicopter plant in Gimli by a federal member; it was a Conservative federal member. It was made by that member, not the member running in Gimli, and it was made after there was information given to him by the helicopter people, not this Provincial Government, and that's just another misleading lie by . . .

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Economic Development, or the so-called Minister of Economic Development. My question to that Minister, as there seems to have been —(Interjection)—

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. I appreciate the levity of the Chamber, but if we could have some decorum to go with it.

I would recognize the Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, this is no laughing matter. The bungling of the Department of Economic Development may be a joke, but it is no laughing matter.

My question to the Minister responsible for Economic Development follows on the light of media reports, which have created considerable doubt as to the competence of that Minister. The Minister says that he had complied with every request from those individuals promoting the helicopter report. Is the Minister now prepared to table copies of the correspondence requesting that information from his department, as well as his replies and the material that he says was attached to those replies in response to those requests? Is he prepared to table them so that we can see, so that we can judge, in fact, if they have responded accurately, effectively, and efficiently to those requests for information?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the member knows how to receive tabled correspondence, or requests for correspondence. There was a tremendous amount of verbal conversation between the two parties. I can assure the honourable member that, according to my staff, they have done everything that they believe possible regarding the requests from the company.

Mr. Speaker, we made our position clear last February; we waited for an invitation from the wire that was received on the 15th of December; we had no invitation; we reiterated our position on February 24 of 1981. Mr. Speaker, the position is this, that the company must satisfy the Federal Government with a business plan and prove the viability of a business plan, and if the Federal Government wants to go into it, fine. The Province of Manitoba is not moving on the helicopter program until all of those things are done.

MR. COWAN: I think this side's, the NDP Opposition's concern . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. If the honourable member has a question, he may state his question.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is: What process does the Minister's department use, what process has the Minister developed in order to generally respond to requests for information from industry and other individuals who are seeking to locate their industry in the Province of Manitoba? Can he indicate now what the general response to those sorts of requests are, because this issue goes beyond this one incident; this issue goes into the way that Minister has failed to live up to his responsibilities in his department?

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the last person I would worry about making any statements about my competency would be the Member for Churchill. In fact, it wouldn't bother me a bit.

Let me inform you that the department is such that we get all kinds of requests and we follow up all kinds of leads. When you are dealing with business, there's no set process, but we do have a process of follow-up and correspondence, etc., with our development officers that work very well. It works very well, Mr. Speaker, because we have been involved in the last two years in approximately 300 businesses that have come to Manitoba or expanded in Manitoba.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Churchill with a final supplementary

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, it is not I alone who is concerned with the Minister's competence.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Does the honourable member have a question?

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, as there are many who are concerned with the Minister's competence, can he . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Has the honourable member a question?

The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Is the Minister prepared to table the study which he indicates was done on this particular funding and this particular project by the Federal Government and the Provincial Government? Is he prepared to provide a copy of that study to the House so that we can examine it and peruse it, as I think should be the responsibility of the Opposition?

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, the member wouldn't understand it anyway, but I would be pleased to table the study, Mr. Speaker, on the conditions that are usually found or done in this House. The study was three-quarters paid for by the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, and I will contact the Federal Government and if they feel that the study is such that they would like to see it released, if there's an Order for Return I would do so.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Due to the light snow cover this winter and the possible threat of a drought, I wonder if the Minister has any plans in the department that the farmers will have the backing of the government and the department in the event that we don't get any more moisture than we've had all winter.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Agriculture.

HON. JAMES E. DOWNEY (Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I have requested that the department bring forward a report on the soil conditions as well as any information that is available from BUS, work that is being done on their predictions of the moisture conditions as well as looking at the alternative programs, Mr. Speaker, that may have to be re-introduced this year to alleviate some of the difficulties if we were to have drought conditions. However, Mr. Speaker, if we are to have warm dry conditions in this country, then I do prefer to have them in January and February.

MR. McKENZIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of another Minister. I wonder can I ask the Minister . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please, order please. You can have a supplementary. There are other members that haven't had a chance yet.

The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MS. JUNE WESTBURY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister of Urban Affairs, and refers to the request —(Interjection)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MS. WESTBURY: To the Minister of Urban Affairs: My question refers to the request of the City of Winnipeg last November relative to having vacant lots approved for low-cost infill housing in the city approved by the Minister for second mortgage assistance under the Manitoba Home Ownership Assistance Plan. Has the Minister yet given a reply to the city on this matter and if so, what is the reply, please?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Urban Affairs.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, that matter is still under consideration but I expect it will be resolved very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The time for Question Period having expired we'll proceed with Orders of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY ADDRESS FOR PAPERS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Elmwood.

MR. RUSSELL DOERN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital:

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

THAT an humble address be voted to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor praying for a copy of the statements of Thompson, Dorfman, Sweatman, itemizing the total charges of \$240,908.04 paid to them for services provided to the Commissioner of Inquiry into Manitoba Hydro as referred to in Sessional Paper No. 54.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair and the House resolve itself into a committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty. Mr. Speaker, that's not Interim Supply, Interim Supply will be tomorrow, it will just be the two committees today.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee with the Honourable Member for Radisson in the Chair for the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Environment, and the Honourable Member for Virden in the Chair for the Department of Health.

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY — HEALTH

MR. CHAIRMAN, Morris McGregor (Virden): I call the committee to order. We're on page 74, (c)(1) — the Member for Transcona.

MR. WILSON PARASIUK: The Minister was giving us some figures on this two nights ago and I was wondering if he could just quickly give us the figures for this year as compared to last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, is the Member for Transcona referring to the patient populations that . . .

MR. PARASIUK: That's right, patient populations and staff, I think, just to give us some idea of patient to staff ratios as well.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, I can do that. With respect to the staffing, at the two major mental health centres, Brandon and Selkirk, total staff man years at Brandon are 631 . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: No vacancies?

MR. SHERMAN: Well, we have some vacancies but what we have managed to do is keep the vacancy level down very low through the filling of positions quickly and on the basis of term staff, and that mechanism has enabled us to keep our vacancy rate low, both at Brandon and Selkirk. I'll just check with my chief psychiatrist to see whether we have a figure on the vacancies.

The vacancy rate at Brandon is running 1.8 percent. The total vacancies as of February 28th I'm advised were 11 out of a total SMY complement of 631. At Selkirk the total SMY complement is 474.

The vacancy rate at Selkirk is 1.3 percent and it amounts to six vacancies as of February 28th.

At Eden, I don't have the staffing at Eden, but as you know it's administered by the Mennonite Churches, but I have got the patient population and out-patient population at Eden and we can certainly supply the committee with the staff figures for Eden.

On the patient populations in Brandon, the in-patient population in December of 1980 was 555, compared to an in-patient population one year earlier of 574.

At Selkirk the in-patient population in December of 1980 was 370, compared to an in-patient population one year earlier, December, 1979, of 391. At Eden, the in-patient population in December of 1980 was 37 compared to an in-patient population one year earlier of 43.

Did the honourable member ask for the out-patient populations too?

MR. PARASIUK: Yes.

MR. SHERMAN: The outpatient populations: Brandon, December, 1980, 1,618 compared to a figure one year earlier of 1,488; Selkirk, December, 1980, 1,235 compared to a figure one year earlier of 1,549; Eden, December 1980, 741 compared to a recorded figure for one year earlier of 1,328 but my officials advise me that the 741 is the number of patients actually under active treatment on an out-patient basis at the end of the year and the figures for earlier years at Eden actually included all out-patients carried on their records, many of whom had no longer been receiving active treatment. So it is hard to compare. (Interjection)— well, that's true, too. So there's really no reasonable comparison there. I guess the most reasonable comparison, or the most meaningful comparison, would be to give you the previous year for Eden. December, 1978, it was 1,139 and that compares with December, 1979 of 1,328 and December, 1980 of 741. So you can see that the updating of the records has changed the mathematics substantially.

MR. PARASIUK: Can the Minister give an indication as to why the number of out-patients in Brandon has increased, while at the same time the number of out-patients has decreased in Selkirk and decreased in the Eden Centre at Winkler?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether I can offer a fully satisfactory answer to that question, other than to say that with respect to some of our mental health centres, we have different community outreach programs in place than those that are in place in other communities and there are also different forms and structures of support available in different communities. It doesn't reflect either any shift in direction or emphasis in terms of programming. As a matter of fact, through the Community Health Directorate, we are hoping to intensify and expand the ability of the department to deal with this particular health problem in the community and outside of the institution. It doesn't reflect any general change in prevalence of mental illness but there certainly, from time to time, are aberrations in respect to regional incidents of illness, mental and otherwise, and I'm not sure that I can provide any more satisfactory explanation than that. I can look into it for the committee.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, it should be normal that as you have less people in the in-patient, the out-patient should grow. I think that is recognized and I think that is one of the aims of the department, providing there are facilities to take care of them also.

Now, could it be in Selkirk, that Selkirk is closer to Winnipeg? Could some of these people be coming in, for instance, from psychiatric wards of different hospitals and could it be, also, that there is a change in the personal care homes, that some of them are now in personal care homes?

MR. SHERMAN: Certainly there is a greater capacity to deal with some of these problems in Winnipeg than in some other parts of the province, and Selkirk would no doubt be a bigger beneficiary of that than Brandon would. We have, in the last year, put into place the acute emergency psychiatric facility at the Health Sciences Centre, which can handle emergency cases right off the street on a 24-hour-a-day basis. We have the MacEwen Residence fully operating now at 56 beds on the St. Boniface Hospital campus. We have the thrust of the Community Health Directorate moving into higher gear and no doubt the suggestion that the Member for St. Boniface makes goes some distance in explaining the change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. SAUL A. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the amounts indicated here under (c), has there been any underexpenditure or is the amount shown here the amount that is expected to be spent in this year? I realize the general — I'm not talking about the general salary increase.

MR. SHERMAN: We don't expect at this point in time to have an underexpenditure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUKE: I would like to go back to the figures again and look at both the in-patient and out-patient, especially the out-patient differences between Brandon and Selkirk. They both have inverse trends. The out-patient number in Brandon is increasing, while at the same time it is decreasing in Selkirk, yet according to your own Annual Report, the Brandon Mental Health Centre has a catchment area of approximately 210,000 residents and Selkirk Mental Health Centre has a catchment area of 780,000 people. So I can appreciate that you might have some differences with respect to the in-patient population, because you might have a bigger capacity, a bigger plan at Brandon, but in relation to out-patient services, I would have thought that Selkirk would have had a higher number of out-patients than Brandon. If in fact the catchment area is at least three times greater.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the only explanation of that is the facilities that are available in Winnipeg, we have psychiatric departments and psychiatric out-patient capacity at

six hospitals in Winnipeg now, and that speaks to primarily, much of the catchment area in which Selkirk would consider itself involved.

I think the addition of the facilities in Winnipeg to which I have referred and the Community Mental Health Directorate and the force of community mental health workers in Winnipeg, combined with the six psychiatric departments in out-patient capacities in Winnipeg hospitals, makes it possible to reduce the demand and pressure on Selkirk for out-patient services to the level reflected in these statistics.

Brandon is in a somewhat different category in that respect. I wonder, Mr. Chairman, if I could correct something left on the record the other night when we were talking about the statistics for mentally ill persons and post-mentally ill persons in Manitoba, when I said that there were 800 in foster homes and 14,000 in an out-patient capacity and I think we cited 5,000 on sort of continuing treatment, but not regular out-patient treatment. The 14,000 figure was in error, Mr. Chairman. It reflects out-patient visits and would reduce down in numbers of persons to about 5,000 persons, 14,000 out-patient visits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is not too serious, but the staff man year that you gave us for the year between Brandon and Selkirk comes to 1,105 and that's what you're requesting this year. It seems then that you were operating on a certain amount of small number of unauthorized staff at this time who were borrowed from somewhere else because you were given 1,092; you asked for 1,092 according to your figures, unless there's a transfer somewhere else.

MR. SHERMAN: Well the figures that I've given include a request for . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: I am talking about what you want, not what you have now.

MR. SHERMAN: Right.

MR. DESJARDINS: Then your vacancies would be way less than that; you would have practically no vacancy at all, because you gave us 11 out of 631 and six — that's 17 vacancies between the two places — and you are asking for 13, so you have got only a vacancy of four.

MR. SHERMAN: No, the vacancies that I gave, 11 at Brandon and six at Selkirk, are as of February 28 on the present complement, but we are asking for 13 new positions, five at Brandon and eight at Selkirk.

MR. DESJARDINS: I understand, but you are saying that when you gave us the information, you gave us the vacancy that was an actual vacancy as of that date, but the staff man years, you gave us what you want, you have included your increase in there, the 17 increase.

MR. SHERMAN: That's right. For 1981-82, the staff man year figure.

MR. DESJARDINS: That's a little unusual. That gives us, you know, a vacancy of one . . . 1,105 was

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

the figure that we were given between Brandon and Selkirk, and this is what they are requesting. What they have now is 1,092. What had been authorized last year was 1,092, but he is giving us the vacancies out of the present. It's not that important.

MR. SHERMAN: That's correct, Mr. Chairman, but we intend to fill those new ones immediately upon April 1 or April 2, as fast as we can. But it is correct that the total staff-man-year complement that I have provided for Brandon of 631, is the 1981-82 figure that we are putting in front of the committee. At the present time, that total of 631 would be 626, because we are asking for five new positions. In the case of Selkirk, the 1981-82 request is for 474, and at the present time it would be 466 because eight are new positions. The vacancies are vacancies on the existing complement, not counting the 13 new positions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, just one question. Can the Minister advise whether there are an adequate number of psychiatric nurses, or whether there is still a shortage of them? Can he give us an idea how both institutions or all institutions, are dealing with regard to the question of psychiatric nurses? Is there a shortage in Manitoba or do we have as many as we need?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, we don't have enough psychiatric nurses in Manitoba, and psychiatric nurses are really in the vanguard of this whole health field, psychiatry and mental health, and we look to our psychiatric nurses to carry the initiatives and the main workload in this field. I know the committee recognizes them as the vital professionals that they are, and we don't have sufficient. We are very much encouraged by a substantial increase in enrolments in our Psychiatric Nurse Training Program in the professional training component of the department and of these Estimates, which will produce for us a major increase in psychiatric nurses for Brandon, Selkirk, and the Manitoba School within the next two years in 1980, Mr. Chairman, we graduated 52 psychiatric nurses and that compared with 43 in 1979 but it also compared with 61 in 1978.

As of January 1981 we have a total of 141 psychiatric nurses under training; 99 of them are in the first year of their two-year course and 42 of them are in the second year. Provided we retain them all, we'll be graduating an additional 42 this June and we'll be making every effort we can to retain a maximum of that 99 who are in the first year and would be graduating in June of 1982.

The projected first year enrolment for September 1981 coming up, is a further 104, so the manpower need is certainly being addressed, but the answer to the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks' question really lies right in those statistics and in those efforts that are being made to build up the intake and the size of the graduating classes. We do not have enough psychiatric nurses. For that reason under, I guess it was 2.(a) Operational Support Services Administration, in our Estimates request we are asking \$378.8 thousand in the coming year as against \$285,000 in the year now ending for

psychiatric nurses at Brandon, Selkirk and the Manitoba School, for those training programs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated the enrolments and the nurses that are now in training and that some would be graduating in June of this year, but what he said basically was that he hopes that will fill the need if however, they choose to stay on in Manitoba. Is there any reason that the Minister feels that they may not stay on in Manitoba, that they wouldn't be inclined to remain in Manitoba since they've gotten their training here?

MR. SHERMAN: Well the only reason, I guess is the endemic one that we always face in Manitoba, the lure, the attractions of other jurisdictions. I think that the new wage contract that has been put into place between Manitoba Health Organizations and the RN's, the Manitoba Organization of Nurses Associations, and the kinds of things that we recognize that we have to do in our collective agreements with the MGEA, will go some distance to encouraging psychiatric nurses to stay here plus, quite frankly, I would hope that there is some psychological support and encouragement that's being offered by the department itself.

We believe and I know that some people can categorize it partly as rhetoric, but it isn't rhetoric, I believe that we have major challenges in the psychiatric and mental health field, and I have talked to the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association about it. I've certainly had many discussions with Dr. Roy Tavener and other of our psychiatric advisers about it. I'm hoping to demonstrate that through the new facilities that we are trying to bring on stream like the MacEwan Residence and like the chronic psychiatric facility that I am proposing in my capital program, which I will be introducing as soon as we get to the Commission phase of the Estimates, that we are demonstrating to our mental health workers, our psychiatrists and our psychiatric nurses, that we mean business in the field of mental health and that there are many challenges here and they will be recognized and properly rewarded for staying here.

As I say, that may sound like rhetoric, but it's part of the job and I intend to follow through on it, but we do of course continually face the blandishments of other jurisdictions and the rating enterprises of other jurisdictions and we are caught in that competitive picture. But I have no reason to suspect, in direct answer to the honourable member's questions, that we will not be able to retain the major proportion of those 141 nurses who are now in training in the psychiatric field. I am aiming to retain all 141 of them.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, when the Minister mentioned the agreement signed between the nurses and the MHO, and that of course is registered nurses, that these nurses would be under the MGEA I assume. It's a two-year agreement. Is the Minister satisfied that the agreement that was entered into in 1980 and now runs until the end of 1981, that the salary levels are adequate to attract the psychiatric nurses which we're badly in need of, so that they will tend to stay in Manitoba?

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

I recognize that new facilities might be an attraction, but in the final analysis I suspect that the rate of pay is a major reason why people leave or stay. I am wondering whether the Minister is satisfied that the MGEA agreement dealing with psychiatric nurses, which is quite separate from the one signed by the registered nurses with the MHO, whether he is satisfied that it's adequate to attract and keep at least a substantial number of the 141 in Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks knows that we are in the middle of a two-year agreement with the MGEA and I expect that when the agreement comes up for renegotiation that there will be considerable discussion of the legitimate wage levels deserved by those in the psychiatric nursing component, and I can assure the honourable member that any reasonable request will have my support.

Not all the psychiatric nurses of course are in the MGEA. Those who are hospital based are under MONA, but Brandon and Selkirk are certainly in the MGEA. I'm advised by my chief psychiatrist that with respect to the psychiatric nurses in Brandon and Selkirk the situation is stable. At Brandon we have not had any resignations. We have lost 30 psychiatric nurses at Selkirk over the course of the last year, most of whom, 25 of whom, went to the new Seven Oaks Hospital — stayed in the province, but went to Seven Oaks.

MR. MILLER: The 11 SMYs and 6 SMYs that they have been talking about at Brandon and Selkirk, are they for psychiatric nurses, these additional SMYs, and in any case could the Minister give us a breakdown of the make-up of these 13 staff man years?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, at Brandon the five positions include three nurses.

MR. MILLER: Psychiatric nurses?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes. One Assistant Co-ordinator of volunteers; we have about 100 volunteers who are attached to the Brandon Mental Health Centre in this field; and one Administrative Secretary, necessary in clinical records.

At Selkirk the eight requests include five nurses.

MR. MILLER: Psychiatric nurses?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, psychiatric nurses, some of them forensic; two workers for the Independent Living Program. I might say that the Independent Living Program at Selkirk operates as an alternative to the Foster Home and Boarding Home Program. It uses 15 group homes, having three or four clients each; four two-bedroom apartments, and nine single apartments, to accommodate a total of 88 clients. All those clients need a degree of guidance and support from the staff and that's for the Independent Living Program functions. We need two additional workers for that program. The eighth position is a worker for the Home Finder Service. The placement in homes of treated patients is co-ordinated in Winnipeg region through this service at Selkirk. It co-ordinates about 100 homes which accommodate 350 clients.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the psychiatric nurses, the Minister indicated about 30

had left the Selkirk Hospital; 25 to Seven Oaks, and five I guess just left. If 30 have left, have they been replaced by other psychiatric nurses, because the vacancies at Selkirk are only 6 SMYs, so the question comes to mind that if 30 psychiatric nurses have left Selkirk, how can the vacancy rate be only 6 SMYs, unless of course you've replaced them?

MR. SHERMAN: Over the course of the year, that was the turn-over rate, and some of them were replaced by psychiatric nurses, some of them were replaced by nurses aides. I go back to the first question from the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks; no we do not have enough psychiatric nurses.

MR. MILLER: What it boils down to is that because you couldn't get psychiatric nurses, you've had to simply replace them with nurses aides, who don't have the training but their bodies are needed, and so you've done it that way. Okay that's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Just following through on then, there's a provision that when you get the nurse you would hire the nurse, so are some of these nurses aides, are they on term, or . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: They're on term. They're in other words temporarily filling in for a position that you are trying to get.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: Now could you give us the same rundown pretty well as you did with nurses for the psychiatrists or psychologists that you have?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: Maybe if the committee is willing, maybe you can go through all of them, not only in the institution, because it is kind of related. I know you have some in Forensic and then also in Psychiatric Services for Children and so on.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, the medical staff at Brandon consists of 19 practitioners — 19 in total on the medical staff, 5 of whom are qualified psychiatrists.

MR. DESJARDINS: Five are qualified and then what are the others?

MR. SHERMAN: The others for the most part are G.P.s, all of whom took psychiatry in . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: You don't have psychologists in that at all?

MR. SHERMAN: Well there are psychologists, but I'm just . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: Not in the 19?

MR. SHERMAN: No, the medical staff is 19 and the total number of psychologists at Brandon is ten.

At Selkirk the medical staff number is 16. Six of them are qualified psychiatrists and the total number of psychologists at Selkirk is eight.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. DESJARDINS: Would you prefer that we deal with all psychiatrists now who are employed by the department or do you want us to look at Psychiatric Services and Forensic and so on. In Community Health Directorate, I imagine . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Well it doesn't matter to me, Mr. Chairman. It might be simpler to deal with them as individual categories in the estimates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(c)(1) — pass; 2.(c)(2) — pass; 2.(c)(3) — pass; 2.(d)(1) — pass — the Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: I see that you have three less staff man years this year than you had last year, but there was also an increase of three with a Community Mental Health Directorate. Am I right in saying that this is just a kind of transfer working together?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: That's it then, so there's no . . .

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's what has occurred. They've been deleted from this appropriation and transferred to the Community Mental Health Directorate.

MR. DESJARDINS: Then can you give us how many psychiatrists that you have there then and maybe — we've passed Community Mental Health Directorate, but that might give us a chance to reopen it, in view of the fact that there have been some transferred.

MR. SHERMAN: Forensic Services totals nine SMYs. There are two sections, of course, adult, which is at the Health Sciences Centre, and children's, which is at the Manitoba Youth Centre. In adult . . .

MR. DESJARDINS: You said nine. That's in only one of them. The total is 13.

MR. SHERMAN: Perhaps I moved ahead too fast, I was dealing with Adult and Children's Forensic. Let me start with the Winnipeg Psychiatric Institute and the Eden Mental Health Centre. There are two SMYs at the Winnipeg Psychiatric Institute. They are former employees of the Winnipeg Psychiatric Institute who elected to remain in the Civil Service. They are seconded to the Health Sciences Centre and paid from this appropriation. One of them is a psychologist and the other one is an activities aide.

There are similarly two staff positions at Eden, which are Civil Service positions and paid from this appropriation. One of them is a psychologist and the other is a social worker.

Now that accounts for four SMYs out of the 13 for 1981-82 that we're looking at. Now before I move to the nine in Forensic, there are two psychiatrists and one physician who provide medical services to the Eden Mental Centre. They are all on contract to the Board of Directors.

MR. DESJARDINS: They are salaried, but not part of the staff man years, they're not part of the 13?

MR. SHERMAN: That's right, they're not part of the 13. They're not part of the 13, they're not part of the SMY complement.

MR. DESJARDINS: Which ones did you transfer into Community Mental Health Directorate, the three positions?

MR. SHERMAN: Those ones that are on contract now are the ones that are transferred to the Community Mental Health Directorate, in terms of where their salaries will be paid from.

MR. DESJARDINS: But are they not as a staff man year under the Community Mental Health Directorate.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. DESJARDINS: Oh I see, I thought you just had the salary and not the staff man year, even though they are on contract.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(d)(2) — pass — the Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: Yes, I just wanted to get a response from the Minister as to whether in fact there has been any feeling that the service provided with respect to Forensic Services is insufficient. I can recall last year there was some debate on this whole issue.

MR. SHERMAN: Well the service that's provided by those who work for the province in this field is certainly excellent and certainly exceptionally good. There is no question that we need better forensic facilities, better forensic service capacity and capability. We don't deny that. There is a need for a better and larger, better-equipped Adult Forensic Unit, other than that which you know currently is limited to certain space at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre, and we need more psychiatrists and certainly more forensic psychiatrists.

We have taken a step in that direction in the addition of a psychiatrist to Adult Forensic this year, but there is no question that we need a new adult forensic physical plant. It would be my ambition to approve one as soon as possible.

Other pressures in the mental health field have taken priority up to this point in time, but that's not to minimize or underestimate the need for a better forensic capacity.

MR. PARASIUK: Can the Minister be somewhat more specific? He said he would like to approve a new facility as soon as possible. Does that mean that the Minister is hoping that there would be one approved and on its way within a year, two years, or what time frame are we talking about?

MR. SHERMAN: It means within a year, Mr. Chairman, but I would have to advise the committee that it is not in the capital program which I propose to put before the committee this year. But I would certainly assure the Honourable Member for Transcona that it is very high on the priority list and it is my intention at this juncture to ask for it in my next capital program.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. PARASIUK: Mr. Chairman, I think this is a very important area because I would think what we are talking about here basically are part of Corrections, in a sense, and the services that we are going to provide in that respect, to the extent that we end up keeping people — to the extent that we just don't treat mentally-disturbed offenders. I think all we do is ask for trouble as a society and it just works its way up the ladder, if we are in fact dealing with youths, into the adult correctional system. I think that in the cost terms, the costs to society ultimately are incredibly high, both in terms of straight financial costs and also in terms of just the fabric of society itself. So I think that the extent to which we can do some work at an early age and if we had to establish priorities I would like to see the priority established at the juvenile level, in fact, if there is a tightness of money. I think that it is important that we move in this area and move fast and especially move fast with respect to adolescents and youth.

MR. SHERMAN: I certainly acknowledge the honourable member's comments, Mr. Chairman. I would have to say that on the basis of my limited experience and limited knowledge of the field, that I think there is a greater urgency for improvement of our adult forensic capacity than there is for juvenile forensic capacity but I would certainly be prepared to entertain his views on the subject.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should have brought this subject up under (d) — I want kind of a report. It was something that we felt was quite urgent last year and the Minister agreed with us and it had been studied, on child beating, and there is research being done. Now will that be under Forensic or is it under this item here, Psychiatric Services for Children? It would be under Forensic, I would imagine, the research?

MR. SHERMAN: No, I think, Mr. Chairman, it comes under Child and Family Services in the Department of Community Services, the child abuse.

MR. DESJARDINS: That's the actual child abuse — that's the actual work, but I was referring more to the continuing research. It wouldn't come under here because I see in the report that under Forensic, you talk about some of the research — where did I see that? I'm not insisting, I just want to know where we could talk about that. Would the Minister sooner wait until we get under Child Care? It is a mental disorder; I think there's no doubt about that.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would agree that it's a very serious area of social illness and that we only see the tip of the iceberg in child abuse. When the two departments were one department, Health and Community Services, under my ministry, we did add to the Health Sciences Centre a capacity to deal more effectively through Dr. Ken McRae's department, with child abuse. But it doesn't really come into the responsibilities of our Forensic Services in the manner in which the Honourable Member for St. Boniface suggests.

MR. DESJARDINS: There's no research going on between that and wife beating and . . . I thought there was constant research.

MR. SHERMAN: Not in this department, Mr. Chairman. I think it would have to be addressed under Child and Family Services in Community Services. We do have research going on under Forensic Services but it has to do with research into the victim of child abuse and what kind of impact that has on that person's behaviour, not into the motivation for the child abuse to begin with.

MR. DESJARDINS: The research is more on the victim than on the offender?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre. We are on 2.(e)(1), to the member.

MR. J.R. (Bud) BOYCE: I wonder where the Minister wants to discuss the psychiatric services for children. There were great pronouncements made last year; I was wondering where they sit. (Interjection)— It's the next page, under Psychiatric Services for Children. I see that there is an increase asked for some \$140,000 or something for the next fiscal year. There was supposed to be a capacity at the Health Sciences Centre and other announcements that were made last year. I don't see any evidence of it in the community or in the Estimates.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, that does come up next in the Estimates. We are on Forensic Services at the moment.

MR. BOYCE: No, we are on Psychiatric Services for Children.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1), yes.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, this is the line under which that subject properly falls, Mr. Chairman.

MR. BOYCE: I haven't got Hansard from last year in front of me but it was announced by the government that they were going to considerably expand the services available to children in the psychiatric field and out in the community I see no evidence of it and here I don't see any evidence reflected in the Estimates. Where is this thrust taking place? There was an announcement made at the closing down of either the ATU or CWU at the Health Sciences Centre and that was supposed to be converted to handle children with psychiatric problems. Perhaps the Minister could report what isn't being done apparently.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are three things essentially that are being done. First is the development of an adolescent psychiatric facility, and I'll come back to that. I know that members of the committee are familiar with that project, at least in proposal form.

Secondly to that, we have recently refurbished and opened the former MacEwan Residence at St. Boniface General Hospital, which now is an Acute Care Psychiatric Facility with 56 beds, largely devoted to Acute Care Psychiatric Treatment in the adult field but partially available for child and adolescent psychiatric treatment. There are beds

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

there available for adolescents. In addition to that, on the Community Services' side, the Estimates of the Minister for Community Services include funds for a new Adolescent Psychiatric Unit at the Knowles Centre, Knowles School.

With respect to the long awaited Adolescent Psychiatric Facility, we are hard at work on trying to put that into place, Mr. Chairman, and if the Member for Winnipeg Centre is frustrated, I can assure him that he is not the only one. The funds were voted and approved in our Estimates last year and they are available and the architects are at work on designing the physical plant, there has been no consensus on location of the site. Different factors have come into play during the discussions that have caused people to rethink their positions and rethink their preferences and we don't have the shovels into the ground yet, but I want to assure the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre that I have instructed that that site be found, identified and sealed down within the next very few weeks and that construction get under way.

The whole project is really under the leadership of our new Director of Childrens Psychiatric Services, Dr. Keith Sigmundson, and he is as ambitious for it as anyone around this table, but we have run into site locale difficulties. We have looked at a number of possibilities, we were very interested in the old Indian Residential School on Academy Road, the Federal Government wouldn't make that available to us; we've looked at sites adjacent to or on the Campus at the Health Science Centre, but that's a pretty large campus now and there are different opinions as to whether or not it should be on that campus or not; we thought we had a site assured opposite the Misericordia Hospital and that got sold out from under us. The core area initiatives that have been spearheaded by three levels of government, Federal, Provincial and Municipal, have had an effect on the parameters, the geographical parameters of a search for a site, and all I can do at this juncture is say to the Member for Winnipeg Centre that I'm at the limit of my frustration on it and I've instructed that we see some action very quickly this spring.

MR. BOYCE: I want to thank the Minister for his comments and to share with him all of our frustrations in this regard, but he used one phrase in there that caught my ear. He said, "The funds have been voted." Is this another manifestation of the Government even after making much to-do about keeping Current and Capital together after '77? Is the Minister suggesting that he's proceeding with this project as if he has existing authority and the authority is being carried over to subsequent years?

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Chairman, but the fiscal year isn't over yet as the honourable member knows and the principle of the construction of such a facility has been approved by Treasury Board and by the Cabinet, and the annual impact that it will have on our Budget has been approved and there won't be an impact as the honourable member knows immediately, but perhaps the use of the term "the funds have been voted" might have been a imprecise phrase to use. The principle has been approved and I have complete assurance that in our future budgetary projections, the item that's in there to allow for the annual operating costs and the

amortization of the Capital Cost of a 25-bed Adolescent Psychiatric Facility based on 1981-82 dollars with an inflationary factor built-in are assured and will be contained in all our future Budgets, so perhaps the phraseology was a little imprecise.

MR. BOYCE: Is the Minister assuring us that if this money is not spent prior to March 31st of this year, that he will come back to the House and ask for a vote once more for the funds, or is he saying that this money will either be transferred to the Minister of Finance in trust, or is he saying that they're going to proceed as they have in the past with prior authorization for capital expenditures, you know, in direct conflict with their position which they went to the electorate with in 1977, and said that they were imposing in 1978? I have not had evidence that they have fallen through in that commitment because we had asked in 1978 that the government put on the table a bill which would have wiped out all prior-existing authorities. So, is the Minister assuring this Committee and the Legislature that the particular funds, that were voted last year for Capital Expenditure in this field, if not expended by the 31st of this month will lapse?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Mr. Chairman, they will lapse, but the commitment to an Adolescent Psychiatric Unit is firm and whatever procedure is necessary to secure future authorization of the Legislature will be followed. Certainly the concept is a commitment on the part of the Government and the Department of Health.

MR. BOYCE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to underline this point because I certainly don't want to put this project in jeopardy, but nevertheless I would like to see the Government fulfill its public posturing, that they are combining Current and Capital in their financial arrangements. The Minister once more is telling this Committee that if the money is not expended prior to the 31st of this month, that he will come back for Supplementary Supply Estimates relative to this project during the current Session of the Legislature?

MR. SHERMAN: That's what I'll have to do, Mr. Chairman, unless I can find a very quick way to commit those funds before the end of the fiscal year, and that obviously is unrealistic, so that'll be the course that I'll have to follow, the one outlined by the Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Well, Mr. Chairman, has the Minister under this item or any other item used that particular ploy, which I mentioned earlier, of transferring money to the Minister of Finance in trust, which is one way of expending money relative to the current fiscal year and having it in fact carried forward to the next fiscal year?

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Chairman. I can give the honourable member an unequivocal answer in the negative on that, and I don't know of any such course of action that has been followed by the government at any time since 1977-78, but perhaps the Honourable Member for Winnipeg Centre has some suspicions in that area; I don't know of any. Certainly that has not been done in the Department

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

of Health or by the Manitoba Health Services Commission and it won't be done.

MR. BOYCE: It's not a suspicion, Mr. Chairman, and I wouldn't fault the Minister if he in his judgment thought he should do it that way. I had occasion to do the same thing myself on one occasion, because it was dealt that it was in the public interest to do it at that time. But nevertheless the government has said that they are going to spend the money in the year that it's voted. Could the Minister advise us just exactly, so I can follow it through, where the funds were voted in last year's Estimates for this capital expenditure and the amount of it?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I believe this particular project was announced under the MHSC capital program, and I think the total cost that we're looking at, of the facility, is approximately \$2.5 million. Now that of course would not all be expended in one year but that's what the total capital cost of the project will be, and the annual operating cost — 25 high intensity care psychiatric beds will run to \$1 million a year.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, now the Minister has me a little bit more confused. He said it won't be expended over one year, and if it is under the Manitoba Health Services Commission, perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we're a little out of order in going into this any further at this time and we could come back to this item when we deal with the Manitoba Hospital Services Commission capital requirements.

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

MR. DESJARDINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that I join the Member for Winnipeg Centre that I'm extremely disappointed and frustrated. This has been going on for so long. I was frustrated when I was the Minister. I thought that it wasn't going fast enough and I remember the critic in those days was the Minister and how I was chastized at the time. We had a long debate on this last year, in fact I would like to quote part of Hansard of last year and I quote something that I said.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to touch up on the 25-bed facility, because I have been very disappointed, very surprised and very disappointed. I didn't realize until the Minister spoke this last time that we are no further ahead than we were six, seven years ago. I couldn't believe that I heard right and I had to check. I still hope that both my colleagues, right here and myself, did not hear right or misunderstood the Minister, because I go back now to 1975 where the government was chastized for not doing enough or there were so many things missing in the treatment of these youngsters that facilities we needed, that we recognized in 1976. I might say that if any that were emphasized as being important, as being a weakness of the department by the then opposition, the then critic, or one of the critics for the opposition in those days, who is now the Minister, was absolutely right and he made a point and he made a long speech to say how the bad the situation was.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister at that time did not give us the impression that he felt it was in all fairness a priority, but not necessarily the priority

and no commitments. He said, "Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the Honourable Member for St. Boniface," and I'm quoting the Minister, he said, "I won't have any . . . to be any excuse next year. I've identified my priorities and I've always included a psychiatric facility for adolescents amongst them."

Anyway there is not much point in quoting last year, but we are no further, in fact I think we are further behind. At least that year we had transferred some money; I don't know how we did it, but we had transferred an amount of money to the Commission. Maybe that's the answer to my honourable friend that maybe some of that money could be transferred. It was a small amount; I'm sure that it's going to cost an awful lot more money now. I realize there were difficulties because I had instructed Dr. Tavener, who was as interested as I am and who felt it should have been a priority, to do it immediately. I felt that there was no way that I could go back to the House in another Estimate — I told him that in 1977 — without that being resolved. I am disappointed, I know it's difficult. I have some sympathy with the Minister. I think they were even talking about the old Grace Hospital at that time as one of the possibilities, and that's gone. But in the meantime this service is not provided adequately, and it might be now the Minister is saying very clearly — I believe I understood him to say that it is a question of priority, it was just a question of not voting the money or having something else that might have to be done before that, but a question of finding a site. I would hope and we'll be patient another year, but I would serve notice on the Minister that next year we certainly will be demanding that something be done, that this has gone far enough. Something will have to be done, if they have to buy property or build it in one of the other facilities, this has to be done. It's been going on — it was first approved by the House, in principle, a definite approval in 1976, and then there was some money transferred.

I don't know if that's the answer. The Minister was trying to find a way to maybe get some of this money transferred. I don't know if that's a possibility, but if I remember right, and I would imagine that Dr. Tavener and Peter might remember something on that or Reg Edwards might, but there was a transfer made to the Commission for that facility, at least to get it going.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, I am not trying to find a way to find the money transferred, because I was trying to answer the Member for Winnipeg Centre, and I believe that there was a certain amount of money set aside as the Honourable Member for St. Boniface suggests, approximately \$176,000.00. That was returned to the Minister of Finance and went back into consolidated revenue. We have in all cases, if we're underspent, those moneys are returned to the Minister of Finance. We have not retained any of it. We try to follow that principle which we said we would follow.

I can only say, as all members around this table know, we don't look at health care budgets in terms of one year because of the downstream impact of these things. We have to look in three-, five-, seven-, ten-year projections and the operating costs of that adolescent psychiatric facility are in those projections, in the base, that we know that the Province of Manitoba is going to have to be working

to and committed to through the 1980's and the 1990's, so it is there. I don't have to go back and get approval on it again. I will, as the Member for Winnipeg Centre has suggested, have to get approval from the House on the expenditure but I don't have to get approval from my caucus or Cabinet colleagues on it.

I can't offer any other explanation than the one I have offered. As the Member for St. Boniface knows, there are competing interest groups in these fields and they make for long and tortuous deliberations, but I would agree with him, the long and tortuous deliberations have gone on too long.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that the Minister is quite candid, so what can you say, but I would like a clear commitment. You see, the Minister scared me again by his last remarks — do you understand that there is competition and so on. Does that leave the door to say, well, there was another priority, or is the Minister saying now that we want to go ahead; I have the approval of Cabinet; I am asking whatever I need this year from this committee; and the thing is just it's that we are looking and we are busy, and I have given instructions that we have to find a place and as soon as we have this place we are going ahead; I don't have to come back. This is one instance where, or one project, that doesn't have to compete. It's already approved. Do we have this assurance?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the committee has that assurance.

MR. DESJARDINS: We'll wish the Minister luck and I hope that there will be a lot of pressure and that we find a way, because it would be quite — it would be a scandal, I would say, if we have to keep on after approving this in 1976 and going in 1982-83 before we start, so we'll bear with the Minister, we have no option, and we hope that next year he'll be very pleased to announce that something is finally being done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Transcona.

MR. PARASIUK: I have a few concerns here. I wonder who the competing interest groups are that the Minister refers to. The way I understand the budgeting process is that you have entities that issue debentures, that the Manitoba Health Services Commission in a sense pays off those debentures over a period of time. Now the question then becomes who is going to establish the psychiatric centre for children? Is it going to be the Health Sciences Centre; is it going to be a new institution that will be established? That is a major question. I'd like to get an answer from the Minister on that issue. Who will in fact be running or establishing or running the psychiatric centre for children?

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, an independent board will be appointed to administer the operations of this facility. When I talk about competing interest groups, I am not talking about competing financial interest groups. There's no question about that. The competing interest groups are the same competing interest groups that one lives with in the health community. Different professionals, different

components of different professional groups, related professional groups and health occupations groups, hospital boards and trustees, hospital administrators, parents groups, advocacy groups, all have their own preferences, as the Honourable Members for St. Boniface and Seven Oaks well know. They all have their own preferences for locations of facilities, for functional design of those facilities, for functional programs and it takes a lot of diplomacy, such as was exercised by the two previous Ministers of Health and which I try to exercise myself, to keep these interest groups in balance and a consensus never comes easily, but I am the first to admit that this one has gone beyond the point of endurance.

MR. PARASIUK: Just to fix this in my mind. There will be an independent board established, it'll have community representation, that's the way it will operate? It will have no ties to other groups, it'll be an independent identity?

MR. SHERMAN: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. That was another question that we had to resolve, whether it should be established as a unit of an existing hospital and I might say that Victoria General Hospital was very interested in it; other hospitals were very interested in it; the Health Sciences Centre was very interested in it; whether it should be established as a component of one of those hospitals or whether it should be an entirely independent component. My officials and I have opted for the latter course on the grounds that it will have a higher profile and more influence and more clout if it is not absorbed into and therefore possibly subordinated in some existing hospital operation. So it'll be an independent, non-profit community board that will be appointed to run it.

MR. PARASIUK: I would like to have the Minister consider a particular prospective with respect to location. I would hope that the location would be in some sense downtown in terms of when we mention the inner core. I think it's critical that these types of public facilities be easily accessible from all parts of the city. I think the public, and by that I mean government, especially the Federal Government and Provincial Government, have tended in the past to establish too many facilities in one end of the city, and given our transportation system, especially our public transportation system, have not made those facilities as accessible to major sections of the population as should be. I see something like the Mint out in one corner of the city; I see something like the Federal Taxation Data Centre, which granted is in my constituency, but I was never pleased with a facility like that being in my section of the city, I would have preferred it to be downtown where everyone would have equal access to it, especially as an employment opportunity.

I would hope for something like Psychiatric Services for Children, a psychiatric centre, that this might be in that type of location and I would hope that it wouldn't be something that eats up inner core initiatives money, but I hope it's being considered in that general planning framework.

MR. SHERMAN: It is, Mr. Chairman. In fact, the government has made the decision and instructed the Site Search Committee that it is the

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

government's wish that it be in the core area of Winnipeg.

MR. PARASIUK: I commend that decision. I think that that follows on some past decisions that were made to locate the lab downtown, to locate the parking garage, there was a lot of flurry created about four or five years ago when people wanted to put those things downtown but they are downtown, they are more easily accessible. I would hope that things like the Enterprise Centre, which is kitty-corner from the Mint, which is under grant it another Minister's jurisdiction, had followed the direction being shown with respect to the psychiatric centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Winnipeg Centre.

MR. BOYCE: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think that if people in the Province of Manitoba were given an alternative of whether they were going to spend the amount of money necessary to operate such facilities as we are discussing and a little fewer miles of roads, I think that they would opt for this particular facility.

It is my opinion that from the time that the Minister resolves this difficulty of who is going to operate it, it's five years to fruition. It's five years from the time they get together, and I found the conversation very interesting. They're looking for a site but they don't know how they're going to operate it, they don't know who's going to operate it. The fact that it's a \$167,000 which was voted last year, was put back in general revenue because they didn't expend the money. I empathize with the Minister that if he's talking about \$2-1/2 million capital, he's probably talking about annualizing a million-and one-half in current dollars, but nevertheless we're playing games with this thing and it's one of the difficult decisions of government, that they have to decide how it's going to operate and they will be right or wrong.

You'll never get unanimous consent among the professions of how it should be operated, what model it should follow. Gosh, there's 36 different schools of thought in dealing with this, I think there's a matrix I've seen somewhere. Probably Dr. Tavener knows a hundred more, but nevertheless from the time that you make the decisions that you're telling us that you haven't made, it's five years to building this place. Look at Seven Oaks Hospital, for example. By the time you got the board together and the nurses together and everything else, it's just coming onstream now.

I remember my colleague for St. Boniface in 1977, most of us who had been involved in this field felt that we were finally going to get something, and five years from 1977 is 1982, so we're talking about 1986-87 before this comes onstream. The acquisition of the property and the whole deal; this is what's coming from what the Minister. At least in my mind this is what the Minister is telling Manitobans, that everybody's been pushing and screaming for some deployment of the resources of the province in the field of psychiatry relative to children, and we are still as far away from it as we have ever been, except for the emotional commitment that we need it; everybody agrees we need it but nobody is willing to make the hard decisions that it's going to be built out of brick and stone and so many rooms and so much of this, and the people who are going to run it.

Those are the hard decisions which inevitably have to be made.

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Chairman, the five years that the honourable member is referring to, which are usually attached to any project, I agree with him, have been gone through. It will take us a year-and-a-half at the outside, and I believe the projection is 14 months, to build the facilities from the day the shovels go into the ground. The five years that he is referring to have been traversed and those decisions have been made. We have said it is to be in the core area; we have said it is to be a community board, independent of other hospitals; we have said that the functional design is to meet the following parameters and requirements; and we have been held up on the agreement on the site, that's all.

MR. BOYCE: Mr. Chairman, that's an administrative nicety that the plant will be there in 14 months from the time that you stick the shovel in the ground; I don't argue with that. But nevertheless, having been involved in opening new plants of different kinds, the opening of the door in the physical plant doesn't start it, it takes at least five years. It is three years from the time that you get there to shake your staff down and have an operating facility, so when I say five years I am talking about completely operant; I am not talking about just building it.

Nevertheless we have been saying this, that we are going to have an independent board, and until such time as the Minister is able to say it's going to be Mary Smith and Johnny Jones and who else is going to operate it, you know, we're just procrastinating on it. So that the Minister, I feel, should make that decision. There are capable people of different schools, this is true, but they should be gathered together and let them develop the consensus, not necessarily the departmental staff, because regardless of who is put together they will have to go through that exercise, and to try to get the board together after a physical plant exists, you are putting them in a high on impossible position, I feel.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 2.(e)(1) — pass; 2.(e)(2) — pass — the Member for Seven Oaks.

MR. MILLER: Is the Child Guidance Clinic in this appropriation?

MR. SHERMAN: The Child Guidance Clinic as such isn't in this appropriation, Mr. Chairman, but in our staff complement for Psychiatric Services for Children, which has been 17 and is being expanded, or we are requesting expansion to 20-1/2. The psychiatrists that are related to this operation are based at the Child Guidance Clinic and they provide services to other areas outside of Winnipeg, including The Pas, Thompson, Selkirk, Beausejour, Winkler and Portage la Prairie.

MR. MILLER: All that is shown here insofar as the Child Guidance Clinic is concerned is those provincial employees, departmental employees, who may be housed or whose offices are at the Child Guidance Clinic. They work out of the Child Guidance Clinic, but there is no money here for the Child Guidance Clinic as such?

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

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. MILLER: I am wondering, is there anywhere in these Estimates where the moneys to help support the Child Guidance Clinic appears?

MR. SHERMAN: No, Mr. Chairman. That comes under the Winnipeg School Division No. 1.

MR. MILLER: Is the Winnipeg School Division still picking up the 95 percent of the cost for the operation of the Child Guidance Clinic?

MR. SHERMAN: I don't know whether it is 95 percent, Mr. Chairman, but they are certainly picking up a substantial amount of it. The Department of Education may provide some, but certainly the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 picks up most of it.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I am wondering whether the time hasn't come, since the Minister indicated his concern about psychiatric services for children, that we have to look at the method of delivering services. Winnipeg School Division No. 1 took the lead in the early years because there was no other agency that would do it, and I commend them for setting up a Child Guidance Clinic. But I am wondering whether the time hasn't come when we have to recognize, as the Minister seems to recognize, the need for these services and that the province has to become more actively involved financially in supporting the Child Guidance Clinic, because the early identification is important and it is in the classroom that many of the problems are first noted. There is a limit to what the Winnipeg School Division No. 1 can do. The bulk of the students in Manitoba are in the Winnipeg School Division No. 1, and certainly in Greater Winnipeg, and I know that they are hard-pressed to meet the demands on them. Without throwing even more of a burden on Winnipeg, they are unable to meet the demands on the Child Guidance Clinic. There are waiting lists, you know, it's very cursory.

So I am wondering whether the Minister has given consideration to recognizing the time has come that the Child Guidance Clinic should really be a provincial thrust, a provincial responsibility, accessible to all school divisions, but that it become one of the primary efforts of his department to deal with the whole problem of psychiatric services for children.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what the board and the administration of the Child Guidance Clinic would say about that; I have a good idea what they would say about it. I think, as the Honourable Member for Seven Oaks knows, they are a pretty autonomy-minded, independent group . . .

MR. MILLER: They'll take your dollars.

MR. SHERMAN: They will take our dollars and in fact they have asked for some dollars, but they have not suggested that they give up any of their autonomy, nor have we.

The question that the honourable member raises is certainly a timely one. We have in fact had discussions very recently with the directors of the Child Guidance Clinic, in my office with one or two other Ministers who have mutual interests in the field, such as the Minister of Education. Certainly

there have been no conclusions yet. The Child Guidance Clinic has asked for a different funding arrangement and they have certainly indicated to us that they intend to continue to operate in the autonomous way, or their ambition would be to continue to operate in the autonomous way that they do.

I am awaiting at the moment a report from my Director of Clinical Services, Dr. John Eadie, on the whole future of the department, the suggested future thrust of the department in this field of psychiatric services to emotionally disturbed children. I can suggest to the honourable member that my understanding of the concept that has been developed by Dr. Eadie and his colleagues and that will be coming forward to me, calls for a new provincial initiative with a rather substantial amount of money and expenditure attached to it, that would be quite independent of the Child Guidance Clinic.

I don't whether I am answering the honourable member's questions or not, but he is suggesting we should be looking at taking over the Child Guidance Clinic. My reading of the proposals that are sort of shaping up in my department present quite a different future concept than that.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, when I said take over, I was really talking about the financial burden; I wasn't taking about a takeover of staff and putting them on the provincial payroll; just as, in talking about the children's psychiatric facility the Minister indicated a separate board would be created, in the sense a separate hospital being created. That will simply be funded under MHSC.

A similar approach could be arrived at here. The Child Guidance Clinic could still be, as it is now, administered through its own board and through Winnipeg School Division No. 1, but the funding is what I am concerned about, the fact that they have to again look to Winnipeg School Division No. 1 for their major funding; whether it's not 95 percent, it's 90 percent, but we both know that it's very high. So I was really looking at that aspect of it.

The Minister said, well, there are proposals coming forward which indicate a new and a separate thrust. I would simply caution him that bureaucracies tend to protect their turfs and try to build new empires, and that I am not sure that the Minister would want to create two parallel and perhaps even competing services, that the ideal, of course, is to make it one thrust without having the duplication, which otherwise develops and the cracks, you know, that fall between two chairs inevitably.

He has answered my question, in that the Child Guidance Clinic has come forward, but so far there is no answer for them.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, it's the same taxpayer, of course, Mr. Chairman, and I suppose the Minister of Health becomes a little defensive about these things and the Member for Seven Oaks was perhaps defensive himself when he was Minister.

I have to ask the question in all fairness, why should the Department of Health pick up the cost and simply transfer the paper responsibility from one department to another? You are not doing anything for any taxpayers, nor for any services in that respect, if we were to take on the responsibility that Education has in that area, simply a paper transfer.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, I don't care whether it's the Department of Health or the Department of Education; I don't care whose Estimates it appears in. Basically what I am suggesting is that the Child Guidance Clinic, which has been operating for a number of years, has been a burden on Winnipeg taxpayers and it is high time that the province moved into that field, whether by taking over the Child Guidance Clinic if they want to, or the simpler way is simply to increase its financing and designating them as an agency. You know, you have services to children; you have the Children's Aid Society, which is an arm acting for government, it is an agency independent of the government, but acting for government, and yet you fund them. Similarly, I say the Child Guidance Clinic should be funded, whether it is, as I say, done through this set of Estimates or the other is, to me, immaterial.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolved that there be granted to Her Majesty a sum not exceeding \$29,550,400 for Health — pass.

3.(a)(1) — the Member for St. Boniface.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, the Minister, according to the sheet that I have in front of me, appears to be asking for an increase of staff man years of four. The sheet that I have gives me 33 for 1980-81 and a request for 37 in 1981-82, except that from last year's sheet, I have that 40 were approved.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the discrepancy is explained by the fact that the Hearing Centre staff were transferred out of the head office of Medical Public Health Services into regional field services, into the field staff. (Interjection)— That would work out to seven, right.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, could the Minister give us a breakdown of these 37 positions requested?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes. Under Medical Administration, that's the central office staff, there will be 16 if our Estimates are approved; 16, comprised of 12 medical officers, 1 program analyst, and 3 administrative support staff. That's 16 under Medical Administration. Under Epidemiological services, 10; made up of 2 medical officers, 1 health specialist, 7 administrative support staff, for a total of 10. Under Clinical Services, a total of 5; 2 medical officers, 1 public health specialist, 1 medical records technician, 1 administrative support staff, for a total of 5. Under VD Control, a total of 6; 4 specialists, and 2 administrative support staff, for 6 under VD. So it's 16, 10, 5, and 6.

MR. DESJARDINS: Where are the four new requested positions?

MR. SHERMAN: They are all under the Medical Administration component, in that component of 16; 3 medical officer positions and 1 industrial environmental health consultant, 3 medical officers of health and one we want to establish and put in place, an industrial environmental health consultant. (Interjection)— They were designed to contain the Honourable Member for Transcona, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, where would we find the Public Health Nurses that work for the department? Would that be under the Department of Community Services working in the field, and the next item Public Health Nursing Services, that's just the Directorate more or less that decides what can be done, right?

MR. SHERMAN: That's right, that's the Directorate, and the Public Health Nurses in the field are under Regional Personal Services.

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Chairman, at one time there was a — I think that has been transferred, and I ask the Minister to correct me if I am wrong or to tell me if I have this thing right — at one time there was a certain amount of money given to the City of Winnipeg for taking care of some of the service they were giving in health under Public Health. That was then, I guess, transferred to the Department of Finance, wasn't it, or Urban Affairs, in funding. Now I think there is a . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour of 4:30 having arrived, committee rise for Private Member's Hour.
Committee rise.

SUPPLY — CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND ENVIRONMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Abe Kovnats (Radisson): Committee come to order. I would direct the honourable members' attention to Page 32 of the Main Estimates. Resolution No. 39, Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Environment, clause 4, Item (b) Environmental Management Services, Item (1) Salaries — pass — the Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. BRIAN CORRIN: I was wondering if we could have a description of the complement of departmental personnel in this particular branch.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

HON. GARY FILMON (River Heights): Mr. Chairman, the total complement is 65.42 staff man years, made up of 38 in laboratory services, 21.42 in environmental standards and studies, 4 in programs and legislation and 2 in management.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. JAY COWAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I wonder if the Minister could indicate when it is he expects to have the annual report for this particular department, ready for distribution?

MR. FILMON: I expect about the end of April, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: It's necessary to put on the record our dissatisfaction with the process as it stands now and that is that we have to review the entire Estimates, or it appears that we will have to review the entire Estimates of the department without the

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

annual report being available to us and that makes our task that much more difficult, although it does make the Minister's task that much easier. The annual report as we have said in the past in this particular section of the Estimates, does provide us with a great deal of information, a great deal of detail, upon which we can base a number of questions which would not arise otherwise and it is difficult to do as efficient and as effective a job as we would be able to do otherwise, without that report in our possession. So the record should be clear, that it is a disappointment; I don't want to impute any motives; I don't know if there were any motives other than that of just not being able to get the report ready in time, but the fact is it does put us at a disadvantage.

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

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, if I may just briefly respond to that. I think the member is yielding the floor to me, is he? Yes, thank you.

The reason for this is that in the past there were two separate reports, one from Consumer and Corporate Affairs which was on an annual basis and the Environmental Management Division, which was on a fiscal year basis, and the member probably has a copy of the fiscal year report ending March 31st, 1980, so he would see the following year has not been completed; we are now regularizing it to combine both onto the same year. In fact the member already has the first three months of 1980 in the last report covered, so that's why under that circumstance we're now going to have an annual report for the total department, including both sections on the same year basis and it will be available at about the end of April.

MR. COWAN: I accept the Minister's explanation. I think the record as well should be clear that immediately after having completed our review of the Public Utilities Board, it's my understanding that we got the Public Utilities Board report, after having passed that particular item of the Estimates. That was perhaps a coincidence, perhaps it was more than a coincidence, I don't know, but I do want the Minister to know that it puts us at a disadvantage when we have to go through his Estimates without his annual report and I think he accepts that.

MR. FILMON: There's no question about that and I appreciate the fact. In fact that report on the Public Utilities Board has been at the Queen's Printer for some time, Mr. Chairman, and there was only an original report that was tabled with the Clerk so I wasn't able to do anything more with it and hopefully that information will be of interest.

I've endeavoured to bring forward whatever information has been requested by the other side and if there is anything that I haven't covered, I'll be glad to bring it forward.

MR. COWAN: While speaking to information, is the Minister prepared to table the list of environmental accidents which have occurred since the last discussion of the environment Estimates last year?

MR. FILMON: Yes, that report is in the process of being prepared. I would expect that I could table that information in 10 days to two weeks, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister be more specific as to what stage that report is in now, in respect to its preparation?

MR. FILMON: A rough draft form, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister be prepared to xerox a copy of the rough draft form and provide it to us on the understanding that it is accepted as a rough draft form and not a finished copy?

MR. FILMON: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Well again, Mr. Chairperson, it's difficult to discuss what has happened in the province over the last year in respect to environmental accidents, without having the information available to us. There is one other alternative. Perhaps the Minister is willing to read out the figures that are contained within that report so that we can at least have the statistical data before us.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, it's being prepared in my department — I have not even the rough draft — it's somewhere in the department so I don't have that information as yet and until it gets into a form where it's been checked for accuracy and reviewed, I don't think that I can even give any figures.

MR. COWAN: It's my understanding that monthly reports are made to the Minister in respect to environmental accidents. Is the Minister prepared to table those monthly reports that have been presented to him, which would in fact be an ongoing analysis and an ongoing statistical review of the environmental accidents?

MR. FILMON: The reports in the form that they are available within the department, name companies who voluntarily provide us with information about things that happen on their own property and so on. Because we want to encourage this continued voluntary disclosure, I don't think we'd want to give that kind of information out for publication other than in a summary form which we intend to do, as I said, in the report that will be tabled.

MR. COWAN: Here we have another example, Mr. Chairperson, of this Minister being less open with that type of information than the previous Minister and the Hansard is very clear in respect to our request last year for that monthly bulletin to be provided to persons who were interested in the area. But one thing that the Minister has said leaves me somewhat perplexed, that is in respect to voluntary disclosure. Is the Minister saying that there is a discretionary power on the part of those individuals and industry which have had environmental spills, which would prevent them, or which would allow them not to report those spills to the department?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, as things stand those spills of course and accidents are certainly not provided for under the Act and it's illegal, but at the same time we're aware that if we were to publish the names then it might discourage people from voluntarily bringing them to our attention and putting us in a position to correct the situation.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. COWAN: What action does the Minister take to correct the situation when that information is voluntarily provided to him? Can he give an example of several different scenarios in respect to how that information is provided to his department and what his department does in response to that information being provided to them?

MR. FILMON: Basically when it's reported, the situation is assessed by one of our Environmental Officers and a recommended manner of dealing with and cleaning up whatever accident occurred is put forth to the company and ensured that it's carried out, and that could hold true of a spill or anything of that nature.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps the Minister can provide some information as to the legislation as it exists today, and that's the new legislation which was brought forward in the amendments to The Clean Environment Act, which were brought forward by his government and the previous Minister in that particular department. Does it not make it mandatory that all spills be disclosed to the government?

MR. FILMON: The Act provides for regulations to be enacted that would require mandatory reporting of all spills, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Have those regulations been implemented?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, currently regulations have been enacted for gasoline and associated products. The definition of other types of environmental accidents is currently being worked on for regulation that will be enacted I would say, very shortly.

MR. COWAN: Are PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls included in those regulations?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, PCBs are named hazardous material and we have the authority to act on them right now.

MR. COWAN: By the Minister indicating that the department has the authority, is he saying that any spill of a PCB substance must in fact be reported to the department?

MR. FILMON: The named hazardous product the Minister, when made aware of even its existence, can make a determination of what should be done with it. But the regulations will be drafted to include it and all other potentially hazardous materials with respect to accident reporting.

MR. COWAN: What substance has to be reported to the Minister now if there is an environmental accident, or what list of substances have to be reported, given the legislation and given the regulations as they are at present?

MR. FILMON: Gasoline and petroleum products, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister indicate how many spills last year of gasoline and petroleum products were voluntarily reported to the department?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, that would be part of the information that we can provide in the summary.

MR. COWAN: It appears as if the Minister has come fairly unprepared to these Estimates, perhaps it would have been better to have had them later in the year when he could have been more acquainted with his department; when he could have had more opportunity to put together the type of programs that he assures us are going to be put together; and when he could have had some information which was of a public nature and a readily accessible nature that could be provided to the Opposition. I'm not saying that that was the intention of the government to put us at that disadvantage but, I am saying that they certainly have put us at that disadvantage by bringing these Estimates forward now, and it was their choice, at a time when they know they can't provide the information that is going to be requested during the Estimates Debate.

We requested this information last year; we've requested it in years previous. If they have any anticipatory powers you would expect that they could at least anticipate that the questions of a similar nature being ongoing questions, would come forward this year and they don't have the information for us. I'm not certain whether they're trying to throw us off track or I'm not certain that they've just been inefficient in getting that information before us, but I do find that a very disagreeable situation when we have to ask questions and be told that we won't get answers until a couple of months down the road.

The Minister indicated that they had done a survey on polychlorinated biphenyls. Can the Minister indicate how much PCBs are being stored currently by Manitoba Hydro and by Winnipeg Hydro, and in what locations they are being stored?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, as I said before, approximately 100,000 litres of the total of 232,000 litres of PCB reported in Manitoba is located in Manitoba Hydro converter stations.

MR. COWAN: Is it located in the equipment which is currently being used in Manitoba Hydro converter stations, or is it located in 45 gallon drums which are being stored in Manitoba Hydro converter stations? Can the Minister be more specific as to the form in which that substance is being either used or stored at the present time?

MR. FILMON: The equipment, and in drums, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: How much of the substance is being stored in equipment, or is currently in use in equipment, and how much of the substance is currently being stored in 45 gallon drums?

MR. FILMON: We don't have a breakdown, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Is there storage of polychlorinated biphenyls in the City of Winnipeg in 45 gallon drums to the Minister's or to the Department's knowledge?

MR. FILMON: We, to get that specific information, Mr. Chairman, would have to contact Manitoba Hydro.

MR. COWAN: Is the Minister indicating that his Department does not keep details on how polychlorinated biphenyls are being stored in the province; as to where they are being stored and in what form they are being stored, after all the information he provided to us, and all the expectations he created with his remarks about the survey that his department is doing? Is he indicating that they have done this survey, they have gotten a 10 percent response rate which is hardly one to be specifically boastful about, however it's better than nothing, as the Minister had indicated, and yet they don't know where it's being stored, and how it's being stored?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, that information is available and obviously probably a very thick file, and it isn't available in the summary sheet which I have brought to the Estimates. As I am sure the member can appreciate, if I were to bring down all the departmental files on every topic that might possibly be addressed, I would have to bring a truck into this room.

I am not sure exactly what information we can make available immediately. Perhaps he could give us a list of all the various types of information he is looking for and we can ascertain what is available and what isn't.

MR. COWAN: The record should show that we had indicated to the Minister that we would be discussing certain subjects under this particular area, so I'm not certain whether that was one of the ones which we indicated. It may not have been, because we were discussing it the other day, and one could assume from that, or perhaps it's not an assumption that we could expect them to make nor should expect them to make, that would be discussed again. But what the Minister said was that he could not tell us how or where those PCBs are being stored and he would have to check with Manitoba Hydro. I heard that explicitly. Is he now telling us that information is available in the departmental files?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, we have a summary in our files. We would have to double check with Manitoba Hydro to see whether or not it has changed since the point in time of inventory, in which they gave the information to us and I suppose whether or not they want it to be released publicly. All of those things would have to be double-checked. They could move a storage container from one location or remove it or place it into a piece of equipment or whatever and we would have to double check and see that everything that we know is correct according to our files.

MR. COWAN: This whole area becomes more and more confusing as we get deeper into this. Is the Minister now saying that they have sent out survey forms to find out where PCBs were being stored; to find out how they were being stored; to find out where they are being used; and they developed no mechanism to keep track of those locations and those uses once they found out where they were originally being used. Because, if I hear him correctly, what he is saying is we sent this survey form out; we got back a 10 percent response rate; a lot of it came from Manitoba and Winnipeg Hydro.

But since that time we don't know what they've done with the PCBs; we don't know if they've had them shipped out of the province; we don't know if they have taken them out of their machinery and put them into storage; we don't know if they are moving and shuffling 45 gallon drums around.

Perhaps the question that should be addressed to the Minister is, what do they know about the use and the storage and the transportation of PCBs in this province at this time.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, we know who the potential users are, by virtue of the fact that it is found in various types of electrical equipment and in hydraulic fluid. We have made an inventory of locations where we suspected that they existed and have had letters back from 10 percent of those locations. We indicated that further to that, during the remainder of this year, we will be systematically checking out all of the other areas that did not respond to the survey. We are aware that the majority of locations, because of the types of electrical transformer capacity equipment, largely would fall in with Manitoba Hydro and Winnipeg Hydro. The use and transportation of PCBs is not prohibited by law and we are aware that in some cases the PCB material is being moved out of the province by Manitoba Hydro from time to time.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps the Minister can indicate what quantities of PCBs have been moved out of the province by Manitoba Hydro over the past 12 months.

MR. FILMON: We'll have to find that information out and bring it back to the member, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps the Minister can indicate how much this survey that his Department conducted to determine areas of use and storage of PCBs in the province cost the taxpayers of this province.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, it was primarily done by Environment Canada, and any staff costs were covered by them with the exception of some of the staff costs which accrued to us by virtue of our staff being part of the team.

MR. COWAN: Not much of an answer. It doesn't matter whether Environment Canada did the survey or the province did the survey it still cost the taxpayer money and that's an argument that the Progressive Conservative Party used to use time and time again when they were on this side of the House and we were on that side of the House and it's an argument that holds equally as true today as it did then. However, I do disagree with some of the philosophical background that they bring to that argument.

But the fact is that the Minister has indicated that a survey was undertaken; it appears that the survey cost some money, it would have had to cost some money. Yet from the information that the Minister has given us, to date, it appears that that money was wasted, because if he tells us all they know is that the potential users of polychlorinated biphenyls in this province are electrical equipment users and persons in industry which have hydraulic equipment, then he's not telling us anything that we didn't know

years and years ago. There's nothing new in that statement. He can look at any of the literature on polychlorinated biphenyls and he will see that those are two main users, although there are numbers of other users and we can bring in a whole list if the Minister is willing to wait for us to look into our files and get that list, but I can assure him that the use of PCBs is not confined to electrical equipment and hydraulic equipment.

But if that's all they can tell us, and then in fact they can tell us, well, we know that Manitoba Hydro is storing some, we know that Winnipeg Hydro is storing some but we don't know really how much they are storing today because, after we did the survey, we lost track of it, then he is telling us that that was a poorly constructed survey and he is telling us, by implication, that his department is not giving the type of priority to this particular problem that he indicates they are giving in his speeches before us this year and last year; and I don't think they are. I quite honestly don't feel that the government is doing enough to deal with these very important, very significant and very substantial areas of concern. I think the Minister's information, which he has provided to us today, clearly indicates that they are not doing enough, because had they been doing enough they would have been able to bring forward a lot more information; they would have been able to bring forth a lot more data; they would have been able to provide us with details and statistics, rather than just to say that there are 100,000 litres of PCBs being used in converter stations, in equipment converter stations throughout the province, and there are 232,000 litres being used by Manitoba Hydro.

I would even doubt the accuracy of that figure. I don't have the figures before me but I would doubt the accuracy of that figure because he can't tell us how much has been transported out of the province in the last year. He keeps going back and saying there are no regulations and there is no legislation prohibiting the use and the transportation and the related activities around the introduction of PCBs into the environment. He keeps telling us that and yet he doesn't come forward with the regulations, he doesn't come forward with the legislation that is necessary to do something about that situation.

So they are telling us there is a problem; we know there is a problem. They are telling us that they know what the literature says about the problem; we know what the literature says about the problem because we have studied the problem as well. They are telling us, in fact, they haven't done very much about the problem.

Can the Minister indicate how many point sources of PCB use and storage his department was able to uncover in the course of their survey? I am not asking him for names, I am asking him for figures. How many different areas; how many different sites were found to be sites where PCBs are either used or stored at the present time?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, there were 42 responses. Some of the responses, for instance, two of the 42 are Manitoba Hydro and Winnipeg Hydro, each of which have many sites. So, as a consequence — he is ignoring that information which I gave earlier — I have a summary sheet here. I read from the summary sheet, gave him that information, indicated in addition to the utilities, 11

other different types of installations in which PCBs are found in Manitoba. That is the information that he says we have ignored or we haven't got, but it's there and he can read the Hansard if he wants to find that information.

MR. COWAN: Well, he can repeat the information that he has as much as he wants and it is not going to answer the questions. Maybe he thinks that the questions don't deserve answering. However, the questions are, in my opinion, legitimate questions which should be asked in this Estimates debate and which should be answered in this Estimates debate, and they are not. I think that the record is clear that not that much has been done, in respect to dealing with at least that one of the many thousands of toxic chemicals in this province over the past year, by the government.

Last year during the Estimates process I indicated to the then Minister that it had been suggested to me that a private sector company was dumping waste on their own property; they were digging pits with a bulldozer and they were dumping in the wastes that were being produced as a result of their industrial activity. The Minister's staff came to me afterwards and asked me for more details on that and I provided those details to the Minister's staff. Can the Minister who now occupies that portfolio provide a status report as to what was done with that information and what was discovered to be the case in that situation by the Minister's department, upon their investigation?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, can the member indicate which company and what locations he was referring to?

MR. COWAN: I had information forwarded to me by workers at the Motor Coach Industries plant in, I believe, the Fort Garry area, that they had been asked to dig pits and, in fact, dump chemicals in those pits as a part of their job. I relayed that information to the Minister. The Minister was very quick, I might add, in his response to it, and that's credit to the Minister. He sent his staff forward; his staff came to me and asked me for information. I provided his staff with as much information as I could. I believe that at that time I asked them to keep me advised of any result of their investigations. I cannot say that for certain because I do not recall the entire conversation verbatim, but I know that it is my general practice to ask for that sort of co-operation when I do provide information of that sort. I had not heard back from them. By the way, as an aside, I think it should be a general courtesy of the department to provide that sort of information as a matter of course, even if a request was not specifically stated; however, that is up to the department to decide, as to how they want to respond to those requests. But that is the specific information that the Minister had asked for a few moments ago.

MR. FILMON: I have a copy here of the information that was relayed to the Member for Churchill in May of 1980 by my predecessor. Essentially, as he is well aware, the local management of Motor Coach Industries categorically denied that wastes or chemicals had been buried on the property of their

plant in Fort Garry or on St. Matthews Street. They indicated their method of disposing of their spent quantities of waste paper, scrap lumber, scrap metal, and solvents and that information was given to the member at the time. I have nothing further to report on it.

MR. COWAN: I don't recall the information; that does not mean that it was not given to me. I will recheck my files to see if I had inadvertently filed it without making special notation of it, and that could have happened, Mr. Chairperson. If that is the case, I apologize to the previous Minister for having doubted that information was provided to me.

But the fact is I don't have it now. Can the Minister provide me with a copy of that correspondence and I will take due note of it and put it in the proper file at this point.

MR. FILMON: This is the only copy, Mr. Chairman. I will have a photocopy made and he can have it.

MR. COWAN: I would just ask the Minister, is that a copy of the correspondence to myself?

MR. FILMON: I understand that this information was relayed to the member, perhaps through a response in the House. I can read it into the record or give him a copy of it. It is not in the form of a letter; it is simply a question and answer typed up on paper.

MR. COWAN: Now I know why I didn't see the letter, but that doesn't mean that the information wasn't relayed to me. It may, in fact, have been relayed to me and I did not take special note of it. I will accept that could be the case, Mr. Chairman, because I see no reason for the Minister to tell me that the information was relayed to me if in fact it was not relayed to me.

However, now having reviewed the information that he has provided just a few moments ago, I have another question which I feel should be answered. That is, how did the department check the accuracy of the statements which were given to it by the employer? Did they check with any employees on-site to see if they had ever been asked to dispose of wastes in the way in which it was indicated to me they had been?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, the staff only have the report, which indicates the information was obtained from the Motor Coach Industries people and was verified. In all cases, as far as metals were concerned, they were being hauled away as waste materials or reclaimed. Other than that, there were a number of different solvents that were used in various processes in the plant and it was followed up and verified by speaking with the company that hauls away the solvents from the company; that was verified and contained in the information. That is all that we have available to us, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: I don't remember the conversation I had with the Minister's staff verbatim, but I do remember telling him this — I told him, because I was told to tell him this, to make certain that the story that he received was as accurate as can be — and that was that the practice had been discontinued

recently and that the material was being hauled away by a disposal firm but, in fact, the concern was over the pits that had been dug in the past and had been filled in the past, and we are not talking about that long ago. I believe it was within the past four or five years, perhaps the last two or three years, that a change in policy occurred within that company. I know I told that information to the Minister's staff. So I would ask the Minister if they checked to see if it had been the practice of that company within the last five years to dump wastes on their property?

MR. FILMON: The statement contained within the information, Mr. Chairman, and it's from the vice-president of the company, who advised that the company has never, does not presently, and will not in the future dispose of wastes on their property.

MR. COWAN: I would ask the Minister if he can have that copied, perhaps now by one of the pages, and I can look it over and then we can discuss another subject in the meantime. Is he agreeable to that?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, in response to this discussion, another copy has been sent into the House, so I will share that copy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. WILLIAM JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year I raised with the former Minister the government policy of storage of hazardous waste materials at the former Gimli air base and there was some talk at that time of moving these hazardous wastes and materials. The Minister spoke of a probability of a plant being established somewhere in Western Canada, perhaps in Alberta, for the processing and disposal of hazardous waste material.

Has there been any further development of this program, I believe which was a joint program between my understanding was I believe about five provinces, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia; and what is the present status of the storage of materials at the former Gimli air base, the Industrial Park at Gimli; are we still storing materials in that same place close to the Aspen Park Lodge?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, we are still studying hazardous wastes in Gimli, pending the outcome of the study that the member refers to. I can also indicate that from time to time we are having some of the material removed from the Industrial Park. For instance, during the past year, we have had two shipments of PCBs shipped out of the province and one shipment of general chemicals under contract with firms that carry them away for us. But just for the record I can read the most up-to-date summary of where this study stands at the present time.

Our government is participating in a joint Federal-Provincial study of hazardous waste management in western and northern Canada. The study which is being carried out by the engineering consulting firm of Reid, Crowther & Partners Ltd. was commissioned in October 1979 and has been divided into three distinct phases. The first phase which was completed in October of 1980, concerned itself with an

inventory of hazardous wastes in Western Canada and the Territories and feasibility of established a handling system.

The second phase which was completed in January of this year, involved a technological review of existing methods employed in North America and Europe in the handling and disposal of hazardous wastes.

The third and final phase of the study, which is expected to be released by the end of April, will recommend an implementation plan for hazardous waste management system.

My department is currently reviewing a draft of the final report and, as soon as the report is released, I will make it available to the House. I want to emphasize, however, the Reid, Crowther study should not in any way be viewed as a blueprint for hazardous waste management in Manitoba. It is however, an important step in our government's plan to provide a socio-economic solution to the growing problem of hazardous wastes in this province.

Although our department is committed to this goal, I would like to emphasize that a total solution to the problem will also require the support of both industry and the public at large.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the study that is currently being carried out between the Federal Government and the various provinces that are sharing in this program, does it entail a recovery plan, for the recovery of certain chemicals, other materials which can be re-used in industry? I don't know whether the Minister is aware of some of the programs that are in place in parts of Europe and in the United Kingdom, where there are industrial recovery plants of industrial wastes; they recover various types of hazardous materials, waste materials and make them available back to industry. It's not only the fact that we are eliminating wastes in hazardous materials, in some cases, we are actually have a recovery program.

I would be very interested to know if the study that is being conducted at the present time, it is not just some place to dump these materials, but that there is a recovery of hazardous and waste materials which can be used again by industry. Used oil is a good example, the Member for Inkster. I remember a few years ago that there was a firm here in Winnipeg that used to go around and recover the used oil that was changed from automobiles, and especially since we are looking at a disappearing resource. I think this is one of the things that should be looked at very seriously. It is my understanding, when we spoke with the Minister last year, that that firm had gone out of business and I would be very interested to know if there is any recovery program at the present time in the City of Winnipeg or anywhere in the Province of Manitoba, for the recovery and making this type of a material re-usable and available to the public.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, the member is quite right. We look upon this as an opportunity to, not only solve a problem, but to enable us to recover things that can be of value and recycled. The consultants are looking at not only destruction or detoxification of the hazardous wastes, but also recovery where the particular chemicals lend themselves to a recovery process.

The company to which the member refers is still dealing with the picking up of oil, of spent oil. It's being used as a fuel in the lime kiln at Faulkner, Manitoba.

MR. JENKINS: Could the Minister give us an idea of how much hazardous and waste material is presently being stored at the Industrial Park. Is it down from what we had last year or is it still just about the same amount or is it more than what we had last year?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, that varies throughout the year, as the member is probably aware. As I indicated we've been shipping some recently. There is a total inventory that's done and it's made available as public information, for instance to the R.M. of Gimli, because the storage site is within their area, and if the member would like I could give him a copy of it, but it's totally identified right down to ounces of each particular chemical, and if he doesn't have it, well I'll certainly be glad to share it with him.

MR. JENKINS: Yes, I would thank the Minister if he would make that available. Are any of the storage tanks, that were gasoline tanks at the air base, being used for storage of some of these hazardous and waste materials at the present time, or just how are they stored? Are they stored in barrels or what type of storage facilities do we put them into?

MR. FILMON: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that our chemists, staff chemists determine what's the safest way of storing those, depending on what each chemical consists of and judgments are made between barrels, plastic containers, metal containers, depending on the particular chemical in use.

MR. JENKINS: Then, Mr. Chairman, none of the containers that were used or the storage tanks that were used for fuel tanks out at the air base, the former air base, are being used for storage of any hazardous materials.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that one of the tanks is.

MR. JENKINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, why I'm asking, because as the Honourable Minister and I both have cottages at Gimli and we realize that there are a lot of flowing wells within the area. I just want assurance from the Minister and his staff that they monitor these things well and make sure that none of these hazardous wastes or materials escape into the environment, into the ground, that subsequently, since there are many of the people who have their own wells, there are community wells in the R.M. that are being used. Is there a check being made of the water supplies in the area, to make sure that they are free of any of the chemicals and hazardous waste materials that are being stored in the Gimli area.

MR. FILMON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I want to emphasize that firstly no explosive materials are allowed to be stored in that one tank that's in use; that it's regularly monitored; that there has been an engineering report as to its structural capability and to assurance that there's no possibility of infiltration or leakage from it.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister's department or does the Town of Gimli or the R.M. of Gimli have periodic analysis made of the water supply in that area? I don't know who would do it. Would it be the department that would do it, or would it be the R.M. or the town, because I understand the town is also using well supply for part of its water.

MR. FILMON: Sampling and testing is done as a normal part of the Environment Department's program. Water samples as well could be sent in from private wells at any time and be analysed should anybody wish, but our main area of concern is to ensure ourselves that no leakage or infiltration occurs from these storage and they are monitored on an ongoing basis. That's the main check is the source is being monitored.

MR. JENKINS: Well then, in other words, the Minister is saying that the department, as such, does not do any monitoring of water supplies in the R.M. or the town, considering its close proximity to the town. How often does the department do the testing that it does, or is the testing just on the air base. There's no testing off base, is that correct?

MR. FILMON: In the case of the municipal system, say the Town of Gimli, our normal testing program is done weekly or bi-weekly, depending on the volume of water that's being used in the town. We would have the normal program as well for private wells, depending on request. The municipal are done on a Canadian drinking water standards basis, which is the weekly or bi-weekly depending on volume. The others are done on a random or a request basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (1) — pass — The Honourable Member for Churchill.

MR. COWAN: Yes, Mr. Chairperson. The Member for Logan brought up the matter of the storage of toxic chemicals at the Gimli facility and the Minister indicated that the R.M. of Gimli was notified of the type of chemicals and the amount of chemicals which were stored at that facility, and it was assumed through that, that the information became public. I would ask the Minister now when it became the practice of the government to provide that specific detail to representatives of the community of Gimli, as to which chemicals and what amounts of chemicals were being store at that facility?

MR. FILMON: I'm advised that the information has never been withheld from the R.M.; that it's been provided to them on an ongoing basis since probably at least 1970 and that as well from time to time, interested parties such as the secretary-treasurer, members of the rural council, the mayor, etc., have been taken on tours to show how it's being stored and how it's being cared for.

MR. COWAN: The reason I ask that question, Mr. Chairperson, is that in 1979 there was a fair amount of controversy about residents in the area not being notified of the storage of hazardous and toxic materials there. That controversy was reported in the press and at that time a number of interesting statements were made by the then Minister of the

Environment, which is three Ministers ago, and that Minister at that time indicated, and I'll quote from the article of the day. It says, "Ransom said it was natural for people living in the area to be nervous about the situation, but he said the chemicals are in as secure an area as possible at that time. As soon as it is possible to identify other disposal areas the products will be moved".

I would ask the Minister if he can indicate what products were moved out of the Gimli storage site over the last 12 months.

MR. FILMON: During the course of the year all the materials that had been stored there were cleaned out, and we are now back on the case of filling for storage, and at times throughout the year we will again be cleaning them out. So it's an ongoing process of some coming in and some going out, so that we never get beyond a certain volume level.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister indicate where those chemicals were taken when they were cleared out of the Gimli site?

MR. FILMON: The PCB materials were taken to Nisku, north of Edmonton, and some of the other material was taken to Alberta, and others of it taken to the United States.

MR. COWAN: I won't ask for the specific information right at the moment, but I would hope that the Minister would be able to provide a manifest on the different chemicals for just the last time in which the facility was totally cleaned out. I don't expect him to have it right here but he can probably find it from his files.

Is the Minister assured that the Gimli storage facility is in fact meeting all the requirements that are necessary for a storage facility of its type?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, we're assured that they are being stored and dealt with in a safe manner. Much of the material that we gather is from school laboratories, as the member probably knows.

MR. COWAN: But the Minister can give the assurance that the storage facility does in fact meet all the provincial, federal and municipal requirements for storage facilities of that type. A couple of years ago it was indicated that the department was looking at the community of Portage la Prairie for a possible storage site. Can the Minister update us as to the status of that particular project?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the department never was looking at that site, but a private company was looking at a site near Portage la Prairie.

MR. COWAN: In that case, can the Minister tell us what he knows about the activities of that private company in respect to that site?

MR. FILMON: Their decision has been held in abeyance pending the outcome of the western provinces and territories and Federal Government joint study that's under way.

MR. COWAN: In respect to the whole area of waste disposal, last year the Minister made several

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

references to kinetic contaminants and the potential of that operation using a waste disposal site in Alberta, and coupling into that with storage sites in this province and other provinces in using their specially designed transportation vehicles to move the wastes across the prairies, I would ask the Minister if he can provide us with an update as to the status of that project and any provincial involvement in the project.

MR. FILMON: That's all part of the ongoing study. Kinetic contaminants have a storage facility in Manitoba, which is basically temporary storage, and they are the prime contractor who hauls away — oh, I'm sorry their temporary storage facility is not in Manitoba it's in Alberta — but they are the people who we use to haul away from our storage site in Gimli to Alberta, and in other cases there's another hauler who hauls elsewhere to the States.

MR. COWAN: Last year at this time, or last year during these Estimates, the then Minister of the Environment indicated that kinetic contaminants were on the verge of making a move; they were just awaiting approval from the Province of Alberta to construct that facility. The way the Minister presented the case left the impression that once they got that approval that facility would be constructed and we would be out of many of the problems which we currently face. Can the Minister provide us with an update as to where the status of that project in the Province of Alberta is today?

MR. FILMON: That approval has not been forthcoming for the reason apparently that the Province of Alberta is looking at the results of the ongoing study to make its determination as to whether or not there will be a provincial disposal facility in Alberta.

MR. COWAN: So as it stands now, everything is up in the air until such a time as that major study is completed.

It's been suggested by the media, or it has been suggested in the media that the second phase of that study has been made available to the Minister; the Minister has confirmed that he has in fact received it but not seen it. I think that those are the words that he used during the question period. The Minister is shaking his head. No, I may be wrong on this. The Hansard will show one way or the other. But given the Minister's reaction at the present time, I would ask him if he can indicate to us, where that second study is at, what stage it has been developed to at the present time?

MR. FILMON: I think the member may have been out when I read into the record the current status of it. but I will just repeat specifically in the second stage, it was completed in January and it involved a technological review of existing methods employed in North America and Europe in the handling and disposal of the hazardous wastes. That study is in the hands of my department, being reviewed and analyzed. That second phase portion in draft form is in the hands of my department but I have not yet seen it or had an opportunity to discuss it with them.

MR. COWAN: I think that was what I said, but if I didn't say that, then I apologize to the Minister. I

think I said that he had indicated that he had not had an opportunity to see it as of yet, in the question period, and that was the case, so the Minister has in fact confirmed that information.

I would ask the Minister when he would expect that study will be made available to the general public.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, it appears as though my reference to the second phase being available in draft form is incorrect. The second phase is available in final form and has been made public. It's the third phase that's in draft form in the hands of my staff, and that was what I referred to that I hadn't seen. I haven't seen any of these phase studies incidentally at this point in time, having spent a limited time in the portfolio; but the final report on that final phase of the study is expected to be available to us by the end of April and when it's available, I assume it will be released.

MR. COWAN: I'll ask the indulgence of the Chair for a moment while I straighten out my own perceptions as to what reports have been made available and which have not.

I recall a major report that was made available during last year's session; that was the first phase of the study? The Minister now indicates that there is a second phase of the study which has been made available to the public as well. Is that correct? Can the Minister provide us with a copy of that second phase of the study?

MR. FILMON: We'll make that available, Mr. Chairman, and just so I can ensure that the member isn't led astray on this, the statement which I read earlier indicated that these studies should not in any way be viewed as a blueprint for hazardous waste management in Manitoba. They are studies that have been commissioned by various governments, provincial, federal and territorial, and they obviously have not been dealt with or acted upon. They are just simply studies that are provided for us as a blueprint perhaps for some future action. They have figured the alternatives and recommendations in other words.

MR. COWAN: Hopefully they will be used as a basis for future action, otherwise it's a very costly process which will not result in the intended purposes for which it was designed. So I hope that the Minister is saying that they will be reviewing them very carefully; they will be using them as a basis for discussion and for development of waste management processes which are long overdue. No one government can be faulted for the fact that they are long overdue, by the way, the record should be clear on that. It is just a matter of keeping up with the advancing technology, although a government can be faulted for not keeping up with the advancing technology enough, while they are in power. However, that is a philosophical discussion, one which I am certain the Minister does not need to respond to at this time.

The Minister indicated earlier, and I believe I have it correctly, that some of the waste from Gimli was being disposed in at the lime kiln at Faulkner, Manitoba. Is that correct? Can the Minister review his reference to the lime kiln at Faulkner, Manitoba, then?

MR. FILMON: The Member for Logan had indicated that he was aware of waste oil being collected from various locations in the province in the past, and I said that was still being done by Prime Oils and being disposed of by virtue of being burned and supplying energy for a lime kiln in Faulkner.

MR. COWAN: I apologize to the Minister for misinterpreting information. I've just been able to pick up a bit of on my way into the House from picking up some of my files.

Is that the Steel Brothers Limited kiln in Faulkner? The reason I ask that, Mr. Speaker, is on the sheet of paper that was just presented to me by the Minister, the last sentence is, and I quote, "please note that the lime kiln operated by Steel Brothers Ltd., is presently under review by the Clean Environment Commission. Can the Minister indicate the results of that review?"

MR. FILMON: The Clean Environment Commission order has been issued on that, on the operation of that kiln.

MR. COWAN: I would ask the Minister if he would prefer to discuss that under the section of the Estimates entitled Clean Environment Commission, would that be more appropriate for him?

MR. FILMON: I assume that the next question will be what does the order say and since we won't have it until the Clean Environment Commission material is with us, we might as well leave it to that discussion.

MR. COWAN: But the question of incineration is one that has to be addressed in general terms, and I would ask the Minister, and I'll be very specific in my question, as to how radioactive wastes in the Province of Manitoba are currently being disposed of; in what way are they being disposed of at the present time?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, they're being disposed of in accordance with the requirements of their licensing for disposal under the Atomic Energy Control Board.

MR. COWAN: The Minister doesn't expect me to leave the question at that. What ways are being used to dispose of these wastes? Specifically, are they being buried; are they being dumped down sewers; are they being stored; are they being blown up; are they being left in freezers, in hospitals, in scientific institutions where they were originating from? What are the current methods that are being utilized in order to dispose of hazardous radioactive wastes in this Province?

MR. FILMON: My understanding is that the requirements of the Atomic Energy Control Board for the various installations include permission to dispose of by incineration, dilution or burial, depending on the particular installation; it varies.

MR. COWAN: Are there any wastes which are being incinerated, radioactive wastes that are being incinerated in the Province of Manitoba today? When I say today, I mean in the past year?

MR. FILMON: As the member probably knows there are radioactive isotopes used in medical tracing, for instance, with a very low level of radioactivity with half lives of a few days, seven days, something like that. If they are incinerated it's the solvents in which they are in solution that are incinerated and as the member knows, that doesn't get rid of the radioactivity. It's a matter of the time spent in getting rid of those, but we're not aware of any high level radioactive elements that are being disposed of in any way that are contrary to the AECB requirements.

MR. COWAN: I'm not certain whether in fact radioactive wastes in this Province are being disposed of contrary to the AECB requirements, however, I'm not certain that the AECB requirements are all that they should be either, but that is a question for people with far greater experience and expertise in that area than I. However, I do know that there are people who use radioactive isotopes in this Province who are concerned about the way in which they are stored; the way in which they enter the Province; the way in which they are disposed of after their use in the Province. They have approached me from time to time; they have given me a list of their concerns from time to time, and they have indicated that they are not satisfied that, in fact, the process is being followed as carefully as it should be or, in some instances, are not satisfied that the process is all that it should be in the first place. I'd ask the Minister if those same people have approached him in respect to those concerns and complaints?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, I'm informed by our staff that we have not been approached by people and we'd be glad to hear of them. We have radioactive inspection services, people who will look into these and ensure one way or another that they are being properly handled.

MR. COWAN: A few days ago we had a disposal of a number of explosive and somewhat toxic or at least hazardous wastes at the landfill site on the Brady St. landfill, I believe. I had been informed in the past, and I have never had the opportunity to fully verify the information which was provided to me, so I'd ask the Minister if he can comment on this information and I present it to him, not as a fact, not as verified or confirmed information but as a question that has been given to me by others and I have stated I will attempt to get more information on; and that is, have radioactive wastes, and by that one would assume that we'd be talking about assimilation cocktails, perhaps what is called assimilation cocktails in the business, or rags and cloths, could be material left over from X-ray Labs, materials from Hospitals; have those wastes ever been disposed of along with a number of other explosive chemicals by that process?

MR. FILMON: No, positively not, Mr. Chairman, to our knowledge.

MR. COWAN: Could he just to make certain the record is clear, going back over a period of the last two years?

MR. FILMON: No, Mr. Chairman, we have no recollection of anything of that nature for more than the last two years.

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

MR. COWAN: Are radioactive wastes being disposed of at the Brady St. landfill site?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, we're not aware of any of that being done at landfill sites in Winnipeg. I would suppose that the Member would have to follow that up with the City. Of course, the City is not under the Clean Environment Commission Act, as the Member is probably aware but we do try and keep track of what is going on with respect to this and, to our knowledge, it is not being dealt with in landfill sites.

MR. COWAN: When I'm speaking of radioactive wastes I'm including radio isotope materials that are coming from the universities and the hospitals in this province. I would ask the Minister if he would check with the City of Winnipeg in respect to that, rather than have myself check. The Minister has more staff, more access and a bit more clout in respect to gathering information of that sort. But, I would hope that he would check and I think that he will find that in fact radioactive isotopes have been disposed of at the landfill site, at least at the Brady Street landfill site, and I would suggest that they may not have been at levels at which they would be considered hazardous unless they were consumed by an individual internally but they were, none the less, radioactive wastes and they did contain some small levels of radioactivity. They were not considered to be immediately dangerous to people in the area unless they happen to pick up a bit on their hand and in fact internalize that through eating or through consuming something and some of the radioactivity then went off of their hands into the food they were eating and they ate it by accident. However, the situation is such that I think it demands further attention. I have been told that that is the case; I have seen that that is the case, and I only have to take the word of the people who advised me of it that in fact there were radioactive wastes, I had no way of telling that they were radioactive wastes or not. But, that comes from some very authoritative people in the field.

The next question to the Minister is, are radioactive wastes currently being stored at the Northend Sewage Treatment Plant?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, although we don't have the exact information on that, again because the City of Winnipeg is not under our jurisdiction in that respect, we are aware that some is probably being stored there to reduce the half life below what is considered to be dangerous levels before disposal.

MR. COWAN: I know that the City of Winnipeg has its own jurisdiction in respect to waste disposal. I would ask the Minister if he is satisfied with that system and if he is satisfied that the government has enough information in respect to the disposal of radioactive wastes by the City in the Province to be able to assure us categorically that there are no difficulties being experienced with that disposal and in fact it is being accomplished in those manners which are called for by the regulations and legislation that go beyond the municipal level, they would go into the federal level as well.

MR. FILMON: Atomic Energy Control Board requirements are the best technical reference that we

have and we're satisfied that they are meeting those requirements, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: As for the transportation of wastes such as these and other toxic wastes through the province, can the Minister indicate how many transporters are licensed to transport such waste and what activity his department undertakes to ensure that they are in fact abiding by the appropriate regulations and legislation?

MR. FILMON: Is the member referring to transportation of all dangerous goods? The Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, as the Member probably knows, came into force on November 1st, 1980, applying to approximately 3,300 materials and establishing standards for the movement of these materials by all modes of transport. We are working with the Federal Government in ensuring that these regulations and requirements will be properly instituted in Manitoba.

MR. COWAN: Would the Minister attest to exactly how they are working with the Federal Government; are they sitting on bodies with the Federal Government, advisory committees; are they conducting a series of scheduled meetings or are they doing it on an ad hoc method? What is the process that they are following in order to assure that they are in fact working with the Federal Government as much as they can in respect to having these regulations fully carried out in the Province of Manitoba?

MR. FILMON: We had input into the Act through having people on a task force. As well, there is an interdepartmental committee established within Manitoba involving all of the various potential areas of provincial jurisdiction, which includes Highways, Labour, the Fire Commissioner's office, Agriculture, our division, and so on, who are meeting to identify our specific areas of involvement. They are meeting on an ongoing basis with the Federal Director of Transportation of the Dangerous Goods Branch.

MR. COWAN: Perhaps I could give the Minister a suggestion then, and that is that he assign this subject — and when I am talking about this subject I'll go back to two comments previous, and that is the transportation and disposal of radioactive waste in the province — to that university committee which has been formulated as a result of suggestions by both the university and the Opposition during last year's Estimates and last year's session. The reason I suggest that to him is that these are the individuals who in fact are having the most contact with radioactive isotopes in the Province of Manitoba. They are the ones who are in the university research section; they are the ones that are in the medical profession; and those two bodies are the bodies that are using radioactive materials most in the province, although there are some industrial sites which do use radioactive materials from time to time in other jurisdictions and I would imagine that it is no different here. I can't be any more specific than that.

I think it would be a good opportunity to have a body examine the situation, a body which is very closely linked with the Provincial Government, for the purpose of, number one, determining what is

happening now, and number two, trying to develop some suggestions, recommendations and programs which would in fact deal with some of the problems that are being experienced now, because there are problems being experienced. Now, it's been a matter of media record; it has been a matter of complaints that have come forward, at least to myself. I am certain complaints, from time to time, have come forward to the Department of the Environment, although I can't be any more specific than that.

It's a matter that should be of grave concern to the province and to the Minister, even although we are dealing with two other jurisdictions here, the jurisdiction of the City of Winnipeg which has authority over all the landfill sites and the disposal of wastes in the City of Winnipeg, and the jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Control Board which has general authority over the transportation, introduction, and disposal of radioactive materials in the province.

So I give him that suggestion in hopes that he will follow up on it and in hope that he will in fact direct them — at least to examine the situation and see if there is a need — to direct their attention to that specific matter as a priority item.

Does the Minister foresee any changes in the regulations which currently exist in respect to the transportation of hazardous goods in the Province of Manitoba? These, of course, are provincial regulations.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, there would be a need to adopt a complimentary position to The Federal Act, or adopt The Federal Act. That would not come under our department though.

MR. COWAN: Highways and Transportation?

MR. FILMON: Yes.

MR. COWAN: The Minister indicates that that would come under Highways and Transportation. We will have to discuss that more with the Minister responsible for that department.

The question to the Minister is, has he discussed it with the Minister of Highways and Transportation and, if so, when should we expect those regulations to be forthcoming?

MR. FILMON: We would hope as early as the latter part of this year, Mr. Chairman.

MR. COWAN: Unfortunately I don't have my copy of the feasibility study which was presented last year in front of me, although I do remember in general terms what they had to say about the transportation of dangerous goods. What they were talking about in specifics was the transportation of waste products. They didn't specify that they were either dangerous or toxic or hazardous. They just said that there are a number of companies in the Province of Manitoba who in fact, do transport waste products as a course of their business.

They also then, compared the number of companies with the number of companies which provided special training to their drivers, in order to acquaint them with the proper procedures and the proper ways of dealing with some of the hazardous products which they would have to deal with as a matter of dealing with wastes in general. I don't

remember the exact details at this time; however, I do remember that the percentage of companies which provided training beyond general training for any driver, was a very low percentage and that the percentage of companies which required special licensing or required special training for their drivers, as well was a low percentage. I am certain that information has been made available to the Minister, or at least to his department.

I would ask him what action they have taken in respect to what appears to be a serious deficiency in the training programs which are being utilized by transporters of waste products in the Province of Manitoba? I must add as well, that it was not a problem that was confined to the Province of Manitoba, it was a problem that existed in each of the jurisdictions that were studied as a part of that overall survey of the Prairie Provinces, Northern Ontario and the Territories.

MR. FILMON: The whole purpose of the regulations under the new Federal Act and our proposed legislation, would be to bring all of this onto an orderly basis.

MR. COWAN: Is the Minister saying that we are not going to see much action — I am not going to say any action — but much action until such a time as all those reports are compiled?

MR. FILMON: In order to take advantage of the control that can be provided for under The Federal Act, we will have to implement the regulations that will allow us to compliment it and bring it into effect in Manitoba.

MR. COWAN: Is the Minister of Highways, to the Minister of Environment's knowledge, then looking at regulations that would provide for mandatory training for haulers of waste disposal materials?

MR. FILMON: I couldn't specify whether he is or isn't. I know that we can't accomplish our purposes until all of the Federal regulations are available, and they are expecting it to be in the latter part of this year and then we can compliment, or at least pass regulations, to implement it in Manitoba, if that's the choice.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister indicate when it is expected that he will be able to table that third — or provide to us, it doesn't have to be by the formal mechanism of tabling — that third portion of the study? He indicated before when it would be ready. Is there a time lag after the time it has been prepared to the time that it would be made available to the general public for their perusal?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, that would be subject to the approval of all of the Ministers involved on behalf of the various jurisdictions. I think that in the past, the time span has not been very long from the time that it was completed to the time it was made public and I would expect that the same thing would hold true in this case.

MR. COWAN: Last year it was indicated by the Minister, and this falls in the general area of waste disposal, that a study was being done in respect to

landfill sites outside of the City of Winnipeg. My first question to the Minister is, do those landfill sites generally fall under the jurisdiction of the province or the municipality in which they are located? If that is the case, how many landfill sites would be landfill sites which would come under the direct jurisdiction of the province, over which the province would have responsibility?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, the municipalities own them but they are subject to our regulations under The Clean Environment Commission Act. We have commenced under my predecessor, a program of trying to both encourage and perhaps educate municipal jurisdictions on some of the benefits of other forms of solid waste disposal such as incineration, which allows for heat recovery, energy recovery and other benefits. So we are working with them on an ongoing basis and have expanded that area of our endeavours.

MR. COWAN: Can the Minister provide us with a report as to the current status of the acetate which was being stored by JBC Controls, and over which there was a controversy a number of months ago as to the proper disposal method for that substance?

MR. FILMON: It is acetone rather than acetate, acetone and toluene, and it is still being stored at the location in the R.M. of Springfield.

MR. COWAN: I have had a fair degree of contact with persons representing JBC Controls over the past year in respect to the problems they were encountering and it appears to me, at least what they have told me leads me to the assumption that what they were trying to do was set up a recycling system whereby they would take a waste product from one manufacturer, refine it or put it through a process that would make it acceptable to another manufacturer, and sell it to another manufacturer, they by the way, were quite disappointed with the co-operation that they received from the government.

They were disappointed with the co-operation they received from the Minister of Economic Development and were somewhat disappointed with the co-operation they received from the Department of the Environment. At that time, they kept coming back and saying all we are trying to do is do what the Minister of the Environment says he wants done, and that is to take a waste product and make it a usable product once again and manufacture it. They had a number of difficulties.

I would ask the Minister if he can provide us with some information as to contacts his department has had with persons representing JBC Controls, and what their analysis of the efforts of JBC Controls is? I do not have the information nor the expertise available to say it's either a feasible project or it is not a feasible project but I'm certain that the Minister would have wanted to have studied that situation to make that determination. So the specific question is, does his department think it's feasible? And the general question is, what contact have they had with representatives of JBC Controls in respect to this problem?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, our department has endorsed the principle of the recycling of solvents,

provided it's done in a safe and acceptable manner. I am informed that it's a rather simple technical process, provided that it is done by competent personnel. Our only contact with them has largely been by correspondence and that's been the extent of it.

MR. COWAN: Has the department been able to make a determination as to whether or not they believe that recycling would be accomplished by JBC Controls in, and I'm using the Minister's words here, a safe and acceptable manner?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Chairman, they haven't submitted a firm proposal to us. As I say our department's aware of the technical aspect of what they're proposing and we know that it is possible to be done, but they haven't submitted a proposal to us by which we could evaluate whether or not it would be done in a safe and acceptable manner. I understand there was a problem as to site, because certain perspective locations did not wish to accept them, for fears that, we're not sure of the grounds for the fears, but certain municipal jurisdictions simply wouldn't accept them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. The hour is 4:30. I'm interrupting the proceeding for Private Members' Hour and will return to Committee at 8 o'clock this evening.

IN SESSION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' HOUR

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. We're now under Private Members' Hour. Thursdays the first item of business is Public Bills, followed by Private Bills and then Resolutions. The first Public Bill, Bill No. 14, a motion of the Honourable Member for Inkster.

The Honourable Member for Rhineland. (Stand)

ADJOURNED DEBATES ON SECOND READING

BILL NO. 15 — AN ACT TO AMEND THE LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 15, a motion of the Honourable Member for Fort Rouge, standing in the name of the Honourable Member for Roblin.

The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Roblin took the adjournment in my behalf because I was not present in the House on Tuesday when the Bill was brought forward.

Mr. Speaker, upon assuming responsibility for my portfolio I was informed of the apparent discrepancy in the wording of the new subsection of The Landlord and Tenant Act which defines excessive rent increase. I was also informed of the lack of a provision regarding the enforcement of an order for repayment of excess rents which could be issued by the Director of Arbitration, following completion of an arbitration.

The problem of definition has obstructed only one compulsory arbitration thus far and it occurred in

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

respect of a building that is situated in the riding of the Member for Fort Rouge. She is, therefore, fully conversant with the situation and obviously shares the concern which I have.

Mr. Speaker, I'm rather disappointed at the fact that at somebody's initiation this has become a partisan political issue, as opposed to an effort to solve the problem for tenants who reside in the particular building. An article appeared in the paper today which indicated, firstly, that our government was not willing to deal with this and it was being stalled by certain backbenchers and so on, and that we're holding back debate, so I am delighted that it's been brought forward quickly so we can deal with it. I will say that if any stall has occurred it's the two days that have intervened from the time it was first called for debate on Tuesday until now, and certainly the responsibility is mine because I was not here when it was called on Tuesday, and I was prepared to make the comments that I'm making today, to ask that it be considered quickly and expediently to relieve any anxieties that may be occurring on behalf of the tenants who are involved in this particular item.

Among other things, I would just like to indicate that Bill 83, as it was originally drafted last year, did have the correct wording that would have taken care of this situation. In conjunction with many different amendments that were made after the committee study of the Bill, this particular wording was adjusted, I think, in the hopes of making it more beneficial to the tenants, in this particular case, and through some unknown reason the adjustment then, in legal terms, put into question just exactly their rights under this Act.

As a result of it, when challenged by one particular landlord, our department solicited an opinion which recommended to us we that we tighten up the wording and we made a commitment to do so. We had advised all the tenants in the particular block that we were intending to bring forward the legislation. The one difficulty was — I might indicate that I'm sure that the member was aware of it because the block is in her area, and in response to hearing that there was a problem and that the government was intending to bring forward legislation she too wanted to ensure that it was being looked after and so she brought forward her legislation — I might indicate that we, as a government obviously have certain constraints which the member as an individual perhaps does not.

I apologize to the House for any delay that may have occurred, but I make no apology for the reason, because basically government is a team effort. I do not operate as a lone individual and, as a new Minister, felt that I just had to have this reviewed by fellow members of my caucus in government. Having cleared that hurdle expected to put forward the amendments and when I found that the member had proposed an amendment to The Landlord and Tenant Act, I'm sure she'll confirm that I discussed it with her immediately after seeing the matter on the order paper, I found that one of the proposals that she was putting forth, a proposal to amend slightly the wording that would rectify the definition of excessive rent increases, it was felt that perhaps the wording wasn't quite what was in the draft that I had proposed; she agreed to take a look at it. I also

suggested that she consider adding to it the clause that provides for any award being able to be registered with the courts, upon completion of an arbitration, for the enforcement of an order and she agreed to put that in with her bill so that it could go forward, rather than it being debated on a partisan basis.

I know that our concerns are not political concerns, they're concerns to ensure that the tenants are dealt with justly and to ensure that the tenants get the rights that they were intended to have under the wording of the Act, and I would hope that under this partisan basis that the tenant's considerations will be put forth quickly and expediently and that this bill will be allowed to pass just as soon as we possibly can in the House. Mr. Speaker, my caucus and our government is in support of this bill, as I said, we were prepared to bring it forward and on the first day of the 1981 session; the member had placed her bill on the Order Paper, so we were not necessarily looking for who would receive what credit, but rather to ensure that the tenants involved would benefit by this passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not questioning what the member said in the House; I'm questioning what she said in the article and so, just to set the record straight, I've made those comments. My recommendation would be that members consider this bill as quickly and as expediently as possible and give it rapid passage in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. The honourable member with a question.

MS. JUNE WESTBURY: I was wondering if the Minister would explain what article it was that I've written that he's talking about. I haven't written any articles, Mr. Speaker, relative to this subject. When somebody approached me I answered questions to the best of my ability, but he said I'd made statements in an article. I haven't written any article.

MR. FILMON: Well, Mr. Speaker, the article appears in today's Free Press and the member is quoted as saying, "she decided to draft the bill after it became apparent the government wasn't going to correct the problem. She also expressed surprise at being stalled by the government backbenchers. I think it's strange" and this is in quotations, "first they didn't act immediately and now they're holding back debate". And, Mr. Speaker, I'm wanting to rectify that matter by putting on the record just exactly what the involvement of our department has been in bringing it to this stage.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of the discussion, the member felt that it was important to her to have this credit on the record and I agree with it. I'm not looking for credit, I'm looking to have the tenants rights protected in this bill.

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to take sides here, whether this is partisan or non-partisan. I think the bill merits going on to committee. If there are any questions that we would have at that time, we would raise them with the member, because we're speaking of the principle of the bill at the present time. I think that the principle that has been put forward by the Member for Fort Rouge, to rectify a situation, but I'm not saying that

it was a government deliberately did it or anything. I mean, I'm not going to argue pro and con over whether the Minister is a bit — the shoe is pinching his foot a little bit because of the fact of an article that appears in the newspaper. If he's going to be that touchy, then I say that he better get over that because I'm sure that he'll suffer many of those things in his experience in this Chamber. And as far as we in the New Democratic Party are concerned, we're prepared to have this bill pass in the Assembly and go on to committee and to rectify a situation that, from what my understanding is, is a problem to people who are having rent increases of almost 100 percent. And if that's a fault in the bill, well then the government has to take that responsibility because they were the ones that introduced the bill and passed it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Attorney-General.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, a question to the member. I wonder if he would be prepared to grant leave to go into Committee of the Whole to consider the bill now and perhaps grant leave to give it Third Reading.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Well, Mr. Speaker, we would be departing from the procedure of the House. The procedure I think with bills, other than Treasury bills or bills dealing with the Legislative Assembly, go to a committee outside the House. That has been a precedent and a practice of this Assembly for many many years where public can make representations on a bill. If it was as simple as what the Attorney-General is saying, that's fine but there may be people who are opposed to this bill who may want to make representation; or in favour of it. And it's always been the practice, I don't know how long it has been the practice of this Chamber, but all bills, except for Treasury bills, bills of the Legislative Assembly dealing with The Legislative Assembly Act, have gone outside of this House to committee.

Is the Attorney-General now suggesting that we start a new procedure. Because I think we would be starting a procedure that would not be in the best interests of the people of Manitoba.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed to Bill No. 17 — The Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand).

Bill No. 19 — The Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand)

SECOND READING — PUBLIC BILLS

BILL NO. 23 — THE CONDOMINIUM ACT

MS. WESTBURY presented Bill No. 23, An Act to amend The Condominium Act for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge.

MS. WESTBURY: Mr. Speaker, this is a very short and very straightforward amendment that I'm

proposing here and it's intended to give additional protection to the older tenants of apartment blocks that are being converted to condominium use. Mr. Speaker, as members can see, it's just one short paragraph of amendment, one short section, but it would be important to the people whom it would help to remain in their homes.

I referred in my remarks the other day to some of the harassments that tenants are receiving from some landlords; I have referred to one in particular, one firm which owns about half-a-dozen condominium apartments in the city and one of the ways in which they are harassing these people, a number of whom are elderly people, is in the way that the Minister has referred to in the earlier bill today and I referred to the other day.

What I am suggesting in this bill is that within the limitations already provided by legislation in The Landlord and Tenant Act and in The Condominium Act, that people over the age of 65 should be permitted to live in their apartments for as long as they are capable of living independently. There is a danger that when these people are forced to move they will move, not to another apartment, Mr. Speaker, where the same thing might happen to them over again six months down the road or a year down the road, but they might just decide to throw up their hands and move into a more institutional-type residence, which is unfortunate for them and it's unfortunate for the taxpayers of the province as well. It's uneconomical and it's bad for everyone around.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a short history on condominiums in Winnipeg. The first condominium in the city was constructed in the early 1970s, 1971 or 1972, and I see the Member for Crescentwood is here and he would remember, I am sure, that the first condominium was built out on Grant Avenue, I believe, by Mr. Thawani, when he and I were both members of the city council around 1972. He was the very first developer in the city to erect a condominium apartment building, Mr. Speaker, and at the time there was a great deal of discussion as to whether he should even be allowed to proceed with that building because there were a lot of difficulties foreseen with the condominium type of development.

Mr. Speaker, last year the government removed the provision of 50 percent consent for condominium conversion; they removed rent controls so that landlords can employ that weapon of escalating rents to force tenants out, subject to arbitration, but we have seen the limits to which some landlords — and goodness me I agree that every landlord isn't unscrupulous. I couldn't agree more on that. But you only need a few unscrupulous landlords to provide a very unsavoury situation, Mr. Speaker. Since the arbitration depends upon rents being similar in similar accommodation in the same area, same neighbourhood, when one landlord gets away with raising rents beyond a reasonable limitation, then the other landlords quite legally and legitimately have the same opportunity to raise rents above what would generally be considered a reasonable amount.

Mr. Speaker, the landlords that caused the previous bill to be brought to the House had their lawyer come to a meeting, a meeting which had been set up with the tenants — as I have said, the tenants of this apartment block, a number of them were elderly people — a meeting was set for 7 o'clock, he

Thursday, 12 March, 1981

kept them waiting. There's a question arising here when did he know about the loophole that he'd found? Did he know that while the legislation was still being prepared; or did he know about it five minutes before the meeting? He kept them waiting, he came down, he argued with the Director of Arbitration for 45 minutes about whether or not they would go to arbitration. Since then the people have been forced to pay the increased amounts. They did not have the benefit of the protection which the previous Minister of Consumer Affairs assured us they would have under last year's legislation. They didn't have it because they had a lawyer who found a loophole.

Now this is harassing to any tenant; it's an aggravation to any tenant, Mr. Speaker. What I'm suggesting is that to an elderly person it is just very often the ultimate harassment that will cause them to say, well I'm just not going to bother with this hassle any more. They're not going to buy, why should a single person of 70 or 75 years of age buy an apartment, Mr. Speaker? They've saved, these people that I'm talking about, many of them have worked hard all their lives, they've saved for their old age, they're living in a dwelling of their choosing, they are able, some of them to have holidays in the south, they are able to go to the theatre or to the football games or enjoy their hobbies because they've saved. They don't want to have to spend all the money that they've saved as a down payment on a condominium which they will only be using for a short time and, as a consequence of the spending of the money, be deprived of these enjoyments to which they feel they're entitled and to which I feel they're entitled, Mr. Speaker.

So the purpose in bringing this resolution forward, Mr. Speaker, is to provide additional protection for people who have attained the age of 65 years. I want to point out that in New York state at the age of 62 years, and subject to a residency qualification and to some income qualification, tenants do have this protection, being able to stay indefinitely in the premises in which they've been residing at the time of condominium conversion. So it's not unique. I would object to including any arbitration concerning the amount of income they have because I don't think that the frustrations of the elderly are restricted to the elderly poor. Independent elderly people can also become very frustrated when they feel they're treated unfairly by government or by society or by people who are put in a position, such as landlords, to deal unfairly with them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking the members on both sides of the House to look at this resolution considering the people who would be effected by it and considering also that most of the people over the age of 65 who want to live within their restrictions that already exist under The Landlord and Tenant Act and under The Condominium Act and who under this would be able to stay for a period of their own choosing in the apartments that they've selected for their retirement home. How many years is it going to be? To what hardship are we submitting the landlords, Mr. Speaker, in giving this additional protection to the elderly people? I suggest that this is something we could do for our elderly that would not ultimately prove a major hardship to landlords.

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

MR. D. JAMES WALDING: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the honourable member would permit a question. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the member whether she's of the opinion that an entrenched Charter of Rights would disallow the proposal that she puts forward within this bill because it is discriminatory on the basis of age?

MS. WESTBURY: If and when the occasion arises that we would have to discuss that, Mr. Speaker, I would refer it to my legal advisors.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Gladstone.

MR. JAMES R. FERGUSON: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Rhineland debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill No. 24. The Honourable Member for Fort Rouge. (Stand)

Bill No. 28. The Honourable Member for Wellington. (Stand)

BILL NO. 30 — SPERLING JOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE DISTRICT

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. ARNOLD BROWN presented Bill No. 30, An Act respecting the Sperling Joint Community Centre District for second reading.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Rhineland.

MR. BROWN: The Rural Municipality of Morris and the Rural Municipality of Macdonald and the Rural Municipality of Dufferin have passed a by-law creating a Joint Community Centre District, a Joint Community Centre District Board and authorizing the construction of a rink including contracts for the Sperling area. The Joint Community Centre District having been established, the former Acts being Chapter 99, Chapter 81 and Chapter 85, Statutes of Manitoba 1932 should be repealed. At the same time the land listed on duplicate Certificates of Titles Nos. 17241 and 12789 should be transferred into the name of the Rural Municipality of Morris, it being agreed upon by all three municipalities that the transferee should be the Rural Municipality of Morris as the lands are actually located within that municipality. This has created some difficulties previously, Mr. Speaker, and this bill is going to correct this.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Logan.

MR. JENKINS: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Vital that debate be adjourned.

MOTION presented and carried.

MR. SPEAKER: Adjourned debate on Bill No. 31. the Honourable Member for Logan. (Stand).

MR. SPEAKER: Proceed to Resolution No. 14 — the Honourable Member for Wellington.

RES. 14 — EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MR. CORRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Logan the following resolution:

WHEREAS inadequate or unaffordable shelter, poor nutrition, family destabilization, alcohol and drug abuse and poor school performance are all prevalent in Winnipeg's core area; and WHEREAS poverty is the most apparent and prevalent problem among others; and

WHEREAS the poor performance of the Manitoba economy has made it difficult to create new employment opportunities in Winnipeg generally, and in the inner-City in particular; and

WHEREAS the most preferable method of attacking poverty is through the stimulation of employment and the creation of meaningful work opportunities; and

WHEREAS the Core Area Initiative can provide a unique opportunity for government to encourage the creation of new economic opportunities for needy core area residents; and

WHEREAS the government has failed to address the problem of core area deterioration in its first three years in office;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Assembly do recommend that the Provincial Government allocate a substantial share of its Core Area Initiative funds in the context of new employment opportunities in the inner-City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all such program expenditures be designed to generate long-term employment opportunities which are considered the nature of the local labour force and will provide real opportunities for the training, upgrading and advancing of unskilled or semi-skilled employees.

MOTION presented.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Wellington.

MR. CORRIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great privilege, Mr. Speaker, for the first time to be able to participate in what I hope will be a meaningful substantive and long-running debate on a very pressing and important issue. This resolution I hope, will provide an opportunity for all members, not just members who have city ridings, to participate in discussions relative to the potential of the Core Area Initiative Program which has been announced by the three levels of government participating.

Mr. Speaker. I can also say that I find it a fortuitous coincidence that this particular program has been prioritized at a time when Winnipeg's economic decline has indeed de-emphasized suburban development, and allowed us in some way — I say it's partially ironic but nevertheless it's still a

happy state of affairs — that we will be allowed to focus and concentrate our efforts on revitalizing the deteriorated core area of this city.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I would wish that the economy was better and we could focus our efforts in all parts of the city, but it would appear that with city government now talking about prioritizing inner city development for obvious reasons such as high energy costs and the cost of future development and the general lack of growth in the city as a whole, it seems that we have an opportunity to do something meaningful.

It's also an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for the government to discuss and tell us something about its plans. As we know, over the past several months, I've been hearing reports about ongoing series of meetings between the three affected levels of government. We have to a large extent, not yet heard elucidated the direction which the governments will be moving, so we'll now have an opportunity I hope, to hear from the Minister affected and the government, as to what sort of priorities they place, when they expect to be able to allocate the target moneys to the various priorities and so on.

Mr. Speaker, it would be I think, remiss of me not to have at least in passing describe the scope of the problem. Mr. Speaker, the problem in the core area has been discussed on numerous occasions. It's something that has been before the public, that has been topical for a number of years, certainly throughout the 1960s and 1970s and I say, Mr. Speaker, that although the question has been generally well documented that it does no harm to update ourselves as to the extent of the problem. I wish, Mr. Speaker, to refer to some statistical data which will evidence the dramatic deterioration in the state and plight of the core area of this city.

We know, Mr. Speaker, for example that between 1962 and 1976 — and those, Mr. Speaker, were years shared by both governments equally or by both parties equally in government — there was a 20 percent decline in population in the central part of the city. We had a diminution of population from 121,183 in 1962, to 97,656 in 1976. As I understand it, Mr. Speaker, that continues to be the case.

Other things which evidence the continuing deterioration, Mr. Speaker, are generally the population imbalances, and I refer specifically to the numbers of or the preponderance of senior citizens residing in the core area as opposed to their proportion within the city as a whole. We're told that as of July 1980, the City of Winnipeg report that we had 18 percent of the inner city comprised of senior citizens, whereas we only had some 12.3 percent in the entire City of Winnipeg. That's alarming, Mr. Speaker, because these people are to a large extent dependent members of society. They are not in a position to increase their incomes. They do need assistance and we must remember, Mr. Speaker, that they also represent, of course, a stable community base. So, Mr. Speaker, in referring to that statistic, I would indicate and I do so with some degree of optimism because I can say that they are the people who have provided the base upon which this city has been built and they're still there, and with a little assistance they can help the city to grow.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I can indicate that income data relative to this particular part of the city

indicates that we have substantially less average income in the core area than in the city as a whole. We find that in 1978 the City of Winnipeg report entitled, "Study Travel and Demography Trends", this was the City of Winnipeg Environmental Planning Report, it showed that in 1976 the average income for dwelling unit in the whole city was 15,332 and that's an average sum; in the inner city it was only 10,916 and that's a considerably smaller income per unit than pertained throughout the city.

So, Mr. Speaker, we can say that with less income, of course, comes needless to say, less self-determination, less self-sufficiency and the need I think, for members involved in this sort of process to become involved and concerned about the problems of those people.

Mr. Speaker, even more alarming, and I want to refer to it as the declining number of family units in the core area and this I think is exceedingly alarming, we find in the period from 1962 to 1976 an almost 33 percent decline in those one and one-half decades in family habitation of the core area. That to me strikes fear, Mr. Speaker, because I say that where there are families there is community. Society at its best is represented by normal healthy family situations and I suggest that there is good reason to worry in any area where there is a decline in that sort of vitality.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that the statistics indicate — and I think that they certainly tell the tale — they advise us why families are abandoning the core area. They tell us that over half the total inner core housing stock of this city is made up of apartments, which is not compatible with families; it tells us that a quarter of the total housing stock in the inner city is in poor condition; they tell us that they have a density of 39.3 persons per acre in the inner city versus only 26 in the city as a whole and that's proportionate, Mr. Speaker, so the city as a whole takes the core into consideration. So you see, Mr. Speaker, it is not a very healthy and safe place to try and bring up a family.

The unemployment, Mr. Speaker, I was moved by these figures and I want to share them because you know we hear about 6 percent, 7 percent core area unemployment. Well, Mr. Speaker, let's look at the percent of students in core area schools where the head of the family is unemployed. William White School, 55.8 percent of the students, father or mother, whoever the head of the family may be is unemployed; David Livingstone, 45.3 percent; Norquay, 44.5 percent; Strathcona, 39.2; Pinkham, 26.7. I'm shocked because my John M. King, a school in my area is only 20.3. Robert H. Smith School in River Heights, Mr. Speaker, nil, absolutely nil. Not one single student. So, Mr. Speaker, we're dealing with a very serious problem. I'm glad the government has finally addressed it. I wish they would have done it a long time ago. Mr. Speaker, it is long overdue.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, in dealing with this that the New Democratic Party had programs designed to stimulate core area employment. I think one of the most notable ones was the Inner City Employment Program which was an initiative introduced to the City of Winnipeg by the New Democratic Party in 1976. I'm sure members present will recall that some \$1 million of funds was allocated

in the year 1976 and a further \$2 million appeared, appropriated in the 1977 Budget. Mr. Speaker, that program had tremendous potential. I'm advised, Mr. Speaker, that even today some of the businesses, some of the jobs that were created by that program are not only ongoing but the businesses have actually become absolutely self-sufficient and viable. I was talking to somebody this morning and he told me that a local toy store started by eight welfare recipients in 1976 on Albert Street — it's Banbury Cross Ageless Toys — is still operating, is still vital and is still employing that many people, self-sufficiently without any government assistance today. So, Mr. Speaker, it shows you what you can do. There is more than one approach to creating jobs and there is a better way than welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that I was very disappointed that when in 1978 we heard in this house that this particular program had been disbanded by the government. I don't understand it and I can say, Mr. Speaker, that if the program had been maintained at 1977-78 levels till now, 1981, the government would have spent \$12 million of it's \$32 million appropriation for the core area initiative. Mr. Speaker, that would have been a significant contribution to people in the core area. It would have been better than welfare and, Mr. Speaker, it would have been meaningful work which would have built constructively on the base which this program offered the government. But, Mr. Speaker, like so many good programs the government in it's desire to promulgate and promote its restraint program, simply refused to consider the approach offered by this sort of alternative program.

So, Mr. Speaker, rather than taking people off welfare, we have rather been forced to maintain them at high public cost and rather meaningless activity and I think, at a great loss in human terms. So I can indicate as well, Mr. Speaker, that a considerable amount of the money that was allocated for that program went into the vital housing repair and renovation programs or work and that people in the core area were put to work doing that.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I want to say generally, I think that any emphasis that is made by the government in creating jobs, should take into consideration the need of the core area for renovation and general revitalization of the housing stock. I think that should be targeted as an immediate priority. I say that, Mr. Speaker, being aware that this government when it took office in 1977 as one of its first items of priority, abandoned the then proposed and appropriated \$30 million Inner City Housing Action Program.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, I said that this government could have by now spent \$12 million in job creation; they also abandoned a \$30 million program that would have led to the rehabilitation and the program was clear, of 500 existing units of core area housing? We also had prioritized the development of 800 units of new family public houses. So, Mr. Speaker, there would have been some 1300 units of housing stock brought into line as it were, 500 of them albeit, in derelict slum conditions but nevertheless renovated, rehabilitated and put back into use, revitalizing the community where they came from. But, Mr. Speaker, this government chose not to spend that \$30 million.

Rather, Mr. Speaker, they decided today to, over the next five years appropriate some \$32 million for a core area initiative program. I say, Mr. Speaker, and I think I can say this without fear of being corrected, that \$30 million program today would be worth probably \$ 40 to 44, 45 million in terms of current material costs and labour costs.

So, Mr. Speaker, thank you but no thank you. The people of Winnipeg have not been well served by this government. They may have been dragged into this by the Federal Government's insistence on trilevel participation. But, Mr. Speaker, the truth is that if they would have stuck with two programs alone, they would have already invested more than \$42 million in that area; and, Mr. Speaker, in doing so they would have created hundreds of jobs; they would have revitalized hundreds of dwelling units. Mr. Speaker, they would have done something constructive and meaningful and purposeful.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can indicate that I am very disappointed. I'm also very disappointed, Mr. Speaker, that the one government election promise that I thought, in terms of urban affairs, had real potential was immediately jettisoned and abandoned after the election and that was the uphill neighbourhood program.

A great deal of play was made about that during the election, Mr. Speaker. We heard about — and I'll read from the brochure, I've written down, from the government press release, what that program was supposed to do to create jobs and make life more meaningful for core area residents.

It said that the objectives of this program are to reverse the deterioration of older neighbourhoods. This will be facilitated through a program of loans and forgivable loans to first-time home buyers to purchase existing dwellings in uphill neighbourhoods, and to renovate these homes. And they indicated they would provide up to \$5,500 to qualifying applicants.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that would have been meaningful; that indeed would have been meaningful because it would have given the wherewithal for poor people in the core area to participate in home ownership. I say, Mr. Speaker, that wherever you have home owners you have gained, as in the case of having families, you have a healthy economy that will take care of itself, you have a healthy community.

But Mr. Speaker, they have abandoned that program and it's to their discredit. Mr. Speaker, I say that there is good reason for alarm. I say, Mr. Speaker, that we should look at the cities to the south and to the east of us. We should look at Buffalo; we should look at Detroit, Cleveland and others who now have block on block of placarded, boarded-up housing suitable only for demolition. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in many cases if you walk those neighbourhoods and streets, you find that demolition cavities are the preponderance of living space. You have these vast tracts of uninhabited land. They are beyond redemption Mr. Speaker, without a massive infusion of public capital. I say Mr. Speaker, that they represent a cancer to the vital functions of the cities in which they exist.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to suggest that Winnipeg's core area has deteriorated that far. I'm not going to do that Mr. Speaker, but I can tell you that there is every evidence that within the next very

few years that it could go that far. Mr. Speaker, I say that is a breeding ground for crime, deep social alienation, violence, all the things, Mr. Speaker, that we do not want in our society. That Mr. Speaker, will breed children who are to become a generation lost to their society. I say, Mr. Speaker, that we in this House should do everything to resist that.

In closing Mr. Speaker, because I would be remiss if I didn't mention it, I want to say that I wish to register the New Democratic Party's strong opposition to the inclusion of the East Yards Development Site in the Core Area Initiative Memorandum of Agreement. We do not feel that there is any appreciable benefit to be gained from the sort of development that has been proposed by the Canadian National Railway and the Great-West Life Company.

So Mr. Speaker, we want meaningful jobs; we want jobs that are geared to the nature and cultural norms of the residents in the core area; we want the residents to have some control and direction of the programming; we want them to be involved on a community development basis; we regard the potential of this to be a form of social adjustment that will take people from dependence to independence, to a state where they can control their lives and make those lives meaningful.

So Mr. Speaker, having said that, I encourage this government to take action and present to us their priorities with respect to this very important matter.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I want to respond and I will respond. I wonder though, in view of the time, in view of the fact that my comments would be cut in half, if the members would be disposed to call it 5:30.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it agreed to call it 5:30? (Agreed) The Honourable Government House Leader.

MR. MERCIER: I move then, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the Member for Kildonan, that the House do now adjourn and resume in Committee of Supply at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. (Friday).