

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA

Monday, 15 March, 1982

Time — 2:00 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER by Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER, Hon. D. James Walding (St. Vital): 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 Municipal Affairs.

HON. A. R. (PETE) ADAM (St. Rose): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Fourth Annual Report of the Manitoba Municipal Employees Benefit Fund for the year ending December 31, 1980; and I wish to table the actual Report on the Pension Plan for Employees of Participating Municipalities of Manitoba as at January 1, 1980; and I wish to table the 23rd Annual Report of the Municipal Board for the year ending December 31, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Health.

HON. LAURENT L. DESJARDINS (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report of the Department of Health for the calendar year, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

HON. MAUREEN L. HEMPHILL (Logan): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the following reports: Education in Manitoba 1981, Annual Report; the Annual Financial Report for the year ended March 31, 1981, the University of Manitoba; Manitoba Universities' Grants Commission, the Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1981; the Brandon University Pension Fund, Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 1980; Brandon University Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 1981; and the University of Winnipeg Auditor's Report and Financial Report for the year ended March 31, 1981; and the University of Winnipeg Auditor's Report and Financial Report for the year ended March 31st, 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Finance.

HON. VICTOR SCHROEDER (Rossmere): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Annual Report for the Manitoba Labor Management Review Committee for the year ending December 31st, 1981, and also the 1981 Annual Report of the Department of Labour and Manpower.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Before we reach Oral Questions may I direct the attention of the honorable members to the gallery on my left where we have 20 students of Grade 7 from Ile des Chenes School. This school is in the constituency of the Honourable Member for Emerson.

On behalf of all the members I bid you welcome this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. L.R. (Bud) SHERMAN (Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Minister of Finance. I would ask him whether, in view of the statement by a parliamentary secretary, a Federal Government spokesman in Ottawa, that the Federal Government is considering, or has given consideration to a new form of income tax to be levied against homeowners because they don't pay rent, whether the Minister can advise the House whether the Government of Manitoba has given any consideration to such an incredible suggestion?

MR. SCHROEDER: Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the first I've heard of the suggestion. I can assure the honourable member that idea has not been under consideration of the Government of Manitoba, and I should add that if the colleagues of the honourable member, federally, were in the House in Ottawa they would be able to ask that question directly of the people who are doing that type of considering.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps they're not in the House because that's the kind of House that has developed, and that's the kind of government that has developed in Ottawa. But, notwithstanding that, Mr. Speaker, supplementary to the Honourable Minister of Finance, can he advise the House whether consideration of that kind of measure with respect to farms or other properties has been given by this government?

MR. SCHROEDER: No, it has not, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Speaker, just so that we can sleep easily in our beds tonight, can the Minister of Finance advise the House of this government's position on the principle involved; the principle of penalization of equity and of homeowner effort?

MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Speaker, I thought I had answered as clearly as I could when I said the particular tax involved had not been under consideration by this government and is not under consideration by this government now.

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

MR. G.W.J. (Gerry) MERCIER (St. Norbert): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Urban Affairs. Could the Minister explain to this House why his government would not participate in the City of Winnipeg proposal for a joint \$4 million city-provincial Water Renewal Program, as our government responded positively to the City in the fall of 1980 to participate in a joint \$4 million capital works construction program?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

HON. EUGENE KOSTYRA (Seven Oaks): Mr. Speaker, in response to the question, our government has indicated and has announced an increased grant to the City of Winnipeg to cover all areas of its functions including capital works. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that grant has been an increase over the previous year of some 16.5 percent and is the largest grant given to the City of Winnipeg by the Provincial Government in recent years so the City of Winnipeg has the funds available to it from its own sources and that which was provided by the province, to do the kind of things that have been outlined by the member.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister indicates they will not participate in a very important program for the City and one which is causing a great deal of concern to residents of this city and in view of the statement by the now First Minister in their election document indicating concern with the city raising the price of essential services such as ambulances, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate whether he will be providing any additional financial assistance to the city to prevent an increase in ambulance fees?

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, in response to the question, first of all in the preamble to the question the Member for St. Norbert indicated that the province was not providing assistance to the City of Winnipeg so that it could provide much needed services to the residents of the City of Winnipeg. The decision on the reduction of capital works by the City of Winnipeg, a reduction in total terms from previous years was done, it was a decision made by the City of Winnipeg not by the province. The province as I have indicated, has increased its funding to the City of Winnipeg substantially but at the same time the City of Winnipeg has decreased the amount of money available for capital works. I think the City of Winnipeg and its councillors have to answer to the citizens of Winnipeg for that reduction.

In response to the question with respect to ambulance services, that grant which comes under the Department of Health and is presently under review and I think will be announced in the near future.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in view of the now First Minister's statement in his election document that his party wished to ease the property tax burden, and in view of the fact that school mill rates have been established in the City of Winnipeg which will apparently provide for an additional \$67.20 tax by City of Winnipeg Tax Bureau in that division based on an average

assessed home, and in view of the fact that the City has Estimates under consideration which involve a further increase of approximately \$120 for that average assessed home, Mr. Speaker; in view of the fact that the Foundation levy itself has not been announced and no doubt will further increase that burden, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister intend to provide any additional financial assistance to ease the property tax burden as they indicated in their election document?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated the direct grants that we've given to the City of Winnipeg have increased by significant amounts and that way has helped alleviate any further burden on the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg. The Minister of Education has indicated the increases in grants to the Winnipeg School Division, which has had a direct impact on that portion of the city tax bills and any other measures that may be considered will be done in context of the budget, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, inasmuch it appears there is no financial relief in sight for city taxpayers, I would ask the Minister another question. Has he met yet with the executive or representatives of the Manitoba Urban Municipalities in order to discuss the resolutions which they passed at their convention last fall?

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, again the member for St. Norbert has tried to indicate that there's been a lack of assistance to the City of Winnipeg. As I indicated — and I'm repeating myself — there's been a significant increase in the amount of assistance to the City of Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult in one year to turn around the neglect to the City of Winnipeg that went on by members opposite for the last four years and we can't turn that around in one year, Mr. Speaker. In response to the direct question, I have not met as of yet with the Association, but will be meeting with them this afternoon, or some of my colleagues will be.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Minister and I suppose other representatives of the government are meeting this afternoon, could the Minister advise the House what position he will be taking with respect to their resolution requesting an increase in sales tax?

MR. KOSTYRA: Mr. Speaker, that matter will be discussed with them and any changes will have to wait what's done at Budget time.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister would be kind enough to answer the question. I asked him what position he would be taking on that. Would he be agreeing with that request or turning it down?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Honourable Member for Ellice have a point of order?

POINT OF ORDER

MR. BRIAN CORRIN (Ellice): Yes. The Honourable

Member for St. Norbert, Mr. Speaker, is essentially asking a question of policy of the member of the Treasury Board and I would address this for determination to the honourable member and yourself. I think properly this question cannot be answered until the Budget is struck and announced in the House as it is a matter of policy and that is my point of order. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe the question is within the realm of parliamentary area in this regard and I'm sure that the Minister will answer it accordingly.

The Honourable Member for Sturgeon Creek.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

MR. J. FRANK JOHNSTON (Sturgeon Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Economic Development and Tourism. There was a committee set up of deputies of the Province of Manitoba to be the deputies concerned with the industrial development programs in the province and it was chaired by two deputies, the Deputy of Economic Development and Mr. Anderson, whom I believe is the Deputy of Crown Investments at the present time. Is that committee still in existence?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Economic Development.

HON. MURIEL SMITH (Osborne): There is in existence a mega project subcommittee of Ministers and there is a regional benefits group within my department, but there is not an acting group such as you describe.

MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister if the benefits group or the mega projects group within the department still have the policy of "Buy Manitoba First, Canadian Second."

MRS. SMITH: Mr. Speaker, the regional benefits group is looking at the entire question of procurement of materials both in Manitoba and in Canada. It goes beyond looking at mega project requirements to general government requirements and other industrial requirements. The preference of buying Manitoba is implicit but there's not a financial differential recognized.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Kirkfield Park.

MRS. GERRIE HAMMOND (Kirkfield Park): My question is to the First Minister, Mr. Speaker. Could the First Minister inform this House whether he has had new carpeting installed in his office?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable First Minister.

HON. HOWARD PAWLEY (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, but questions pertaining to matters pertaining to this should be directed to the Minister of Government Services or the Acting Minister.

MRS. HAMMOND: A supplement to the First Minister,

Mr. Speaker. In light of the high unemployment in Canada, could the First Minister confirm that the new carpet in his office was imported from England?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister responsible for Government Services, I would take that question for the Minister and advise the honourable member that my understanding is that the carpet that was replaced in the Premier's office is part of an ongoing program of upgrading the Legislative Assembly building. The carpet in question was approximately 13 years old and due for replacement, in any event. I understand as well, Mr. Speaker, that most of the carpet that was removed will be recycled in other areas.

MRS. HAMMOND: Again, to the First Minister. In light of the financial hardships faced by many Manitobans, could the First Minister confirm that he is now walking on a new plush carpet in his office that cost \$75 a yard?

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is now asking for detailed amounts and figures and I would ask that that would be more appropriate in an Order for Return.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I'll just interrupt the proceedings for a moment to draw attention to the gallery on my right.

I am informed that we have some 20 members of the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities.

I have no further details but on behalf of all of the members, I bid you welcome this afternoon.

ORAL QUESTIONS (Cont'd)

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

MR. LLOYD HYDE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A question to the Minister of Community Services and Corrections. Can the Minister confirm that his department has hired two additional staff at the Women's Correctional Institution in Portage la Prairie?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

HON. LEONARD S. EVANS (Brandon East): Mr. Speaker, I'll take the question as notice.

MR. HYDE: Further to the same Minister. I would ask the Minister, when he is taking that question, if he would inform this House as to what category the two employees are being hired for and also are they in the 1982-83 Estimates, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Community Services.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, of course, we are in the Estimates of the Department of Community Services and Corrections and I would invite my honourable friend from Portage la Prairie to be present with his colleague from Fort Garry and ask these questions. The staff will be here. We don't have to take anything as notice I would suggest, Mr. Speaker. We will be glad to present that information to you right here as soon as we get into the Department's Estimates.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for La Verendrye.

MR. ROBERT (Bob) BANMAN (La Verendrye): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister in charge of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and would ask him, Sir, whether or not he could confirm that the applications for the Mortgage Interest Relief Program, announced back some month-and-a-half ago, I believe in the beginning of February, that those application forms won't be ready for another two weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Natural Resources.

HON. ALVIN H. MACKLING (St. James): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of the statement the honourable member makes.

MR. BANMAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, in light of the many calls we're receiving, with regard to this much touted program and the hardships that are being faced by people who are facing renewals on their mortgages, could the Minister check with his department and find out when we'll have these applications available to us that we can forward them to our constituents?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to advise the House.

MR. BANMAN: Mr. Speaker, a question to the Minister in charge of Sport. I wonder if he could inform the House when he will be announcing a recreational grant program similar to the Sport Facilities Program which were announced in the previous years. In other words, a capital works project for rural recreational facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Fitness and Sport.

MR. DESJARDINS: If the member, Mr. Speaker, refers to the grant that we started about seven or eight years ago, I wish to tell him that yes, there will be approximately \$1 million this year instead of \$2 million. It will be a two-year program.

MR. BANMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for those answers. I wonder if he could inform the House then, I believe there was a trust account of in excess of \$2 million with regard to Lotteries which traditionally has been used as he mentioned by the previous government and the government before that for this type of a program, could he inform the House what he will be using the other

monies that were set aside for this type of a program within his department?

MR. DESJARDINS: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to inform the Minister but my Estimates I think are next and that will be the proper time to discuss these programs and the money from Lotteries also.

MR. BANMAN: Another question, Mr. Speaker, to the same Minister. I wonder if he could inform the House whether or not the program which allowed curling rinks and arenas who were using artificial ice plants to take the lesser amount of the demand billing or the regular billing, if that program will be continued so that the adverse effects of demand billing on recreation facilities will not be an undue hardship on these community facilities.

MR. DESJARDINS: That particular program is under review; I doubt very much if it will be renewed. Apparently it did not have the desired effect and it encouraged people to waste energy instead of saving it, so we are looking at the possibility of replacing this program with a program that will make people aware of the importance of saving energy.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Niakwa.

MR. ABE KOVNATS (Niakwa): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Honourable Minister of Environment. Can the Honourable Minister advise if an odour control program has been initiated around the meat processing plants in St. Boniface?

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Northern Affairs.

HON. JAY COWAN (Churchill): I thank the Member for Niakwa for notice of this question, Mr. Speaker, and correspondingly I will be making requests of my department to provide him with detailed information specifically in regard to the difficulty which he has experienced in this area, driving through that area and has brought to the attention of the Legislature previously. So I hope to be able to provide the honourable member with more detailed information in the very near future in this regard.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further on the odours that I find a little bit distasteful in my area, it is not only myself but there are other members of the Legislature that drive through the area, the Member for Springfield, the Member for Transcona, the Member for Radisson, the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Member for La Verendrye, all the southeast area, so I am not the only one who finds it a little bit inconvenient driving through the area. But I am not too sure whether, in fact, the problem that I have been involved with is going to be corrected in the next short time or not and if, when the Honourable Minister is investigating and finds that there is a control program, would it be of a permanent nature?

MR. COWAN: Given the information just presented

to me by the Member for Niakwa, it looks like we have the makings of a good Legislative subcommittee to deal with this particular problem. I can't be more specific in respect to the question as to whether or not the control program will be a permanent program, nor can I be more specific at this time as to exactly what sort of program will be put in place. But I do wish to assure the member that we will be working on the concerns which he has forwarded to me, both through the question period and outside the question period and by the way, have been forwarded to me by others from time to time as well and I hope to be able to provide more detailed response to him as soon as that information becomes available.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the Honourable Minister that there is some urgency, particularly with the problem that we've been having in the Windsor Park-Southdale area with the water mains bursting over this very very rough time over the winter, and with the mains bursting — I would hope that it would just be the water mains rather than the sewage mains — but if the problem does continue I can see where there could be some problems with some stuff that should be going through the sewage system coming to the surface, similar to what has happened at the fish plant in Transcona. So I advise the Honourable Minister that in effect there is going to be a problem soon and I wouldn't want to see it take too long to find out whether in fact, the problem can be corrected.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Does the honourable member have a question he wishes to direct opposite?

MR. KOVNATS: To the Honourable Minister of Environment, I do have a question and I think in that last little bit of words that came out there was a question there and the Honourable Minister was rising to answer, so I would accept that he has accepted it as a question.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, I'm glad that I've finally found somebody who can ask questions like I give answers. In brief, Mr. Speaker, that is the first time that specific problem in respect to water mains breaking, has been brought to my attention. I will immediately upon the first opportunity arising this afternoon ask my staff to provide a detailed report to me in that regard and I will forward the information which is of a public nature to the member as well as probably have an opportunity to sit down with him and discuss options and ways by which we can deal with what appears to be a very serious situation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. ALBERT DRIEDGER (Emerson): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, I would like to direct my question to the First Minister. To my knowledge there are four operators in Manitoba who pick up dead farm animals. These operators have been informed as recently of a decrease in the price for their product to the point where they feel they cannot provide this much needed service in the rural

area anymore. I wonder if the First Minister would consider requesting the Minister of Agriculture to help try and resolve the problem so that this much needed service could continue

MR. PAWLEY: I believe that question should be directed to the Minister Responsible for the Environment.

MR. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, that situation has been brought to the attention of the Environmental Management Division. We are now in contact with the owners of the rendering plants and we hope to continue that dialogue and those discussions to a satisfactory conclusion in the near future.

MR. DRIEDGER: Mr. Speaker, I actually would much have preferred to ask the question to the Minister of Environment anyway, considering the way the First Minister and the Minister of Agriculture have dealt with the Beef Program. So considering the fact that there is approximately 1,000 dead animals involved per month and considering that there is going to be a major problem this spring, would the Minister consider possibly a supplement or some kind of an assistance program for these operators in terms of either by the head or by the pound so that they could continue to provide this service, because once the spring breakup comes the potential air pollution or water pollution is going to be quite dramatic.

MR. COWAN: Of course, Mr. Speaker, we are concerned with the problem and we will examine and investigate all the options which are available to us, that being one of them. But I would hate at this point of time when we are now involved in active discussions to prejudge the outcome of those discussions by placing that sort of a commitment before the House. So I cannot in good faith make that commitment at this time nor do I believe that it would be appropriate. But I do take the members suggestions and the suggestions of others in that respect which have been forwarded to us under advisement and will answer accordingly when we have more specific information available in that regard.

MR. DRIEDGER: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I just hope, to the Minister, that this thing will not take too long once the service has been terminated that it is going to be very hard to get it activated again, so I hope we are not talking in terms of months to study this issue.

MR. COWAN: Well, I can assure the member that it is a very complex question and that there are a great number of considerations which have to be taken into account when dealing with such a question and one has to make certain that the product arising out of dead carcass is not entering into the human food chain in any way. There has to be serious examination done of the entire process and the guidelines or regulations as the case may be which are in place to ensure that doesn't happen. So it is going to take some time and I believe that the time it is going to take is time well spent if in fact it is spent to improve the integrity of food for human consumption. So I cannot

offer to him any assurances that we will have an answer in the very near future. The assurance which I can provide to him is that we will act on this matter with all due speed and that we will attempt to come to a satisfactory resolution of the problem as quickly as possible, at the same time allowing us an opportunity to thoroughly review all facets of the situation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Lakeside:

MR. HARRY ENNS (Lakeside): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Honourable Minister of Finance in his capacity as Minister of Labour. We are some four to six weeks away from beginning the planting season again and I wonder if the Honourable Minister could indicate to farmers who have had to, for one reason or another, rely on offshore or foreign help in getting their crops in and off particularly in the vegetable industry. In view of the NDP party's position on this matter, would the Honourable Minister of Labour be kind enough to give some indication to those farmers concerned and indeed to those potential workers concerned, the position that the Government of Manitoba will be taking with the request that they will be facing for the permits to allow 20 or 30 families I believe, essentially from Mexico, to come and work in the Portage la Prairie area.

MR. SHCROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As in past years there is discussion now ongoing between the department, the farmers involved and the Federal Department of Immigration and if it appears at the end of those discussions and spring comes nearer that there will be a requirement for people from other countries, then it may well be that permits will be issued again this year. There is no indication of a change in government policy at this time, we're just looking to see exactly what the situation will be in spring.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Wednesday last I posed a question to the Minister responsible for the Manitoba Telephone System as to whether the system was contemplating the acquisition of major new office space either by purchase or by construction. Could he provide that information today?

MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I don't suspect that that is a major undertaking for him to pose to his chairman of the MTS board and I wonder if he might make that inquiry, and whilst he is making that inquiry if he could make the additional inquiry as to whether the Manitoba Telephone System will be applying for a rate increase in the near future.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Speaker, I will endeavour to get the information on the office space. With regard to any changes in rate structures by any utility, those are made from time to time and if and when the utility, whatever utility it is, decides to go the Public Utilities Board it becomes public information at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. GARY FILMON (Tuxedo): Mr. Speaker, on Friday I had an opportunity to ask some questions of the Minister of Education regarding the school addition at Leaf Rapids and I am wondering if, perhaps, she has had an opportunity to look further into the matter because I believe that her response on Friday in question period was to the effect that there were not penalty clauses in the contract should she choose to cancel the contract, but the report of it in the paper says, "Minister has indicated that the project would continue because heavy penalty clauses would have been levied against the government if the building contract had been broken." I wonder if she could clarify that point.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Education.

MRS. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can clarify it and I want to thank the member opposite for giving me the opportunity to do so. When I was speaking on Friday I said there weren't penalty clauses, I meant to say there were protective clauses for government to get out of the building program, and I would like to give a little bit of additional background to show the sequence of events, Mr. Speaker.

On June 3rd, Treasury Board approved the cost of the addition for Leaf Rapids, and on the 16th of June the Minister advised them that the project had been approved. The Public Schools Finance Board on October 2nd, indicated that tenders had been accepted, and on October 9th the Leaf Rapids School Board indicated to Malcolm Construction that it was the successful bidder. The contract was signed on November 10th, Mr. Speaker, and December 22nd, Sherritt Gordon, it would be laying off about 400 workers.

Now, what has happened here, Mr. Speaker, is that the previous government approved the project, the previous government began building the school, the previous government signed the terms of the contract — (Interjection) — No you didn't lay off the 400 workers — but, Mr. Speaker, what did happen is that this government was committed to an expenditure of \$1.2 million by November 17 when we took office. In other words, regardless of the amount of construction that had taken place, the commitments to the contractor under the terms of the agreement required us to pay out half of the amount of money that the addition would require in total and we would have absolutely nothing to show for it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Tuxedo.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of things that occur to me. One is that the Minister indicates that because when she took office there was a certain recommendation and a certain status in place, that nothing has changed. In view of the fact that five weeks after the contract was begun, Sherritt Gordon did lay off 400 people and did announce that there was an intention not to bring their staff up to full complement again in future, was there not a further recommendation from her staff. . .

MR. SPEAKER: If the member has a question, would

he proceed with it please?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that these things did happen after she took office, was there not a further recommendation from her staff to deal with a changed situation in the potential school population in Leaf Rapids?

MRS. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there was an additional recommendation from staff and the recommendation was that, in light of the fact that we were already committed and had spent \$1.2 million with absolutely nothing to show for it that we continue with the project, because in spite of the fact that there were layoffs, in spite of the fact that there were going to be less children, they did badly need additional classrooms for children who were being housed in portables behind the school. Those were needed then, they are still needed now and the recommendation was to proceed with the project.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister is changing her position on it because that's a little different than what she said.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, does the report take into account the operating costs over the next 50 years of that building being in place in view of the high energy costs in Leaf Rapids? Do the operating costs have anything to do with the Minister's decision?

MRS. HEMPHILL: It was the former government that designed the building. I certainly hope that they took into consideration reducing energy costs as much as possible.

MR. FILMON: I'm sure the energy costs were taken into account when there was an opportunity for people to be in the building but that situation has changed.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister. I believe today is the deadline for setting the foundation levy rates and municipalities across the province will be interested in knowing what they are. Can the Minister now share with the House and the people of Manitoba what those foundation levy rates will be for municipalities?

MRS. HEMPHILL: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can. I have been informed by the public schools' finance board that they have given notice today to municipalities that the rates of levies required to raise the \$167,247,132 needed this year for the Educational Support Levy will be 41.2 mills on farm and residential balanced assessment and 79.2 mills on other balanced assessment. This is an increase in the Education Support Levy of 4.2 mills, Mr. Speaker.

This maintains the traditional split in the Education Support Program revenues at roughly 65 percent general revenues and 35 percent from the Education Support Levy, exactly the same proportion as was in place with the former government, Mr. Speaker.

I would also add that as previously announced we placed an additional \$12.4 million in supplemental grants to offset disadvantaged divisions faced by difficulties because of low assessment and low spending due to weaknesses that were established and that

were communicated to us clearly about the existing Educational Support Program that they had put into law, Mr. Speaker.

This special program is going to have a significant benefit in offsetting special levy mill increases in all of those divisions, in fact, in all divisions since all divisions receive some of the supplemental money but those divisions who need it the most, who were the most disadvantaged and who would have the highest mill rate increase, are receiving the most help, Mr. Speaker.

I would also add that the total direct provincial contribution to education this year will be 54.4 percent of estimated school board expenditures, up from 53.3 percent of last year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, can the Minister now confirm that as a result of some of the shifting that she has done to reduce the impact of increases on a selected number of school divisions, which she said were inequitably treated by last year's improvements to education financing by our government, that limited number of divisions which just by sheer coincidence in almost all cases, happens to be represented by a New Democratic member in this House, that in order to . . .

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. Order please. Would the Honourable Member for Tuxedo complete his question?

MR. FILMON: Mr. Speaker, just for the further amusement of my friends opposite, I can add that they were not all represented by New Democrats last time around, so the IOUs are coming in as we predicted a long time ago.

Can the Minister now confirm that as a result of her efforts to rectify what she says was an inequitable situation for a half-dozen-or-so divisions, almost all the divisions in this province will have increases in not only their foundation levy but in their special levy for school purposes in order to pay for this extra little bit of fudging around to help out her friends, whereas last year only five divisions in the whole province had an increase.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. ADAM: Mr. Speaker, last week the Member for Roblin-Russell asked a question in regard to the water supply for the Town of Gilbert Plains. I'd like to inform the honourable member that the Water Services Board engineers' report that the water supply for the town is holding and there are no problems. Its staff are continuing to monitor the situation and are prepared to implement emergency services to augment the supply if warranted.

I hope that answers the honourable member's question.

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. J. WALLY McKENZIE (Roblin-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honourable Minister. I think

that's the third Minister now that's advised me that Gilbert Plains has been looked after. I was advised by the Minister of Natural Resources in committee the other day and on Friday the Minister of Agriculture assured me and the people of Gilbert Plains, that the water supply was under control.

May I ask the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs a question? I wonder, can the Minister advise the House if he or any of his Department of Co-op Development have met with the 25 employees that are employed at Rosburn and Pilot Mound cheese plants or with the management of those, since I raised the question last week?

MR. ADAM: No, Mr. Speaker. We know that Manco has had a problem in selling cheese and they had to close down four plants and subsequently had opened two. Some of the Board members have met with the Minister of Agriculture, I understand, but none of the Board members have requested a meeting with the Minister of Co-operative Development up to this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for oral questions having expired. Orders of the Day. The Honourable Government House Leader. Pardon me, does the Honourable Member for Brandon West have a point of order?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NON-POLITICAL STATEMENT

HON. HENRY N. CARROLL (Brandon West): I would like to make a non-political statement if this time could be allotted me.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the member have leave to make such a statement? (Agreed)

The Honourable Member for Brandon West.

MR. CARROLL: Mr. Speaker, as all of Canada must be aware, Brandon hosted a very successful Brier this past week. I would like to congratulate the Al Hackner rink from Northern Ontario, and I would like to read a tribute - this is a letter - from Paul Patten of the Toronto Globe and Mail who attended at Brandon:

"You know us, right. We're the city slickers from Eastern Canada, the fat cats with all the money, but when it comes to staging something like a Labatt Brier you put us to shame. You have 38,000 people in Brandon, we have two-and-one-half million in Toronto; but you've just put on the most successful Brier in the 50-year history of the event. You fill your Arena to overflowing, even when your Manitoba team has a bye. We couldn't stage a Brier in Toronto if our lives depended on it; we're too highbrow, we're too sophisticated, we have a football team that can't win, a hockey club that's even worse, a baseball team that has been in last place since the day it was born. But here in Brandon you are champions, a city of winners. Your hospitality is overwhelming, your friendliness is contagious, your generosity is unlimited; you are a fun city. You have had the figure skating, and the Memorial Cup, and the Canada Winter Games and made a success of them all. You have a sports complex here that we can't match in Toronto. Hats off,

Brandon, you've given us a hell of a week to remember."

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Government House Leader.

HON. R. PENNER: The Honourable Member for Brandon West forgot to point out that in the game of politics they're two for two.

As I announced, Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the government bills are to be put over until Wednesday for further debate.

I would move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Finance, that, 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.

MOTION presented and carried and the House resolved itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty with the Honourable Member for Flin Flon in the Chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The meeting will come to order.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a sum not exceeding \$794,236,590, being 30 per cent of the amount of the several items to be voted for departments, as set forth in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983, laid before the House at the present Session of the Legislature, be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1983.

QUESTION put, MOTION carried.

MR. PENNER: It will now be in order to continue with Estimates with the Natural Resources in 255 and with Community Services in the House. (Agreed)

MR. ENNS: We would be prepared, Mr. Chairman, if the Honourable House Leader would like to see it happen this way, to move the bill for Ways and Means to First Reading and adjourn it, and indeed to advance to Second Reading and take the adjournment on Second Reading; that would enable us then to proceed.

MR. A. ANSTETT (Springfield): Mr. Chairman, to the point of order raised by the Member for Lakeside. I certainly appreciate the generosity of the Opposition in accommodating the Interim Supply this way. However, we are faced with an anomaly in that the rules do not permit the House to go back into Committee of Supply twice at one sitting. So if we rise to consider Ways and Means, First Reading, Second Reading on the Interim Supply Bill and do that in 5 minutes, we then have no further business and cannot go back into Supply. If the Opposition at that point wants to break that precedent and go into Supply twice, perhaps we can consider that.

MR. ENNS: I want the afternoon off, my calves are coming at the farm and I thought we could cut it off by five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I gather that it is the consensus that we will stay in split Committees? (Agreed)

CONCURRENT COMMITTEES OF SUPPLY SUPPLY - NATURAL RESOURCES

MR. CHAIRMAN, Andy Anstett (Springfield): Committee come to order please. We are considering the Estimates for the Department of Natural Resources, Resolution No. 104, page 95 in your Estimates book, Item 4.(b)(1) Salaries - \$345,600.00.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: I recall that this is an area that has experienced increasing pressure on the department, both in terms of policy decision to be made, and I suspect we'll be talking about that perhaps - well we can do that under any one of these items - but more specifically to the line now under discussion, Salaries. There was a problem, and probably in the eyes of the Administration will continue to be a problem, in terms of sufficient staff to cope with the backlog of applications for water licenses in the province. I appreciate there are two distinct problems here; one is having the capability of sufficient information about our ground water supplies to enable the branch to issue licenses, but my recollection of the department's concern also involved the sufficient manpower staffing problems to handle the number of requests currently before their departments and additional ones that the department may expect to receive, particularly should we have another dry spring, another dry summer.

My question, Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, is the salaries reflect some increase here - \$287 to \$345, print-over-print - whether or not this allows for some additional staffing in this area?

MR. CHAIRMAN, Harry M. Harapiak (The Pas): Mr. Minister.

HON. AL MACKLING (St. James): Yes, Mr. Chairman, to the honourable member, this is an area where there is two additional staff, one senior engineer and one working engineer.

While I have the floor, perhaps I could also answer a couple of questions that were asked the other day. I'm sorry he isn't here now but one honourable member asked me about reports on the flood forecast committee, and Mr. Weber advised me the past practice - I don't know whether it's laid down by regulation or just convention - but the past practice was to report to the House the third week in February or the third week in March and then, as required, depending on conditions.

In respect to one other area of question, I was asked about periodicals and I did indicate there was a list of periodicals published under Natural Resources portfolio and I have an extensive number of the leaflets here if anyone is interested in seeing them. It's been rather an ambitious program over the course of years and the leaflets, I haven't gone through them, but they are attractive and I'm sure helpful from the point of view of educating, not only our own residents but tourists in respect to ongoing programs, in respect to natural resources particularly interesting from a tourist point of view, in respect to wildlife resources and

so on. I don't know if there's anything further I want to add on that.

There was a request for a listing of the leaflets and I have copies of that for any member that wants it right here. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, it would be our intention from the Opposition to discuss some of the basic issues involved with the Water Resources Branch, which perhaps could be discussed under the next three headings: Water Licensing, Water Management, Water Investigation, Regional Management; all, I presume from my experience, having to do with policy setting, management practices of the branch with respect to water. We can have a discussion on these items; they can then move forward and perhaps our next stop would be on the Conservation District Authority.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to open the discussion by referring to the review of Ground Water Management in Manitoba study that was undertaken by the Manitoba Water Commission which you, Sir, tabled in the House just a few days ago.

I would particularly like to refer to the number of recommendations that are contained on Page 9 which, in the view of the Manitoba Water Commission, spell out some specific steps that the branch, the department of the government, are to undertake. It talks very strongly about the need and the necessity for a fairly complete and total revision of the various pieces of legislation that govern the licensing, the use of water in Manitoba. I refer the Minister to some of these specific recommendations: for instance, that the Act should have adequate strength to ensure proper management of our ground water resources; water licenses should run with the land, should not be transferred separately from title of the land - that is a very basic policy decision which we would be interested to hear this Minister's views on - the terms of a water license should be increased from 5 to 15 years.

Mr. Chairman, this comes about as a very natural request from those who are engaged in pretty extensive, sophisticated and expensive equipment and now involved in the business of irrigation for many reasons, not least of them simply bankable security. The requirement for having access to water for a longer period of five years, I think, is evident to most people that have some appreciation of the kind of investment a substantial irrigation operation requires. The recommendation by the Manitoba Water Commission to increase the term of the licenses from 5 to 15 years, to have the water rights run with the land, rather than separate from the title, are two very significant recommendations and I would invite the Minister to discuss those with us, in terms of his attitude towards these two very specific recommendations of the Commission.

A policy for the management of ground water should be enshrined within an Act or the regulations. That's something we have talked about in the past, has been set back because it was felt that a group, such as the Manitoba Water Commission, should in fact investigate the situation prior to any legislative action taken.

The Act should define the responsibilities of the Water Resources Branch of the Department of Natu-

ral Resources in relation to good water quality.

Well, Mr. Chairman, I know some of my colleagues will have more specific questions coming out of this report. There are two significant aspects of this report; one very specific recommendation as to future policy on the part of the department. It then also indicates — it takes, I don't think, an overly critical look at the department, but it does point out some of the weaknesses within the department in terms of past practice.

I'm sure your Administrators will tell you possibly none that couldn't be corrected with more staff, more money, more dedication to that area. But I read the one recommendation or the one critic, if you like, from this report that says that, "The present organization of the Water Resource Branch should be reviewed to improve internal relationships between the licensing section and the section responsible for water management as a whole. It is the impression of the Commission, as a result of our review, that there is a need for improved co-ordination and co-operation within the branch. It is our opinion that this results from the present vertically integrated system." I don't know whether this is a fair question to put to the Minister at this time, but his chief adviser is sitting beside him and perhaps through him, through you, Mr. Chairman, I invite the Minister to comment on that.

It also indicates that a committee should be set up to work with the Water Resources Branch and that the committee should include representatives from the various organizations, such as, the Well Drillers' Association, the Irrigators' Association, the Union of Manitoba Municipalities, Environmental Management Division of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Environment and Manitoba Water Commission. This committee should be established for a limited time and then disbanded.

It also recommends that staffing of the Water Resources Branch should be reviewed to ensure that adequate human resources are available to carry out the additional burden of implementing the required program.

There has been one consistent complaint through the branch, certainly during the period of time that I was privileged to be responsible for the department and I'm sure to some extent it still exists, and that is the length of time it takes for the department to respond to requests. There are other specific recommendations that indicate that time should be cut down considerably. Now, again, that probably refers to staffing problems.

Mr. Speaker, I would certainly invite the Minister to, if he has had an opportunity to familiarize himself with, firstly, with the report that I'm referring to — that is the report dated September, 1981, by the Manitoba Water Commission — on our ground water problems. I know that the Minister has some knowledge of this, he took time, and we listened with interest to his speech in the Throne Speech Debate, to allude to the report and to give us some idea, even if only in general terms at this time, as to what kind of priority he attaches to this report. Is he prepared, for instance, to move this Session with revised legislation dealing with this matter and, if he can, can he indicate to us his government's feelings with respect to some of the

very specific recommendations that I alluded to, namely, the tenure question, the question of water rights running with the land.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I thank the honourable member for his observations. Certainly the department is reacting to this report and there will be proposals coming forward to the government and then, hopefully, at this Session, to the Legislature, dealing with matters that fall under the recommendations in this report. So, the report is a very useful one. It does confirm the importance of action in this area and action will be taken.

In respect to some of the specifics in the report. I would have to give some general response at this time because the specific decisions in respect to implementation of programs have not been worked through the processes yet. So, I can only indicate my personal attitude at this time since I haven't run through my colleagues in Cabinet or through the Legislature, the proposals. But, in respect to the recommendations that are made here, certainly we do want to strengthen the department in order to deal with the more adequate licensing of ground-water resources and as the Budget indicates, two additional staff have been provided in the department for that purpose.

In respect to the recommendation that the licenses run with the land, certainly that makes good sense, that the water resource not be dealt with separate and apart from the user or the owner of the surface rights. We certainly wouldn't want to see water rights sublet out from the land, and that recommendation, therefore, seems to make good sense.

In respect to the length of the water license again I think, given the fact that, as the honourable member has pointed out, those users of ground water who are implementing irrigation systems, are looking at pretty expensive devices. I would think it makes abundant good sense that the licence period be for a sufficient period of years and I don't know if 15 is the magic number, but certainly it needs to be more than five.

Now, in respect to the rest of the recommendations, I think I'm merely am in a position now to generalize that this is a very important resource that we have and we're bound to take better inventory and ensure that our resource is not being polluted, that it is being safeguarded and used adequately.

One of the things that's not mentioned in this report and that I've asked my department to deal with, is the relationship of surface and ground water so that we have a thorough understanding as to what is happening with our aquifers, how they're being replenished, if at all, and in what manner, and what aquifers therefore are in greater difficulty than others. It's a very important area and it's going to take more time and, I don't know whether we have all the staff we require, I'm not knowledgeable yet as to the demand load on existing staff, but we will be acting on these recommendations and we're very concerned to ensure the protection of this most valuable resource.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, further to my colleague's questions regarding some of the

recommendations in the book here, I have a concern that I would like to bring to the Minister's attention. For example, under the recommendation where water licenses should run with the land and should not be transferred separately, I would like to pursue the area of how licencing takes place because if this recommendation were implemented, for example, it would be a very choosy thing or I'd be very concerned that certain individuals would get a license to irrigate, the neighbour would not, and with the transfer going with the land that certain individual's properties are going to be enhanced dramatically over somebody else's in terms of transfer.

The licencing procedure itself is something that I wonder if the Minister could clarify because there's going to be added pressure. For example, if my neighbor wants to set up an irrigation system, expensive as it may be, what is the procedure, for example, for the people in the area that have drilled wells, dug wells, all these things can be affected by how the licencing procedure progresses; and possibly the Minister could enlighten us so that we can tell our people when they are talking about the irrigation system what they can expect in terms of requirements; and how does one individual get a license and the next one gets rejected.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's all part of the work that has to be done and that's part of the Act and the regulations to be brought forward and there will have to be techniques in place ensure that everyone is treated fairly, in respect to a reasonable use of ground water supplies. I am sure that within those regulations there will be provision for domestic use that may not require licencing, I don't know. But where it's an irrigation or commercial use, an extensive use of ground water, then there will be standards set up and there will be, I am sure, a determination made as to what quantities of water are available; and in the event that there is a reduction in water in the aquifer and the supply, how that reduction will be apportioned among users. It's complicated, it's going to take some work, but I think with goodwill we'll come up with what will be reasonable and fair to all concerned, to all users.

MR. DREIDGER: The concern that I have is exactly where would the level of usage be established? This could be from somebody that has, let's say, a livestock operation, maybe 200 head of livestock, or is it 100 head or is it 50 head, or is it somebody that's irrigating his crops. The area of exactly how this will be established is going to be quite dramatic; or maybe, if the government should so desire, or the Minister, any well that is drilled, dug, whatever the case may be, is this going to require a license? You know, this thing can be carried to quite an extent and this is why it is important to sort of get the Minister's feeling as to how he's going to handle this thing. —(Interjection)— That's what I'm concerned about.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, that's exactly what I wouldn't want to do, is cut the honourable member's water off. No, as I indicated, I think that individual water wells for domestic use, I wouldn't anticipate that what we would agree to, as a government

or in this Assembly, would require every individual who takes water from underground by way of well to have a license. However, that's not to say we wouldn't want the well drillers to completely advise the Department as to the nature of their findings; what level they found fresh water, what quality it was and so on, to improve our knowledge as to the aquifers that are known to us and how those aquifers are responding to use. But in respect to the commercial agriculture, if I can use that, again we will have to determine licenses and license quantities on the basis of what the aquifer's potential for delivery is, and then in accordance with priority of application too, I assume. I can't, at this time, indicate to you that a certain aquifer is relatively unlimited and we can give carte blanche to anyone who wants to irrigate; can't do that. What we do have to do is evaluate adequately what our resources are and determine how much can be drawn out of each aquifer without endangering its continuity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Member for Morris.

MR. CLAYTON MANNES (Morris): Yes. So that I might understand better where we are now, I wonder if I could avail upon the Minister to indicate what the present licencing procedures are at this time?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am advised at the present time there is a licencing procedure. It's perhaps more cumbersome than what it could be because tests on the wells have to be made and a report given. Then there's a determination as to the effect on adjacent well users if any, for any major use and if it appears that there is no difficulty, then a license is granted.

MR. MANNES: This decision, is it made final by the Minister or by some licencing board? Who makes these decisions?

MR. MACKLING: I haven't seen one of the decisions yet so presumably I haven't used any political influence, if that's what the Minister is interested in.

MR. MANNES: Well, I'm just curious as to who makes the decisions.

MR. MACKLING: The question again was?

MR. MANNES: I'm wondering who makes the decision as to whether one is granted a license or not.

MR. MACKLING: Someone in the department presumably has been making those decisions on behalf of the Minister.

MR. MANNES: Specifically who, if I may ask? His name starts with "W."

MR. MACKLING: Yes, I think the honourable member is right and it hasn't changed, it's Mr. Weber: Individual applications can be sent to me if the honourable member has one.

MR. MANNES: Now as far as water licencing, is this

decision based not only on groundwater requests but also on river requests for drawing from rivers?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, we have dealt with both groundwater and river water applications in the past.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(b)(1) — the Member for Roblin-Russell.

MR. MCKENZIE: Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of questions for the Minister. I never was very closely related to irrigation until this first project in the province of irrigation using the effluent in Roblin which came on stream last year, so I got involved fairly quick and there's a lot of questions that have been raised. Also, we've had correspondence cross my desk from the Association of Irrigators in Manitoba who invited me to attend a Brandon seminar here in early February — unfortunately I couldn't go — but they raised a lot of interesting questions and some of course are spelled out in the report of the committee.

But I'm wondering if maybe the time isn't here for us to review the whole Act and the whole structure of the Water Resources Branch because of the number of these irrigation projects that are coming on stream and likely more will come on stream. The matters that have been raised by other members, the Member for Lakeside and the Member for Emerson, are questions that are certainly valid at this time because there seems to be more and more concerns raised by people that are using the system.

I understand there is quite a backlog of applications that need to be cleared up in the department by the irrigators who haven't received a water license, and maybe there is a reason or reasons why they haven't. They also suggest to me, a number of knowledgeable people in the field, that enough information already exists to formulate a pretty strong allocation policy by the department.

There was another recommendation that was drawn to my attention and they feel that maybe the administration should be moved to a local level or a local administration administered by the department but moved out locally so there isn't so much length of time and paperwork involved or phone calls in getting information. So I'm certainly agreeable to some of the comments of the Minister, he said our objective is for certainly a long-term water management policy. But there are a lot of questions that have been raised in the field at this time and I think it's very timely for us to deal with them by the Committee and the Minister.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, the honourable member's concerns were earlier enunciated by the Honourable Member for Lakeside and in answer to his questions I did indicate that staff are currently involved in preparation of recommendations, including specific recommendations arising out of this report, but recommendations that had predated this report, that had been with the department for some years, Mr. Weber advises me. But there wasn't the great importance, there didn't seem to be the concern of government for sometime in this area so very little has been done about it. But it is timely now, the Water Commission's Report has highlighted that and we are going to be moving on it.

In respect to the suggestion that perhaps control ought to be more locally based, I think it's important that control be with the province because, I am sure, these aquifers extend beyond local limits and there might be problems sorting out priorities if it were left to local government. I understand, by my advice through my Deputy, that the Province of Saskatchewan tried that and it was a mess. So we can learn from the pluses, the good programs of our neighbouring jurisdiction, and we can learn from their mistakes too. This is one in which it appears that provincial control and programming of licensing is warranted and should be pursued.

MR. MCKENZIE: I wonder, can the Minister advise, was any of his staff at that Irrigation day meeting in Brandon or was it all agriculture and, if they were there, did they give them any assurances of some of the changes they have been asking for?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Weber was there but, of course, he can't commit government to policy decisions, but I'm sure that he indicated his concern in respect to further development in this area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, perhaps with the help of staff the Minister could indicate to us the number of licenses currently issued, in general terms; and also if the department is aware of any substantial number of unlicensed operations occurring in the province. My understanding of it is - and the Minister can confirm it - I'm differentiating between the two types of users, the domestic user, the residential farm user - which I believe requires just a simple permit. I think, the department correctly wants to be informed of wells being put in place for residential use but does not really require the licensing process. What we are talking about here are the more substantive users of ground water or surface water for irrigation purposes that are subject to the current, inadequate as it may be, licensing procedure, and could the Minister give us some indication of the number of licenses that are currently out in the province; and the second question, whether or not the department is aware of the degree of unlicensed operators taking ground water, surface water?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I would have to ask Mr. Weber to make somewhat of an educated guess in respect to that if you really had to have the information now and we could move on with the Estimates. I think that I could take it as notice and give greater specific to that question. We may not have the exact numbers but I think we can do better with it if Mr. Weber gets a chance to get some people to add up some numbers.

MR. ENNS: In addition to that same series of questions, we would appreciate, before the Estimates conclude, perhaps another day towards the end when we deal with the Minister's Salary, some of this information could be made available to us for our purposes. The other part of that question is the number of appli-

cations for licenses to draw down water, either from surface, rivers, reservoirs, and/or ground water applications. I appreciate that that was a growing list during my tenure of office and I suspect that list, if anything, will continue to expand.

Mr. Chairman, more specifically, I would ask the Honourable Minister to give us some idea about the situation in two specific areas along the Assiniboine River, the Portage Plains area where fairly extensive use of irrigation is used drawing on the available waters from the Assiniboine. My question there is the capacity of the Assiniboine to continue the existing licensed operators and, more specifically, the possibility and it is my hope - it was certainly my intention when it was my responsibility - to enable a diversion to occur from the Assiniboine to the La Salle to alleviate the growing demands for water user of all types along the La Salle River, both for commercial irrigation purposes and simply for domestic water use, municipal water use. Several municipalities in Cartier, R.M. of MacDonald, rely on the La Salle for water. I know the Honourable Member for Morris is particularly sensitive to these requests and while I appreciate that the question as to whether or not a specific project, such as the proposed diversion of waters from the Assiniboine to the La Salle, may not be properly discussed at this time and would come under the final resolution dealing with the Acquisition and Construction of Physical Assets. But my question now is, to the Minister, has the Assiniboine the capacity to allow for a diversion that was contemplated? I certainly invite the Minister to indicate whether or not that project is still on stream.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, yes, the departmental staff have been looking at that question of the capacity and I think the capacity is still there and we'll be looking further at that possible diversion, it certainly is something that's still under active review and I will be getting recommendations in respect to that later.

MR. ENNS: I suppose it's that terminology of "active review", that bothers me and the Honourable Member for Morris. I can assure the Honourable Minister that a number of people, I may add including an illustrious former colleague of his by the name of Joe Borowski, is looking in anticipation of seeing that additional waters to be complemented to the La Salle River. Now, I don't know what precise standing the Honourable Minister has with Mr. Borowski these days, although I do recall him accompanying him in court during his days of trial and difficulties. But I would expect that the present Minister will continue to show consideration for him and others on the La Salle River, that we're led to believe and certainly encouraged by the forward looking and progressive previous Minister of Natural Resources that this was about to occur, that the necessary engineering studies . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kovnats on a point of order.

MR. KOVNATS: I would like the name of the Honourable Member for Niakwa included in the members interested in the diversion from the Assiniboine into the La Salle.

MR. ENNS: I accept that inclusion, although generally I'm a little more fussy about who I include among my . . .

Mr. Chairman, seriously, the point that I'm trying to make is that certainly I would have to consider it and would certainly so view it, a reversal of policy if you like, and of course it's certainly up to the Minister and this government to reverse that policy inasmuch that the project hasn't been proceeded with. But the Minister upon investigating the matter will determine that very extensive surveying, engineering and there was a fair amount of work that had to be done. There were a number of questions raised, a number of concerns expressed about the compatibility of proceeding with that project and we are certainly not recommending it at the detriment of the current Assiniboine users.

But the information that was at hand at that time led us to believe that a diversion of some substance could take place — the capacity of the Assiniboine provided that — and of course should the capacity of the Assiniboine be increased in the future as we want to discuss perhaps a little further on in the Estimates, then that would seem to be a very natural and a very common sense application and use of our surface water in that particular area. I point out that that particular area encompasses some of the finer and more productive land suitable for irrigation in the province and one that would enhance the agricultural production of this province.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether I can do better than what I indicated before and that was that I am advised by the department that proposal or that development has been under consideration. It hasn't reached the stage yet where I can be definitive about it. It's subject of course to environmental review and it has to run the gamut of a lot of evaluation before I can indicate that it's "go." That is one possibility. Of course, these things when they involve a change in use of river water will take a fair bit of consideration by staff and by interested people.

I can't tell you when that will be completed but it's one of those things that is, as the honourable member knows, is in the hopper. How soon it'll come out, or whether it'll come out, in what form, I don't know at this stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. DONALD ORCHARD (Pembina): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a recently completed study, I think back about almost two years ago now, on the Souris River watershed and area; it was a joint Saskatchewan-Manitoba study, federally-commissioned, I believe. A number of Manitoba aquifers were identified in that Souris River area, the southwest Manitoba agricultural area. I'd just like to find out how many present active users there are of those aquifers identified in that Souris River study and how many applications there might be. The users that I'd like identified are major users, such as ones who would be feeding in a centre pivot irrigation system.

MR. MACKLING: Again here, Mr. Chairman, I think that it would be unfair of me to ask Mr. Weber to give

me an off-the-cuff answer on that. I'll ask him to give me particulars of it and I'll report later.

MR. ORCHARD: That's the kind of information I wanted, Mr. Chairman, that's just fine.

We do have some aquifer irrigation going on in the province, I think there's some around Carberry. What monitoring methods does the province use now to, I suppose, check on how that kind of use is depleting the level in the aquifer? Is there test wells established close to the withdrawal site? What sorts of procedures are undertaken to monitor the aquifer with heavy usage?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, for some time the department has maintained observation wells in the major aquifers — I suppose all the aquifers — and does monitor levels and water quality in the aquifers through these wells. I would assume that pursuant to recommendations here, that monitoring will be increased as well.

MR. ORCHARD: Would I be correct in assuming that in terms of irrigation use that the Carberry aquifer is probably the most heavily used?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it's the heaviest used aquifer, I suppose, in Manitoba.

MR. ORCHARD: Has there been any noticeable reduction in that aquifer level observed in the monitoring process?

MR. MACKLING: Not as yet.

MR. ORCHARD: That must be encouraging to the department to see that that kind of heavy usage hasn't seemed to have affected the level to any significant degree.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is the kind of area that's an evaluation of the aquifer and of course, that's subject I suppose to varying opinion. But it is heartening that the aquifer hasn't seemed to have lost a great deal. However, again it will largely be determined I guess on weather cycles and a number of factors so I don't want at this stage to get into a technical evaluation as to how much drawdown can occur on an aquifer without it reacting. I don't know whether we're in a position to review that.

MR. ORCHARD: Well no, I quite agree, you probably aren't in a position, but there has been let's say some environmental group concern that any major use of an aquifer could be detrimental and bases initial indications on the Carberry one as a single aquifer. Certainly some of the horror stories, I suppose, that emerge from time to time — I'm talking about the Imperial Valley sinking 40 feet and this sort of thing — aren't necessarily transposable to our circumstance in Manitoba. The Minister indicated earlier on I believe in his Throne Speech remarks, a change, I think, which would be welcome in the — I suppose, call it the philosophical pattern of the Water Resource Branch and the department — away from an emphasis on extensive drainage, to one more of conserva-

tion which I suppose would envision water storage projects which would contain runoff and would make our available spring runoff, for instance, more available rather than putting it into Lake Winnipeg as quickly as we can. That's something that the Minister will get substantial support from myself on.

Could the Minister indicate whether there is a requirement of provincial licensing on all retention-pond structures, small dams, whatever, on all creeks and runs in the province, or are there certain streams that don't require provincial endorsement to establish a small storage pond behind?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, in reverse order, yes, any impoundment of water of stream or drain, there's licensing required.

Going back to the use of aquifers, one of the major thrusts of this Water Commission Report is to ensure that we know what we're doing with aquifer water supply and, although the aquifer that we've been talking about in the Carberry area is used extensively now and there hasn't been any problem with it, we'll have to determine where we can draw the line, how much we can use in safety and that's one of the big issues, to know water resources and how it can be safely used.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: I take it that from your answer there are no streams regardless of size that can be — like for instance I've got a creek on my farm coming out of the escarpment — I could not with my own resources put a control structure on that creek to back up water for livestock or irrigation water without provincial consent.

MR. MACKLING: Yes, that's my understanding. Now, that provincial consent may be very readily obtained or it may be difficult, depending on what happens with the natural flow, how it's used.

MR. ORCHARD: Surely the Department has had requests and applications for installation of dams, or does this go under that broad area where it has been done without knowledge that there was a permission required? But, surely there has been requests and have they been in the majority complied with, or have they been refused in the majority?

MR. MACKLING: Up until 1959, Mr. Chairman, the role of the department was very passive, there had been structures built and there may have been structures built since then without authority, and of course, I suppose they would be subject to immediate removal if they have no sanction for them. But I would assume that we have had licenses granted for structures.

MR. ORCHARD: I guess that's the nub of my question. Would it be easy to determine if the Department has had requests from individuals to construct their own dams on very minor streams — certainly not on the Assiniboine River, but on minor streams, requests by individuals to construct dams to impound water primarily for their own use? Could you make that investigation and provide me with that information as

to whether those requests have been made and, if so, how many have been approved and whether any have been turned down?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I can ask Mr. Weber to give us some detail on that because I don't know how extensive that is, but rather than give an off-the-cuff answer, Mr. Weber can give me the information.

MR. ORCHARD: On a slightly different matter, from time to time projects may surface that for instance the Federal Government are interested in and let's say the scenario developed where the provincial department found themselves somewhat strapped for capital funds in a given year. What would this Minister and this government's position be to pursuit of a water-storage project which would be funded, let's say, by an individual and the Federal Government without involving Provincial Government dollars? Would you welcome that kind of new investment into the province or would there be some resistance to it?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that in the past the Federal Government has been extensively involved through the PFRA in respect to this sort of development. However, it again would have to be licensed by our department because we're concerned about the use of the water supply to make sure it's fair to all, not only the one that wants to use it for, say, a private impoundment for his own operation, but to make sure there's enough left over for the traditional users of water and that the downstream benefits aren't eroded by the diversion.

MR. ORCHARD: That, of course, would be of prime concern that no one would be disadvantaged by such a proposed undertaking if it were to surface, but I take it — and if I might be liberal with the Minister's remarks — as long as there were no adverse effects that could be identified that the impoundment was possibly going to prevent some flood damage in spring runoff time and provide a retention pond, etc., without adverse effects to anyone, that the province might indeed welcome that kind of investment as they have in the past with a number of PFRA projects as the Minister mentioned.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, unquestionably my philosophy is, in that way, I believe that if rather than wasting all of the water that rushes off in the spring we can hold some of it back, we have a double advantage; we've reduced the flooding situation downstream and we can retain some of that water for later use. However, every factor has to be considered and I'm sure that, despite the rather simplistic philosophy that I have in connection with that, I'm going to get advice that there's a flushing action that is necessary in respect to streams and waterways and you can't remove all of that, and everything has to be taken into consideration. We'll do that, but certainly my philosophy is inclined that way, that rather than seeking to take all the water off the land as quickly as possible, we should be endeavouring to pond it and use it and try and reflect what had been the natural state away back when, because I think no one can deny that what we have done with all of our development is to have

taken far more surface water off the land and rush it away more quickly. I think we have to look at the problem we are creating in doing that.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, I certainly look forward to working with the Minister in furthering his broad philosophy and giving him the kind of support he might need to assure that broad philosophy ends up working to the benefit of Manitobans, and I'll look forward to that opportunity over the coming months and years, and I only hope he stays in the department long enough to get some of these things done.

MR. MACKLING: Thank you.

MR. MANNES: I concur also with my colleague's remarks. I'd like probably to pose later on in this exercise some detailed questions on the LaSalle River Diversion as were initiated by my colleague from Lakeside, so I don't want it to be recorded that I won't say something on this further on. I'd like to know, though, and I think my colleague from Pembina asked about results from monitoring regarding the aquifer at Carberry. Are there any monitoring results that lead you to be concerned at all about water tables in the area?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am advised that in the southwest of the province there has been a marked lowering of water tables.

MR. MANNES: Would this be the basis for your concern as you have suggested on a number of occasions, or do you feel it is just the prudent way to manage this resource?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I think it's a combination of both. Common sense indicates that we have been using much more of our surface water, draining it away much more quickly, and the evidence of this study itself shows concern in respect to what's been happening to our water table, and I think then it's a matter of record that we are, over the course of time, reducing our water supply.

MR. MANNES: One final question in this licensing area, and it's to do with the potential of again, the Assiniboine River, for drawing the surface water from it. Do we have any scale that we can measure the potential for drawing from it and at what point are we on that scale?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I am advised that we are in a position to quantify a flow of 500 cfs from the Assiniboine River at Portage la Prairie; a firm supply of 500 cubic feet per second at Portage la Prairie.

MR. MANNES: For clarification, that is what can be drawn off for irrigation purposes or is that what the flow is?

MR. MACKLING: That's the flow.

MR. KOVNATS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an authority on water licensing and water management,

coming from a constituency that the only water comes out of the tap, I do have some questions now that under redistribution and I do represent the area of Niakwa, and I have acquired a floodway, Seine River and Red River which I never had before, so there are some questions that come under this particular item. Can the Honourable Minister advise whether there is any special control of some of the animals that come out of the different water areas, particularly the Seine River, because we've had some problems along there with some skunk population that does come under. Is there any special control of these animals that come under these waterways?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, I know there are problems with these animals. As a matter of fact, there was one — and I'm not accusing — this was a real skunk, it wasn't an Opposition politician referring to a member of another party, indicating that either a New Democrat or a Conservative was an odiferous animal. No, this was a beast, he went right across the front of the building here apparently the other night, and I don't know, Mr. Chairman, if there is any way you can adequately control these animals. They follow the river banks and streams and do find themselves into the most unconventional places. We haven't found one in the Chamber yet, but that's because the guards have been watching the doors. The only thing we can do in respect to those animals is, if they become a nuisance, then the City staff would be called in, because I don't think that our staff would operate. I am sure they would be available if the city authorities called us in.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Assiniboia.

MR. RURIK (Ric) NORDMAN (Assiniboia): As far as the city is concerned they would come and they would leave us a trap, and then if the skunk got into the trap then they would, in turn come and pick him up, but we would have to set the trap. I had them on my bay two years ago; a whole family of five of them and that's the way we managed to get rid of them.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that we are extremely efficient in this area. We have a program called "Call Us," a nuisance wildlife control program that some astute politician set up some years ago; I don't know when.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to presume your duties, but as we get to Page 100, we'll be dealing with Wildlife and we can raise all those questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Inkster.

MR. DON SCOTT (Inkster): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some concerns rising out of the Manitoba Review of Ground Water Management in Manitoba, and in particular there's been some talk of longer-term leases extending from 5 to 15 years. I have quite strong concerns on this, given that the 15-year period goes beyond, by some degree, minor cyclical changes that we have within our climate. We have periods of — the depression was in the vicinity of 7 to 8 years of particularly dry years. We have much smaller terms;

we just had one two years ago; a particularly dry year, and I think that in any consideration that is being brought forward that we have to tone the licenses to these climatic realities of the area in which we live, and which we inhabit. We now have proposals that have come before the government from an organization which I believe is called the Association of Irrigation, or Manitoba Irrigators or some such thing, and they were asking, if my memory serves me correctly, that grants would be given, not according necessarily to the capability of the land but according to the equipment which they installed. In other words, if they come in and if the area has a capacity to withdraw from a number of different irrigators, perhaps in the area, a combined capacity of 300 or 400 cfs, and one outfit come in and put in a pump which is capable of 150 cfs, we could be in a pretty sad situation in that aquifer, in that region itself.

I would just like to I guess in phrasing a question, if I'm supposed to phrase questions here and I think I am, is that, would you give consideration or in giving consideration to the granting of leases, could we have any assurance that they will not be given according to the installed capacity which the irrigator buys and installs himself but rather on a capacity of the ground water or the surface water in that area.

MR. MACKLING: Well, in respect to the Honourable Member for Inkster's concerns, in respect to the cycles and the length of the leases, I indicated that I wasn't sure whether the period should be 5 or 10 or what years. I think we'd have to look at that, I think there's an argument to be made for someone who is granted a license to draw ground water for irrigation purposes and that's known to provide a sufficient period of lease time, to provide for retirement on a reasonable depreciation scale of the equipment. What that time is I don't know at this time; we'll have to look at that. My staff advises me that it's true that weather is cyclical and I think some of the experts indicate that it has a great deal to do with sunspot activity than others and we're in one of those areas now. I'm not so sure just what phase we're in but we are in, I think, one of the drought cycles at the present time and they have historically been about 11 years in length.

In respect to the leases, regardless of the size of the pump or the facility that the lessee might install, the lease would permit a drawdown of water on the basis of the determined capacity of the aquifer and the demands being made collectively on that by lessees. So, even if someone installs a pump that was capable of delivering a great deal more water, he wouldn't be able to draw to the maximum of his equipment if it was deemed, in accordance with an evaluation of all the licenses that was not appropriate. So, a person could over-equip his well system but we want to be able to ensure that everyone gets their fair share of that ground water. So the lease won't be based on the capacity of the equipment, but on the capacity of the aquifer.

MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering on leases, presently, if the leases are purchasable on the market or if I have a water lease can I sell my lease?

MR. MACKLING: I'm advised at the present time

leases are issued to individuals only and they're non-transferable.

MR. SCOTT: I would certainly recommend, Mr. Minister, that system maintain and perpetuate for, if we move to any other sort of system, one can move into gross inequities of one's capacity to be able to draw the water and as just to who ends up owning the water rights in this specific area.

Once again referring to the report on their No. 11 recommendation, which is on Page 10, they recommend the establishment of an ad hoc committee and on this ad hoc committee. I have some concern, and I'll be raising this sort of concern rather frequently, not only in these Estimates but right through, everyone of the people they are suggesting to be on this ad hoc committee are fairly major consumers of water, and we should be having people, not just consumers and the people who are going to be putting the greatest demand on the system and on the aquifers, represented on the board; there should be representatives of other organizations, there should be perhaps geographers, for example, from the faculties of the universities who can look at the problems we are facing in a much different way than someone who is just looking to draw out certain quantities of water.

We should be looking at getting a better cross-balance, on any resource committee, because this sort of attitude, if this was perpetuated, and I'm not saying necessarily this would develop here, but it has led to the gross problems that they have in other jurisdictions in other countries. When you consider the Member for Pembina has already mentioned the Imperial Valley in California, the incredible problems that they're having there, and it's just been a system designed by engineers. It's engineers who do not understand and have not understood the problems that are conversant in the area. They're not really conversant themselves with those problems and they're still designing more impoundment structures over areas of sandstone and the water just disappears into the ground, once again, instead of being taken forward to their end use. I think it's probably safer in the ground, in those instances, than it is in their end uses. They've taken one of North America's great rivers and it doesn't even reach its mouth anymore; that's the Colorado River.

If I could just recommend a film, and it's accessible in Manitoba through the Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg, it's called Death of a River and it is something that the Member for Pembina has already referred, that their conditions are not necessarily symbolic of the conditions we have here, they're comparable, but we can learn an awful lot from what has happened in other jurisdictions in the area of water management and, in particular, in irrigation systems.

Just as a point of interest, it might be taken as well as notice, that the Continent of India at one time, or the sub-continent of India was once a very wet area and due to total deforestation of the area it's virtually all semi-arid toward desert now. It's just the misuse of the land through centuries — 10's and 20's of Centuries of time — of the implications that man's use has of the water system itself.

Now, are we going to be dealing once again with the possible potential diversion of the Assiniboine into the La Salle River? Will that come up again in the Estimates?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, it will.

MR. SCOTT: It'll come up under Capital? Okay, that's fine, I'll discuss that at that point in time then.

MR. MACKLING: Let me respond at this time and indicate that I'm advised that item is not included in the Capital and, therefore, if members want to speak extensively on that question they can do that now. Let me, while I have the floor, then respond to some of the concerns of the honourable member to this point in his submission.

I do respect the concerns that he has and he reflects a growing and a very objective concern with respect to overuse of water. When I answered the Honourable Member for Pembina, in connection with ponding and usage of water, I qualified my answer to indicate my concern that whatever ponding takes place, and whatever use takes place, is to be done in an intelligent and appropriate manner so that we don't destroy the continuing use of water downstream, as has been correctly eluded to as being the experience in some areas of this continent and it's an environmental disgrace.

Now, I think maybe I'll leave my comments there and the honourable member wanted to ask further questions about that proposed diversion of water and anyone else who wanted to speak on that's on the list.

MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, before I got on to diversion there's one question that I would like to raise to you on the general subject. There is something that has received next to no recognition to this point in time and it is just starting to be recognized in areas where they are short of water, but just because one has plenty does not mean that one should use without respect and without due respect. And I would raise the areas of industrial use of water and with the vast use of industrial uses of water does not require potable water. The plants themselves can recycle the vast amount of water that they do use, a vast percentage can be recycled with no problems whatsoever in the facility. All that it requires when the water is free they will just use it and pump it through and run through. The proposed Alcan in the Balmoral area is exactly one of these that will use vast quantities of water. It does not contaminate the water to a strong degree like a paper mill does, but there are still pollutants introduced into the water and every drop of the water that they are using in that plant can be recycled. I would suggest to the Commission when the licensing is coming up for not only Alcan but also for other areas, the food processors use a tremendous amount of water as well, much of it just used for washing down.

There is a gentleman at the University of Manitoba in Food Sciences, his name is Dr. Gallop; he has designed plants. He's designed plants to be use in other jurisdictions throughout the world where they do not have to add water once the process is started up. For instance, once a pulp mill starts with its initial

contribution of water to get the system moving just with the water that can be extracted from the wood, instead of being discharged, it doesn't need another cup of water throughout its whole existence as long as the plant continues its operation — so it is uses like this at recycling, division of the water. You take this gentleman, he has taken water and designing water if you wish to the ingredients in the water for use in the Freshwater Institute for Research there where there have specific species of fish and have to have certain chemical balances of water. The water he takes, regular tap water in some instances, and water from the Assiniboine in other instances and builds the water to the specifications as needed by the fish.

So it shows just how far the technology has evolved in this area and it is somewhere I think we should be given an awful lot of thought, in our food processing plants, in recognition. They just come to you, they tell you they need more water, we are expanding, we are going to need another so many hundred cfs per hour. It is, I think, very essential that we start coming back to the companies and saying, okay, the water isn't going to be free anymore, the rates and the water aren't going to be so low anymore that it causes you to not even consider the option of recycling. I would certainly suggest that we move into the direction of requiring industrial uses of water to investigate more seriously and more closely their potential for recycling.

Now, I think that you have been moving to the diversion aspect, I think that you have made a wise decision not to include it in Capital this year. It would have been impossible to even have contemplated putting it into Capital this year because it would be required to go under the Environmental Assessment Review process. If someone thinks that we are going to be able to do an Environmental Assessment Review process in a couple of months time so that it could be accommodated in this year, it would be impossible.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, in respect to the items in reverse order, in respect to the possible diversion of Assiniboine water to the La Salle, that is something that will take evaluating and the environmental concerns will be paramount in those reviews. So I quite candidly say that it's just not possible that we can proceed with something very quickly there because environmental concerns do take time and they'll be given all the time that is necessary to satisfy our concerns in respect to them. In respect to the honourable member's concerns about recycling of water, I agree completely. We are water wasteful and there is no question but that a lot of the major users of water need not use all the water they use, they could have their systems recycled.

I know from my personal experience, the limited time I was a member of the Board of Directors of Manitoba Forestry Resources, there was an order by the Federal Government Environment Commission in respect to water quality in the Saskatchewan River — a demand that we clean up the effluent. The result is that you screen out more of the solids, more of the pulp, that is otherwise going downstream and you also salvage a lot of the chemicals, the liquors, that otherwise are dissipated and washed away and just add to the environmental blot in the river. So all of the requirements to improve the efficiency of industry in

respect to water recycling isn't negative. There are pluses, there are savings and I think we want to encourage that in industry, not in a heavy-handed way, but in a way that encourages efficiency and lack of waste in respect to our water.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Dauphin.

MR. JOHN PLOHMAN (Dauphin): Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask regarding Regional Management, could the Minister please give us the information on the number of regional managers there are stationed outside of Winnipeg in Manitoba?

MR. MACKLING: Five persons.

MR. PLOHMAN: There are five managers and is that all of the regions that exist?

MR. MACKLING: There are five managers, seven regions and two managers look after two regions in the water field.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, could you please give us the information on how many support staff are involved with these managers?

MR. MACKLING: I am advised, Mr. Chairman, that the regional managers don't have staff per se; they employ the services in the region except in the southeast corner of the province because of the extremely heavy load that the regional manager does have some staff and one assistant.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to comment on that then. The northwest region, I believe, we have a regional manager in Dauphin stationed there and he has no support staff at this time consistent with what you just said, Mr. Minister. The people in that area, the people in the Watershed Conservation District, Turtle River Watershed Conservation District, as well as the municipalities west of Lake Dauphin have certainly found that to have an expert in the region has been very helpful. The only thing that they mentioned to me very strongly is that we should provide them with support staff because they are not being utilized as efficiently as they could be, because they are having to do a lot of clerical work and things that take up their time that could be much better used in doing some planning for the region. I would like to encourage that we broaden this decentralization program and I wonder whether the Minister could comment on decentralization of the management services for us.

MR. MACKLING: Well, I am advised that in the particular area, the western region, there hadn't been someone there for some time and there is a backlog, there's a lot of interest and he is pressed, sorely pressed, in respect to his work activity. But, in respect to staff, this administration is no different than any other administration, we're not going to put any more people involved in unnecessary work. If there is additional support required, we'll have to look at that, but we're just not going to hire people unless we have to have them there for that work.

It may be that we could supply them with additional work aids of some kind that would assist in this and I'm thinking of different recording equipment or something, so they can dictate memoranda or letters, and so on, on the job.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would be encouraged if this would be looked into, Mr. Minister, and I believe that it maybe hasn't been articulated here, but certainly the area west of Lake Dauphin in that area in the Dauphin region, including the Roblin-Russell constituency and perhaps the Swan River constituency certainly has unique drainage problems and watershed problems because of the mountains there, the Duck Mountains, and the Riding Mountain and, also, the Porcupine Mountains further up; and it provides the people there, the municipalities, with some extreme problems regarding drainage and flooding problems and this area should, I believe, receive a great deal of attention in the near future.

I would like to ask, in regard to Water Management — and I'm skipping from (e) to (c) here, Mr. Chairman — whether this includes the taking over of natural waterways and designating them as provincial waterways? Is that the budget item that would include that kind of work?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, that is the correct item.

MR. PLOHMAN: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would wonder if there are different specifications in their engineering specifications for dealing with waterways when they are designated as provincial waterways in developing and reconstructing the waterways.

MR. MACKLING: I'm not too familiar with the order of drains yet, but you're talking about natural waterways, I understand.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes. Quite often requests are made — Mr. Chairman if I could — requests are made to have certain natural waterways designated as provincial waterways and this carries with it — my understanding is — a certain development with it.

MR. MACKLING: I'm advised by my staff that we're very careful about waterways being taken over because once we take them over as a provincial waterway, then all of the financial responsibilities that go with that are the responsibility of the province, so there's a careful screening process in connection with that. I think what you want to know is, what are the determinants when . . .

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, what I want to know, is there one kind of engineering specs for dealing with these waterways when they're going to be reconstructed to improve drainage on them, or is there a varying degree of development specifications that can be applied according to the soil types for that particular area?

MR. MACKLING: I'm advised, Mr. Chairman, that staff determine the quality or the capacity and designation of these waterways and they're in first, second, third, fourth degree categories and, I guess, each one is determined on the basis of its position in the system, the soil conditions, the whole thing.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, are the specifications the same for all regions of the province, whether you're dealing with a class four or five soil up in the Duck Mountain area, or you're dealing with a class one or two in the Red River Valley?

MR. MACKLING: I'm advised that it's the physical location of the waterway in the system and it's the same in the whole province.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to comment on that, that the Regional Manager in the Dauphin area has told me that he feels that there should be specifications, and I agree with this, for dealing with the kind of soil types that the waterway is located in. Certainly right now there are hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent on doing over a mile of natural waterway, reconstructing it, it's an elaborate system with landscaped banks and so on and so forth, and it's felt that that money could be spent perhaps better by going with a less elaborate system on some of these waterways and would accomplish more; more miles would be done without developing it in such an elaborate way. I wonder if there's a move to develop specifications for drains that would relate to the soil types?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that the drain size — and we're talking now about not natural waterways, but drains — they are related, the works are related to the quality of the soil.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, I would like to see this for natural waterways that where reconstruction of natural waterways is taking place that these too would be tied to the soil types.

MR. MACKLING: It is my understanding that they are, Mr. Chairman.

MR. PLOHMAN: I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, in dealing with (f) Conservation Districts, whether the forage program for the Turtle River Conservation District has been approved as requested?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that the Conservation Board has its budget, and out of its budget it approves or disapproves of particular projects, including forage and, so that decision isn't made by the Ministry; it's made by the Conservation District Board.

MR. PLOHMAN: The Board went before a hearing, I understand, about a month to two or three weeks ago. All I'm just asking is whether, at that hearing, the forage program of that Conservation District was approved?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, it is my understand-

ing that the Conservation Districts programs are reviewed by the Conservation Commission for each district and we don't approve the dollars but the programs; and it was approved, that Conservation District.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, the grants to conservation districts is part of this approval then under that (f), so it is approved by us obviously through that . . .

MR. MACKLING: Through the totality of that budget. Yes, you're right.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, could you tell me whether there was a request from the Conservation Districts to include crossing over natural waterways as part of provincial assistance in which the province would share in the assistance of funding crossings over natural waterways?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that application was made and considered by the District Commission, but was disapproved because there is no provision for that in the Act at the present time.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just wonder whether the Minister would consider that change in the Act regarding crossings over natural waterways. Has he given any consideration to that?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I understand that a report was commissioned some time ago and both Highways Department and this Department of Natural Resources had been working on that matter and a report will be coming forward to me in the near future.

MR. PLOHMAN: Okay, Mr. Chairman. I would be very interested in that. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Mr. Chairman, at this point in time I'll defer to my colleague, the Member for Morris, and then come back on the list after him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. MANNES: Thank you. Although the Member for Inkster seems to be overjoyed at the announcement of the exclusion of the La Salle Diversion from projects this year, I'd like to record my disappointment and obviously that of my constituents — (Interjection) — and Mr. Borowski also. He phones me about this daily, I might add.

However, again I want to say that I'll pose more questions on this whole project a little later on. I did ask a question though previously as to the potential for additional irrigation along the Assiniboine, and I was told that the flow at this time is 500 cubic feet per second. I wasn't given an answer as to what part of that is being drawn off presently by irrigation in the summertime. Can you answer that question, please?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not sure if the Minister heard, because of a conversation going on. Could you repeat that, please?

MR. MACKLING: I am sorry, I apologize to the member, we were getting some instructions as to what we do at the hour of adjournment, because there is some confusion as to where we go.

MR. MANNES: Mr. Weber must have heard it.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised, that in respect to the question which I did not hear, but I assume is directed as to what is the available water in the Assiniboine for diversion, say, to the La Salle River. The specifics as to what demands are being made on the Assiniboine right now, we can't give you in exact figures and we'll have to give you particulars on that, but there has been an increase draw down on Assiniboine water.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour is now 4:30 and I would . . .

MR. MACKLING: We normally don't adjourn now though, do we? What is the will and pleasure . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can keep going. There is no Private Members' Hour, so if you Committee would like to keep going, we could keep going until 5:30.

MR. MACKLING: We can keep going until 5:30 and then adjourn, or whatever you want to do.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, if that is the will of the Committee, certainly looking at members opposite from our Caucus, we are prepared to carry on until 5:30. The business at hand is of such importance that it should be proceeded with.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Morris.

MR. MANNES: I guess I can't pose my question quite concisely enough. I was more interested in what portion of that 500 cubic feet per second is being drawn off by surface irrigation at this particular point in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister.

MR. MACKLING: We'll give you that information when we can respond to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was intrigued, as many were, with the Member for Inkster's remarks on recycling, and I believe the Minister indicated quite an interest that he had in recycling of water. Was I correct in that assumption?

MR. MACKLING: Sorry, I didn't hear the last part of the question.

MR. ORCHARD: Was I correct in the assumption that the Minister concurred with the enthusiasm of the Member for Inkster on recycling of water?

MR. MACKLING: Yes.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, I guess that would bring up a number of questions. In the Minister's Throne Speech remarks he identified Manitoba as being quite blessed with, I believe I may be in error in quoting him, but I think it was to the effect that we are blessed with the most abundant supply of fresh water in North America, and that I think all Manitobans view as a resource which could be used to attract industrial users who may have needs for rather substantial volumes of water. Would the Minister see that as an advantage that Manitoba has in attracting potential users of water to the province vis-a-vis the fact that we do have substantial freshwater supplies?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, unquestionably that is a benefit to us and that's what we want to protect; to make sure that water supply will be available for generations to come. One of the ways we will protect that is by sound conservation measures. Rather than merely running water through a plant and discharging it into the next available ditch or stream, that where it's demonstrated to be feasible and reasonable to recycle water, it should be recycled rather than just run through and discharged in a contaminated form.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(b)(1) — the Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, we've got two words there, which to politicians can mean quite a depth and breadth of interpretation. Like what is reasonable and economic may mean something to me and something entirely different to the big fellow. Could the Minister be a little more specific, and I'll give him an example to be more specific with. If Manitoba were chosen to be a semi-finalist in a decision by a firm to locate an industry, and saying that water was one of the resources which attracted that industry to Manitoba, if the other semi-finalist jurisdiction in that competition were equally as anxious to have that industrial user come to their jurisdiction, and the difference were that the economics that may be required to recycle water would make his plans not as efficient in Manitoba and he chose to locate elsewhere. Would that be the kind of reasonable circumstance which the Minister would consider to allow a user to come to the province and not go somewhere else?

MR. MACKLING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, let me indicate that I think in any industrial development that we have to weigh carefully the environmental aspect of that development, and if in fact the weight that we give to the protection of our environment discourages industrial development, that's a price we have to look at and we have to look at that very carefully. I, for one, reflect for example on and I indicated this in my remarks during the Throne Speech, for a very very long time the conventional wisdom was that it was too expensive to recover the mercury from the Dryden Pulp Mill, much simpler to just let it go. You know, no one seemed to care. Well, the cost efficiencies were there; the mercury was relatively cheap to buy at that time and the wastage wasn't all that great in dollars, so let it go. We know what the price is to our environment, an incalculable amount of cost. If it is possible to remove those heavy metals from our water system, so that is the kind of calculation we have to make. We can't just

say, you know, another jurisdiction is going to let the plant go, so we've got to do the same, and when someone wants to build a bigger, higher smokestack, and says, well, look, we won't dump the sulphur, we won't dump the heavy metal in your backyard, it will go somewhere else. We'll have to take a second look at that and say, is that neighbourly? Is that right in our time that we should do that or is there a better system? Is there a way in which these things can be changed?

Now changes have been forced in other environments. I am pleased to tell you that for 100 years it wasn't possible to catch salmon in the Thames River in England — any fish they were just polluted little creatures. —(Interjection)— Yes, that's fact, but they've taken some tough environmental decisions in England. They're tough because they have a cost to them, an industrial cost, but they apparently are succeeding because the Thames River quality is improved to the extent now where salmon are being caught in that river — haven't been for many many years. I can tell you also that in Japan, which prides itself on its industry and its industrial efficiency, tough environmental decisions have been taken with the result that there has been a vast improvement in their environment in the last decade.

Now, it's true that we have to face up to these tough decisions and the large corporations are going to say to us, if you want jobs, if you want plant, if you want industry, you do it on our terms, and those are going to be some tough questions we face. I'm not referring to any specific company, I'm talking about industry generally and the decisions we make reflect not on our own personal well-being, but on the well-being and the quality of life for those who come after us. So we're not, I hope, going to make decisions lightly in this area.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Andy Anstett (Springfield): The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I think we got a little divergent on the subject. I understood the Member for Inkster to be referring to the recycling of water, not from the standpoint of the environment, but rather from the standpoint of the supply of water. There has never been and I don't think there is a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Inkster.

MR. SCOTT: I think there has been some misinterpretation by the Member for Pembina. The considerations are a twofold; supply — in the south the Minister in his Speech from the Throne indicated us of having a bountiful supply of water in Manitoba that is not evenly distributed throughout the Province of Manitoba. The vast supply of the water that we have is north, in the not in the south, because in the south we are running into some difficulties — in the southwest, that was pointed out a little bit earlier. I am very concerned about the supply of water and equally with the contamination, and the lesser the supply, the more critical any contamination is in that water. That doesn't mean that I agree with any kind of dilution in . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, the honourable member appears to have a difference of opinion with the Honourable Member for Pembina. That is not a point of order but rather a difference of opinion, a matter that is subject to debate.

The Honourable Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I say, the concern that I identified was for recycling of water not on the basis of removing pollutants, because I do believe we have environmental standards which prevent discharges above certain limits and should those limits need review from time to time, they get that kind of a review. But my concern was the apparent thrust that the Member for Inkster had, in that recycling should be of major direction that this Minister takes in his department and, you know, that recycling strictly from a preservation of supply standpoint may be applicable in the southwest of Manitoba; it may not be applicable in the Interlake. I would wonder if in his specific reference to the aluminum industry and the recycling of water used by that industry, would it be fair to assume that basis the Member for Inkster's remarks that there is a new criterion of negotiation now being put before the aluminum negotiations, that being they must recycle all their water internally.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I don't know what terms were included in those negotiations. I would be troubled if there was no reservation on the part of those negotiating before in respect to how water was going to be used and that there would not be just a run through of water if it was cost efficient and possible to recycle it.

MR. ORCHARD: A further question, the Member for Inkster made reference to the latest technology, I think, in the forest product industry. Would one of the criterion that the new government would consider in the upgrading that they have promised on the electoral platform of the ManFor complex in The Pas, would that major upgrading, should it occur, be built around and centred upon the recycling of water in that mill?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I introduced the example of the improvement of water quality in the Saskatchewan River by a demand by Environment Canada for recycling or improved cycling, or screening of effluent from that mill. I think Environment Canada has to be given some credit for forcing industry nationwide, pulp mills and others to live up to better environmental standards. I think that we as a province must take recognition of the need to protect our environment in a way that perhaps we haven't as fully as we ought to have in the past.

MR. ORCHARD: Yes, but once again, I make the differentiation, if I may, there is once again a difference between the quality of water discharge which we're all concerned that the highest quality least polluting water be discharged from any industrial user, but to me the indication was that since the process is available to recycle water, then it should be used. I was wondering if this might be part of the thrust that the now Minister of Natural Resources might put into the

discussion mix on an expansion at ManFor, a recycling of water not simply a meeting in environmental standard as to the discharge of water, but rather turning that plant into a completely recycled water operation plant?

MR. MACKLING: I haven't seen the proposals, Mr. Chairman, but I would want to be numbered amongst those who would ensure that to the highest extent possible, we would involve recycling rather than just run-through of water laden with pollutants into our river system.

MR. ORCHARD: I would hope once again that the Minister is not trying to say that we are in favour of running through water which is laden with pollutants. I reinforce once again that was not the intention of my remark; I know that it is not his intention. I guess what I'm asking, and the Minister made once again reference to a phrase "to the greatest extent possible, that recycling should be incorporated in any new expansion at ManFor," would that greatest extent possible be maintained if the economics of that complex were put out of kilter with other competing mills and other provinces in Canada? Would that be the kind of circumstances as much as possible that would tone down his recycling requirement?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, hopefully these high standards that we strive for here will not be our standards alone but that other provinces in Canada will be seeking to achieve these standards. I'm hopeful that's the case. I'm hearing that other provinces as well are not necessarily following the same political thrust, but this whole question of preservation of the integrity of the environment crosses political lines and I understand that other jurisdictions are as concerned as hopefully we are collectively here in respect to standards. We're not prepared to sacrifice the environment, as has been done in the past, in order for the short term efficiencies of operation. When that expansion of that mill is under consideration, I'm hopeful that not merely myself, but the Honourable Member for Pembina and other members will be concerned that whatever development takes place we will endeavour to get cost efficiencies but that will employ the best recycling techniques to preserve our water quality in this province.

MR. ORCHARD: I take it then that the Minister is going to be cognizant of standards in other provinces. Would I take it from what he said that he would intend to make Manitoba the leader in standard setting in Canada?

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, you know in this industrial age and still in an age when I hope that we are endeavouring to preserve our ecology, I would like to think that we would accept the advice of Plotinus, "Neither a follower nor a leader be."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 4.(b)(1)—pass; Item 4.(b)(2), Other Expenditures \$107,400—pass; Item 4.(c), Water Management, (1) Salaries \$1,102,600—pass.

The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. MANNES: I'm wondering if the Minister can give me some idea whether the proposal for a system of water management in Manitoba — a document released, I believe it says May, 1981 — whether in fact it is his desire to continue along the lines of this proposal?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I understand that there was a paper prepared called a White Paper but it appears to be in a familiar colour other than white — (Interjection) — Well, we're going to make a breakthrough. — (Interjection) — Nothing wrong with Hal-
loween, Harry. You wouldn't do that Harry.

There was a paper prepared; it hasn't been brought forward by the department yet. Presumably there is going to be some public input in this. — (Interjection) — There was proposed to be public input, but that hasn't occurred yet. Public meetings weren't held on it.

MR. MANNES: Well, then can you enlighten us as to its exact position; where is it now for discussion purposes, this particular document?

MR. MACKLING: Well, let me try it again. The paper was prepared and presumably there were to be public hearings on this. Those public hearings did not take place and I have not been apprised yet as to why those public hearings didn't take place or what we're to do with it. Presumably after it's been evaluated by Mr. Weber and his staff, they'll be making recommendations to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item 4.(c)(1)—pass; Item 4.(c)(2); Item 4.(d)(1), Salaries \$824,900 — the Member for Morris.

MR. MANNES: I believe it may come under this area, but there's a particular water problem south of Portage La Prairie in the Gainsborough area affecting one section of land. Residents in that area have made representation to me regarding some tile drainage and I'm wondering if your staff is familiar with the problem if they can tell me if this particular investigation — I think they are monitoring this particular problem — if in fact would fall under this area and if it is, what have they found to date?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the committee members must appreciate that out of a very extensive and detailed answer I will give you a synopsis. In fact, the information is that the particular question the honourable member has been referring to has been under review for some time and continues to be.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Morris.

MR. MANNES: Can you give us any idea when the investigation procedures will come to an end and when some final decision will be made as to whether the tillage, in effect, is causing negative effects on this particular parcel of land and, more importantly, the wells in the area.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I believe the parties interested in this were advised that it would take about two years and there's still about a year to go.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(d) Water Investigations (1) Salaries—pass; (d)(2) Other Expenditures \$680,000—pass; 4.(e) Regional Management: (1) Salaries \$248,100.00.

The Honourable Member for Dauphin.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I just explored this a bit a few minutes ago, I would like to ask again regarding the Regional Management, when was support staff hired for the Regional Manager in the southwest region?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I did indicate that in the southeast region that — (Interjection) — southeast . . .

MR. PLOHMAN: I'm sorry, when was it provided in the southeast region?

MR. MACKLING: About a year ago.

MR. PLOHMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if there could be some rationalization; I know that the Minister was not Minister at that time. As a matter of fact, this government was not in when that particular support staff would have been hired in the southeast region, but if that can be justified, there certainly I believe that it should be justified as well in the area of the Riding and Duck Mountain, Porcupine Mountain area, in other words, the region with its headquarters at Dauphin and I would like to see that is reconsidered.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the additional assistance was based on workload and in the southeast there appeared to be a great deal more work under way.

MR. PLOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, I have to say that I don't agree that the workload could be higher than it is in the region of Dauphin at this time and I would like that to be considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(e)(1) Salaries—pass; 4.(e)(2) Other Expenditures \$41,200—pass; 4.(f) Conservation District Authority.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside, under 4.(e)?

MR. ENNS: That's right, and under 4.(f).

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(f) Conservation District Authority. (1) Salaries \$44,700.00.

The Honourable Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, just a word or two about Conservation Districts generally. I appreciate that it has perhaps been one of the disappointments of the department and successive governments that this voluntary association of municipalities in banding together to form conservation districts hasn't spread to include all portions of the province. I believe we have six, five active districts in the province, but I certainly would want to go on record, both in having been around back in 1967-68, when some of the initial districts were formed and acknowledge the work of the districts over these number of years. To me, I

think, they still hold out the promise and, in fact, demonstrate the capability of involving at the very local level the kind of educational process that's necessary in bringing together the kind of concerns that have been expressed here during the discussions on this portion of the Estimates; that is, the total concept to conservation, not just drainage, not just one other facet of it, but to marry the various different interests together with the proper concern of land use, with the proper concern of wildlife, with the proper concern of agriculture and the judicious use of public money expended on these projects. It would be remiss on my part if I didn't acknowledge that this was being done in these districts, not always in the same level in the different districts, but certainly some of the ones that have been in operation over the past number of years. I think particularly some of the ones in the south, southwestern part of the province, have done an exemplary job in this area.

It's my hope, Mr. Chairman, that despite other plans that I'm aware of and indeed was part of in terms of providing new water management legislation, for instance, the leadership shown by these conservation districts in my judgment should not go unrecorded. It would be my hope that this government and this Minister does not in any way lose sight of that. So it's with some regret, because despite what some columnists want to write about me these days, I really am trying to be the nice guy, Mr. Chairman. I say with some regret that I note that while in all other appropriations there has been at least the inflationary factor added into the consideration, we have not raised as members of the Opposition the minutely detailed questions about whether or not it always involved an extra staff man year or whatever. We accept the figures as being reasonable and applicable to the day and age where you have an 11-12 percent inflation factor.

But, Sir, when we come to this appropriation — and indeed I point out the Minister in that memorable Throne Speech indicated significant support even in his short time an acknowledgment of their part of the whole system; that in this appropriation — there is an \$800 increase on an appropriation of \$1,796,000.00. It would seem to me Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is going to have some difficulty in marrying his words, his expressions of support, to the dollar figures in this instance. I would strenuously appeal to the Minister that this appropriation should be looked at, that it obviously doesn't cover the inflationary factor. I want to indicate to him that he has friends on this committee and friends on the members opposite that would support him in this particular matter. I deduct he also has support within his own Caucus with respect to this particular item.

Mr. Chairman, without belabouring the point and wanting to take this occasion to indicate that the Opposition is looking at these Estimates seriously, we note the acceptable and understandable normal rises. We also note where no rises occur, and we cannot help but take the obvious meaning of that to be, well, we'll let the Conservation Districts carry on for another year, but we're certainly not going to show them any encouragement by any improvement in their appropriation. So, Mr. Minister, you have the opportunity of looking at these Estimates.

I don't want to detract from the Honourable Member

for Springfield's concern, but he happens to be representative of an area that is one of the newer conservation districts, Cooks Creek Conservation District, that is trying its' best to get off its feet. They have a particular project in mind that requires perhaps some expansion of the program. Mr. Chairman, I can indicate to you that up until last fall they had the full support of a caring and thoughtful government in that respect and they would have, of course, continued to receive that had not certain events intervened to stop that from taking place. So, Mr. Minister, I encourage you to take another look at that appropriation 4.(f) and acknowledge the work that the Conservation Districts are doing.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Harry Harapiak (The Pas): The Member for Emerson.

MR. DRIEDGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further to that, firstly I would want to agree with the comments made regarding the work of the Conservation Districts. Further to that the problem that I run into, for example, the Member for Lakeside expressed regret that it did not encompass all of Manitoba and I'd like to draw a specific problem to the attention of the Minister in the southeastern areas where we have a Local Government Districts with low assessments, where we have a lot of Crown lands, LGD vested lands, where we have major problems with water and if they consider tying into a Conservation District with the rural municipalities the municipalities want no part of them really. Still when the water passes the escarpment up in the upper watersheds the water has to come down somewhere along the line, the LGD Councils are caught with a water problem, they are caught with a high or low assessment, high cost factor and these are the people that are actually being totally discriminated against. Nobody wants to form a district with them, it makes it extremely difficult and it had been hoped over the past years, as the government of the day then developed a program of selling Crown lands and the LGD vested lands in conjunction with the Tree Land Program, where a lot of development took place, in conjunction with the requirements for roads and drainage come with it.

Now the LGD's are faced with these problems here and I am just hoping that possibly — a regret was expressed that there is not more money there in these areas to further enhance or develop the Conservation Districts and I hope and want to just say to the Minister that if he can somewhere along the line work out an area where these people in the Local Government Districts can maybe get some assistance in terms of planning at least, a long-range planning for the drainage system in the area. We have, for example, the LGD of Stuartburn, of which 50 percent of the land is non-private owned, the LGD of Piney - 80 percent of the land is non-private owned and these people have major drainage problems and no sources to try and correct this. They have to rely on the Water Resources people to get involved, to do some long-range planning assisting them with the major programs, which will be beneficial to all of Manitoba including the people downstream from there.

MR. MACKLING: I think I'll just listen to these sub-

missions because I don't know how I respond to that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ANDY ANSTETT (Springfield): Mr. Chairman, I have several items I'd like to raise under this item. It may well be that a couple of these items should have been raised under 4.(c), when I was in the Chair. I hope, Mr. Chairman, you will allow me some latitude in that or re-direct me, so that I can discuss it later at the end of this Resolution.

The first matter relates to the Cooks Creek Conservation District and I'd like the Minister to confirm that a large portion of the grant funds that will be available to that district are not represented under this particular item but are represented under 4.(j) The Canada-Manitoba Water Development Agreement, which has shown a very, very substantial increase this year contrary to the suggestion of the Member for Lakeside, so that in actuality the grants that are going to be available to that particular district accurately reflect the suggestion of the Member for Lakeside that that program should be continued full-force and we should be enabling them to get on their feet. Can the Minister confirm that please?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I am advised that there is a provision for funding in the capital portion of these Estimates for the item that the honourable member refers to, you know, provided that it is proceeded with and that there would be money available in respect to that in the ongoing work in the Conservation Budget.

MR. ANSTETT: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I'd like the Minister to advise the Committee what the present policy is with respect to shared costs on bridge crossings in Conservation Districts, where districts have been established. I know there have been some concerns in a variety of Conservation Districts throughout the province over the formula that has been provided in the past for bridge crossings.

MR. MACKLING: My advice is that on artificial channels they are cost-shared; 70 percent provincial, 30 percent municipal up to the fourth order and then from there on, they're 100 percent provincial. Natural channel crossings are not funded by the province.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, is any consideration being given by the present government to providing funding for natural channel crossings where these are an integral part of the program that's been designed for water management within a Conservation District.

MR. MACKLING: The matter will be subject to further review.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, with regard to specifically the Cooks Creek Conservation District, can the Minister advise if the money which is apparently buried later on — shouldn't use that word, contained in — provided later on in Item No. 13, Acquisition and Construction of Physical Assets, does provide for the oft

referred to cordite drain or channel which was supposed to relieve some of the downstream pressure on the Cooks Creek Channel, a drain roughly parallel to Highway 15, north of that highway accessing the Red River Floodway just west of the Minister's personal residence?

MR. MACKLING: Subject to review, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect I asked the Minister if it was contained in the Capital Estimates for this year. Are those Estimates still being reviewed?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, when we get to the capital item, I could comment further. However, I'm prepared, as I indicated to all members, to comment when specific questions came up . . .

MR. ANSTETT: I have a specific question.

MR. MACKLING: . . . and it is my understanding there is a provision for monies, however all of that is subject to review.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, I still have some more questions. Will the Minister be able to advise when we get to Resolution No. 113, Resolution 113, the specific amount and the specific project approved in the Cooks Creek Conservation District with these capital funds?

MR. MACKLING: I will be in a position to review what projects have been approved and which ones are still under review at that point.

MR. ANSTETT: Thank you, Mr. Minister. With regard to the Conservation District shared-cost funding . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just to interrupt, I think they are having a difficult time taping with this conversation going on, so I think that you should go through the Chairman.

The Member for Springfield.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, I apologize, I thought I was waiting to be recognized and speaking only when recognized. —(Interjection)— The Honourable Member for Pembina chooses to describe himself.

Mr. Chairman, I have a concern that the policy being provided by the Conservation District Authority in Cooks Creek is one which is forced into an untenable position because they have several conflicting interests there in that they have a very desirable scenic creek valley, particularly from roughly the CP main line through to East Selkirk, and have experienced quite a bit of resistance — with which I am sure the previous Minister is familiar — with those people and councils involved in the lower reaches of the watershed to, as they describe it, turning what they consider to be a scenic resource into a wide drainage ditch. I have some concern, Mr. Chairman, as to what sort of planning and direction your department is providing in support to the Conservation Dis-

trict to alleviate this concern because of the tremendous volumes of water that have been occasioned by substantial land drainage and new land drainage in the southern reaches of the Cooks Creek Conservation District.

So, I suppose it's a twofold question. In addition to the Cordite Drain, which I certainly hope will be in those Capital Estimates, at least provision for some work there, I have some concern about the exact clearing policy that is being followed this winter by both departmental staff or Conservation District Authority staff. I'm not sure exactly who is doing this work, but I've received several complaints that the whole profile of vegetation along the banks of the creek is being destroyed in an aid to assisting drainage. So the fears of those people who had concerns about the turning of Cooks Creek into simply a drain for the land in the southern reaches of the watershed are possibly substantiated.

I am wondering if the Minister can clarify what the present policy is and exactly what's happening in that part of Cooks Creek which is heavily forested and contains a fairly extensive series of meanders through the northern portion of the RM of Springfield.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, the reason why the Cooks Creek development is under review is indicated, in part, by the questions that the honourable member has put to us. There are concerns as to the development and so that's why we are reviewing it.

MR. ANSTETT: Has the present work or the work that was under way in the month of February of this year been suspended pending the completion of that review?

MR. MACKLING: I understand that the work was ongoing in February was maintenance work by the Conservation District and had nothing to do with the major development.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, I accept the Minister's response. Some residents were concerned that this work was going beyond the level of maintenance and the brush clearing that was taking place was destroying some of the scenic beauty associated with the creek in that area. I trust that when we get to Resolution 113, the Minister's review will be at such a stage that he'll be able to report in more detail what he proposes to do.

Mr. Chairman, with regard to the question of Water Management more generally, I am not sure where the Red River Floodway and the management of that floodway fits in the Estimates. If it is at a later stage, I'll hold off my comments at this time but I have a concern, Mr. Chairman, that has been raised with regard to the fact that the floodway has incurred for many of the municipalities along its stretches, mainly in this case the RMs of Springfield and East St. Paul, certain service costs associated with dead-end roads and other things which create an additional burden on the municipality. Yet, the expropriating authority from the middle '60s did not see fit to provide any grants in lieu of taxes, however minimal. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member for Lakeside suggests that the New Democratic Party Government

which governed this province for eight years had sufficient time to clean up everything in this province that was wrong; even he knows that's not true. There were some things we weren't able to fix in those 8 years and we hope to fix in the next 12 or 16. Mr. Chairman, I am hoping that it won't take 12, 16 or 20 to fix the problem I am alluding to. I think there are some service costs associated with these RMs reaching areas that have been bisected by the floodway for which some grants in lieu of taxes might be considered.

I am wondering if this matter has been raised with the Minister or with his staff and if they have ever examined the question of what are the real service costs directly associated with the floodway for these municipalities, if any — it's alleged that there are some — and if there are these costs, what the department recommends with regard to providing some grants in lieu of taxes.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, in reverse order, certainly we will be prepared to look at that, see if there is some inequity in that. I gather that there in some cases provisions were made, others not, and we will certainly look at that.

In respect to the work that I referred to, we will check that. My understanding is that it is merely maintenance work; however, we'll review that and we'll be able to respond further on that.

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the area of East St. Paul immediately bordering the RM of St. Clements and the RM of Springfield, there is a drain recorded on the plans as drain no. 62. I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, with respect to that drain which I understand is a third order drain — I stand to be corrected on that — whether or not your department is planning on any improvements in that drain where it intersects the dual roadway, Highway 59. I submit that we may want to do some work there this year in view of the fact that much of the water which is being impounded behind the highway each spring in that area comes from Birds Hill Park, the RM of St. Clements and the RM of Springfield and yet it places a burden because of inadequate culverts provided when that highway was built — I believe in the middle '60s once again — and water is impounded in the RM of Springfield. I have a concern, Mr. Chairman, that this was improperly or inadequately done in the middle '60s and improper precautions taken for a situation which, as development occurs in that portion of the RM of Springfield and the R.M. of East St. Paul, has created a situation where, virtually every spring, water is impounded behind the highway in that area.

I understand that both the Department of Highways and your department are aware of the situation, that there have been some jurisdictional questions raised. I certainly would appreciate if the Minister could look into that question; I get the indication that is what he is prepared to do.

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Weber indicates that those concerns haven't got to his desk yet, but we've got it as notice now.

MR. ANSTETT: I will send him a copy of this Hansard. Mr. Chairman, the last item. In the Local Govern-

ment District of Reynolds, the area immediately surrounding the hamlet of Medica between the Birch and Whitemouth Rivers, the Local Government District has been involved in the sale of a fairly substantial amount of transferred Crown land which they received under the previous NDP administration and under the last Progressive Conservative administration in exchange for Crown land in Agassiz Forest. This land has been sold off according to the policy for transfer lands and a substantial amount of development has taken place in this area, to the point where the drain which drains this essentially an island area between the two rivers is considered by the municipality to warrant third order classification. I'm wondering if this has been raised with the department and whether there is consideration to giving this drain third order status?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm given to understand — Mr. Weber is not aware of it. It may have been raised at a lower level but it hasn't come to his desk yet. Again, if that question has been raised, he'll be seeing it.

MR. ANSTETT: I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister could advise what are the criteria for upgrading a municipal drain to third order status?

MR. MACKLING: Mr. Chairman, I'm advised that again, hearken back to questions I think that were put by the Member for Morris, the Member from Pembina about classification of drains, it's dependent along the status of the particular waterway or drain in the entire system. It has to be evaluated on the basis of its component of the entire system, not merely of itself

MR. ANSTETT: Mr. Chairman, if this drain is essentially a new drain draining new land and is isolated from the other drains because the river runs on both sides of this island of new development, what are the chances of that receiving third order classification.

MR. MACKLING: Well, Mr. Chairman, until we see the proposal we can't make an evaluation of it.

MR. ANSTETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Pembina.

MR. ORCHARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, the Minister obviously has a major problem in the RM of Springfield with the impoundment of water behind Hwy. 59 and if he would like to transpose that problem to the RM of Thompson we have a road and a ravine and the need for an impounding of water. So, anything you can pick up from your MLA would be most helpful in my constituency. —(Interjection)— Mr. Chairman, I heard some buzz down there, I don't know what it was.

Mr. Chairman, there was a question originally put there that the Springfield or the Cooks Creek Conservation District had some funding under Item 4.(j) that's not —(Interjection)— just under 13, not under 4.(j).

MR. MACKLING: Under 4.(j) there is — the Cooks Creek area is one of the Conservation Districts and

there is some money under that item — 12.(f)(3) Grants to Conservation Districts; part of that is in the Cooks Creek Conservation District.

MR. ORCHARD: But I take it then, Mr. Chairman, that there is nothing in 4.(j) The Canada-Manitoba Water Development Agreement.

MR. MACKLING: Canada Manitoba Water Development Agreement, nothing under that item.

MR. ORCHARD: I'll continue my questioning at 8:00 if you want to call it 5:30.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, one question before 5:30.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Lakeside.

MR. ENNS: Mr. Chairman, through you to the Minister, that drain that the Honourable Member for Springfield keeps referring to as the cordite drain, I believe in effect is a planned diversion to the Floodway. I would assume that diversion would have to go through the same exhaustive and lengthy Environmental Impact Review that the Member for Inkster suggested for the diversion from the Assiniboine to the LaSalle, so that it would be fair to assume that the Member for Springfield can look forward to the next three or four years before that project can be considered.

I would want the Member for Inkster to exert the same consistency of concern to the environment and not have the fact that the Member for Springfield is an NDP colleague of his and then close his eyes to the environmental concerns that bother me greater and obviously bother him greatly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hour is 5:30; we will reconvene at 8:00 p.m.

SUPPLY - COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORRECTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN, Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): I believe we're ready to resume. I direct your attention to Page 25, Item 4. Child and Family Services, Resolution 33, 4.(a), Salaries, the first one under discussion.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a major division, of course, of the Department of Community Services and Corrections and ranges over some of the most important responsibilities of the department; responsibilities for children and families, particularly for children at risk; those who come under the ageis of the Child Welfare Act; and those who are in the mainstream of the adoptive process; and those parents who require counselling and assistance in connection with the raising of their families. It bears considerable examination and exploration.

I note that, in terms of the administration, the sum being requested for 1982-83 is substantially the same as the sum voted in 1981-82. There is no change in the establishment of the administrative section of the branch. However, I would like to ask the Minister about a computerization program that was under way

in the department. There were plans for completing computerization of the statistical system and, there also was contemplated an increase in witness fees for physicians who were subpoenaed in neglect and abuse hearings. Also in this category, or perhaps it comes under 4.(b), Other Expenditures, is the ongoing cost for the column that's known as "A Child Who Waits," which is the regular print advertising message on behalf of hard-to-place children for whom the department and the government are seeking homes and parents. I wonder if the Minister could review just what is contemplated and included in these items having to do with Salaries and Other Expenditures and whether indeed those items that I have referred to are included in this year's programming plans?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister of Community Services and Corrections.

MR. EVANS: On the matter of computerization, I am advised that we are in preliminary stages still in preparing the records to be put on a computerized system; I suppose we're into the first stage. We doubt if it'll be completed this year but the staff are working on it and, in due course, it will be fully computerized.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a). The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Am I correct, Mr. Chairman, in my suggestion that there is no change in the staff complement or establishment of the divisional administration component?

MR. EVANS: I understand there's one term clerical position added on a part-time basis; one term clerical position, that person will be working on a part-time basis.

If I can add to that for a moment. I'm not sure that this is in the category that the honourable member is asking but in the item of Salaries there are — I guess this is not within the Government itself, but at the Seven Oaks Centre For Youth — I'm sorry, it's government, within the Seven Oaks Centre For Youth there are six new S.M.Y.'s.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, —(Interjection)— Six at the Seven Oaks Centre. We'll come to that when we reach Item 4.(e). On the administration side, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure that I'm clear, from the Minister's response, as to where we stand, for example, on the proposed increase in witness fees. Does he intend to deal with that under Other Expenditures?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(a)—pass 4.(b) Other Expenditures.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Other Expenditures, Mr. Chairman, would presumably include the costs of the computerization program and the increase in witness fees and the ongoing costs for The Child Who Waits column which appears in various newspapers. Can the Minister advise of the breakdown under Other Expendi-

tures, particularly with relevance for those three items, and identify the amounts in the appropriation that are directed to those three items in particular?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately I didn't hear all of the honourable member's remarks. I heard his remark regarding, I think he used the term witness fees for physicians, I'd like him to comment on that and then perhaps he'd like to ask me, again, the other two items.

There are no special or additional witness fees paid to physicians, as such, but what we are doing is recognizing the fact that physicians, having to be away from their regular practice at various hearings, need to have replacements. So, we're recognizing that as a cost. So there are \$40,000 in this item recognizing the fact that physicians are subpoenaed for these neglect and abuse hearings and then it's a real cost to them, so they can hire another physician to take their place while they're absent.

MR. SHERMAN: How is that money paid, Mr. Chairman, is that paid to the Manitoba Health Services Commission?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, it will be paid, due money; it will be paid to the Health Sciences Centre for this purpose.

MR. SHERMAN: It will be paid to the Health Sciences Centre not the Manitoba Health Services Commission. Is that correct? What is the going rate for those replacement fees? Are they paid on a sliding scale or is it so many dollars a day or what is it?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, we have had discussions with the Health Sciences Centre and they agree that \$40,000 is an adequate amount in total for this purpose. We will be turning it over to them and they will be distributing it presumably in a fair and equitable manner to assist these physicians who are undergoing additional costs.

MR. SHERMAN: And then is it under this line of Other Expenditures that the costs for the Computerization Program are also included?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, there is a provision for \$26,800 for further computerization of records.

MR. SHERMAN: Will that complete the Computerization Program? Actually it has to be maintained on an ongoing basis but does that bring it up to date?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am advised in the positive.

MR. SHERMAN: Then what else is in that Expenditures category, Mr. Chairman? I'm not talking about stationery supplies, but what other items equivalent to the two we've just discussed; is that where the ongoing costs for the column "A child who waits" would appear, for example, and are there other specific functions and programs of that kind?

MR. EVANS: Specifically, there are funds here for the

ongoing costs for the newspaper column "A child who waits," \$7,600. But the main, if I can just describe what is covered by Other Expenditures, it includes office and travel costs for the Central Directorate Staff and for the fees of the Treatment Panel members.

MR. SHERMAN: The fees of?

MR. EVANS: The Treatment Panel members. Under part 4 of the Act, the Treatment Panel is responsible for recommending a rehabilitation plan for each child committed to the care and custody of the Director. The Treatment Panel consists of seven members, five persons representing the disciplines of social work, psychology, education, psychiatry and juvenile probation services, and two persons considered suitable for panel membership.

MR. SHERMAN: Where do the expenditures of the Parent Aid Program come in, on this line or a different line?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, that is under (d) External Agencies.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

MR. SPEAKER: 4.(b) pass; 4.(c) Maintenance of Children — the Honourable Member for St. Norbert.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I assume that this would be the point at which I could ask the Minister some questions about his announcement on last Friday, I believe, related to the placement of Native children.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister's report, on page three, indicates that we have authorized a moratorium on the adoption of Indian children outside Manitoba's borders as announced by the Premier last week. I wonder if the Minister could inform me whether or not this includes children other than Native children. Will they still be eligible to be placed outside of Manitoba's borders, are those sorts of placements being approved now?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, it only relates to Indian children.

MR. MERCIER: So I take it then, Mr. Chairman, any child other than a Native child, where they are unable to find a home in Manitoba or in Canada, would continue to be placed in the United States as a last resort?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the statement by the Minister indicated on the previous page, at the bottom of page two, that 43 of the children placed in the United States or outside of Manitoba belong to brother and sister groups. I would ask the Minister, Mr. Chairman, if there is a family situation where a brother or sister has already been placed in the United States and there is an opportunity to place the brother or sister who has remained in Manitoba at this time, will that still continue? Will that sibling group still be allowed to be placed outside of Manitoba?

MR. EVANS: That is a problem area, Mr. Chairman. We actually did, and this was covered by my announcement, there was a case of additional children belonging to the same family who were slated for adoption by a family who happened to live just down the road from the other children, so we decided that it was of interest to the whole family of those children to allow the balance of the family to go and to be placed in another family albeit, but nevertheless a short distance down the road in this particular community in the State of Minnesota. Apart from that, I am advised there are no other, at least in the pipeline that I know of, there are no other situations of that nature that the member describes.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I just want to take a position with respect to the Minister's statement the other day. In using the departmental report which was distributed in the House, on page 30, which indicated that, "Efforts continued in encouraging Indian people or people of Native extraction to make application for purposes of adoption and considerable effort was made to place those children in Manitoba but they were unable to be placed in Manitoba." The Minister's statement which indicated that, "These out-of-province adoptions were authorized when no permanent adoption homes could be located in this province and because in the majority of cases the adopting parents were willing to welcome brother and sister groups and children with physical and mental handicaps into their homes." Then in the appendix, the attachment to his statement, where it is stated that, "It has been a regrettable pattern in Canada that adoption placement for sibling groups or hard to place children (those with physical or mental handicaps or older children) have been difficult to find. It is departmental policy to attempt to place sibling groups together in adopting homes." On page 4 of the attachment, "It is only at this point when no placement can be found in either Manitoba or other provinces that the Director of Child Welfare may authorize child caring agencies to register children with adoption agencies in the United States."

Mr. Chairman, my concern is that there has been no indication how long this moratorium will last. I hope, Mr. Chairman, that the statement of the Minister is not in any way associated with politics as being a response to a number of groups within Manitoba.

I hope, Mr. Chairman, that, in view of the departmental report and the statements the Minister has made himself, that this study will be undertaken and completed just as quickly as possible, because if there still are children in Manitoba who are unable to find a home in Manitoba and Canada, and for whom homes are available in the United States, then it is in the best interests of those children, Mr. Chairman, that they be placed immediately and as soon as possible in those homes.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister to indicate quite clearly that this report and review, which he has requested, be done just as quickly as possible. I appreciate the point that has been raised by Native organizations, Mr. Chairman, but the onus is on them, the onus is clearly on them to provide these homes, adequate homes, satisfactory homes for these children if they want them to remain in Manitoba. If there

are alternatives available which are much better than those that are existing or in fact no opportunities existing in Manitoba, then in the interests of those children they have to be looked after right away.

MR. EVANS: Well, as I indicated, Mr. Chairman, there were several children in the category of being placed. The preliminary work had been done and we deemed it advisable that the process be allowed to continue to completion and therefore those children are being placed. It was seven Indian or Native children.

As the member knows, there has been a great deal of concern expressed by representatives of the Indian community about the placement of the children of Indian origin, and one of the terms of reference is, and this was mentioned in my statement and we've asked the Committee to prepare a proposal for consideration to promote awareness of the need for Indian adoptive and foster parents and to encourage Indian families to offer their homes as placement resources. But it certainly would not be proper, in my view, to cause the moratorium to cease prior to this Committee's review. We want the judge and the Committee to review the situation expeditiously, but we must await the report of that Review Committee.

In the meantime, as I indicated, there are no children who have been prepared for adoption that are being held back, because I indicated just a minute ago there were seven involved and these are proceeding.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, is the Minister prepared to set a date, a deadline, for the Committee to complete this review and report, or does he have any idea how long it will take?

MR. EVANS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I hesitate to give the Committee a particular deadline. We can indicate to them our interest in them proceeding expeditiously, and I suppose it's with regard to the problem of adoption as it affects the moratorium. We could perhaps ask for an interim report if the Committee that is telling us it needs extra months or whatever additional time to complete the full review, but given the nature of the problem and the number of people that will be involved, it's very difficult for me to stand up and say that we will insist that we get a report in eight weeks or twelve weeks or whatever. Hopefully, with good will and giving this a priority, the Committee will work expeditiously and will get to a policy decision.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, I would ask the Minister if he would be prepared to undertake now, if the House is in Session, to distribute that report to all members of the House when he receives it, or if the House is not in Session, to forward it to all members of the House upon receipt of that report?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I would have no difficulty with that with the proviso that there is nothing contained in the report that would reflect on any individual family or include the names of children that may be used for examples and so on, and I think the honourable member would understand that, we want to protect the anonymity of the children involved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for

Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, continuing on the same subject area as my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert, the announcement by the Minister of the special review of this practise under Judge Kimelman indicated that Judge Kimelman is expected to complete that work within a few months. Whether that's precisely in the official statement or not I am not sure, but the Minister has been quoted as saying that the judge is expected to complete it within a few months. Can the Minister advise the Committee whether Judge Kimelman and others attached to that review are being advised by his office that, notwithstanding the fact that certainly intensive and conscientious work has to be done, I think for all concerned the fewer the months the better, that it is desirable that while a review be complete and conscientious that it take priority over as many other responsibilities as the judge has, as is possible, and that it be completed just as expeditiously as possible because of the interests of all persons associated and relevant to the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: Well, I think, as the member has indicated, all of us on both sides of the House would be anxious to see the report completed as soon as possible and this is the message we will give to the Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(c)—pass.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate whether there is a membership to the Review Committee other than Judge Kimelman himself? Will the judge be calling upon resource people and hearing submissions from groups that are invited to make representations only? That is, will he be doing that entirely by himself or is there a committee contemplated to work with Judge Kimelman?

MR. EVANS: Yes, there is a committee contemplated to work with Judge Kimelman. I believe some media reports on this indicated that certain Indian organizations, for example, would be available to give advice, etc. That is not the intention of the statement and I don't believe I've indicated that verbally either to the press; there was some misunderstanding. It will be a committee chaired by Judge Kimelman and it will include major Native organizations such as the Four Nations Confederacy and MKO which is the Northern organization. It will also include the Federal Department of Indian Affairs because they have a vital role in this, having the constitutional responsibility for Indian reserves and, of course, members of my own department, so there will be a broad group representing various interests. I failed to mention and I should have mentioned the Children's Aid Society of course for Winnipeg, specifically the Winnipeg Children's Aid Society in Western Manitoba, the Children's Aid Society. Of course, it may be possible that some groups may not be included on the committee but they'll certainly be asked to give their advice. There are certain Indian organizations that are not necessar-

ily an umbrella organization and sometimes — I'm not that clear as to the relationship of one group to another — but we can include every organization. We'll include the major Indian organizations and the major organizations that are not included will certainly be called upon to give advice.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, I'm pleased to hear that, Mr. Chairman, I think it's important that clarification be made by the Minister for the record because there might have been some impression left that, although representations would be invited fairly broadly, that participation might have been somewhat limited. The Minister has assured us in his statement of that fact and now has clarified it and declared it clearly for the record. It is important of course — it's not necessary for me to repeat what the Minister has said about it — that all relevant parties and particularly Native representatives have an opportunity to participate to the fullest in the review. The one danger of course, where the review that embraces a fairly broad spectrum of participants and representative delegations, is that it can be a rather lengthy process and confined itself in a rather lengthy course of action.

I wonder would the Minister consider easing or lifting the moratorium on out-of-province placement of Native children while the review is under way. The point I make here, Mr. Chairman, is that certainly there were valid concerns and anxieties that came to the surface when the reports of the out-of-province adoption practice first received wide publicity a week or so ago. I'm sure there were many persons who were not entirely aware that practice was taking place. That practice by itself and in itself is not necessarily bad; it's only bad if it is creating a disadvantage and difficulty for the Native community, for the children who were involved themselves and for those prospective adoptive parents in Manitoba who are on the waiting list to adopt children.

But because not too many people were fully aware that this was going on and because there were some financial figures attached to the process as it was described in the United States — legitimate as those financial figures may have been — there was considerable concern and anxiety. I think at that juncture the prudent move was to impose a moratorium while the government, while the province, while the Children's Aid Society, while Child and Family Services and the Director of Child Welfare had an opportunity to stop and take a look and assure themselves and assure all of us and assure all Manitobans that there was nothing amiss here. The fact that a review process has now been set up means that process will be carried out, that examination will be conducted. Those persons are very alert and very much attuned to the concerns and anxieties that have been raised and therefore will be pursuing the answers with all propriety and diligence. That being the case, I would hope that there are not going to be situations where Native children in this province are denied the home environment that can be made available to them through out-of-province adoption unfairly or unjustifiably.

If there are no homes for them, no adoptive parents for them, no foster environments for them available in Manitoba then as I think my colleague, the Honourable Member for St. Norbert, has suggested, it's in the

best interests of those children that a good home be found for them wherever it can be found. We would not want to see any process in place at the present time that denied one child that opportunity. In the light of all that and in this context then, Mr. Chairman, would the Minister with the reassurances he's given the Native community and the people of Manitoba that this whole subject area is being very closely investigated, would he consider that's sufficient action to justify a lifting of the moratorium, keeping in mind the fact that homes for these children have to be searched out with all diligence in Manitoba first, obviously? If they are not available in Manitoba, then they should be permitted to go to those good homes that are available to them. If there are things wrong with the system that will turn up in the course of the review study being conducted by Judge Kimelman, in the meantime those children won't be denied the placement that they deserve.

MR. EVANS: As we've indicated in the statement, the moratorium is in effect. I don't think it would be wise to lift it while we've asked the committee to review the situation. I think to some extent it would make a mockery of the mandate given to the committee because obviously — I'm not trying to prejudice what the committee is going to tell us, I have no idea — I would think that one option is that in future no children of Indian origin or any origin, I suppose, but we're dealing with Indian children, be placed outside of Canada. That is an option; I'm sure raising that, I'm not suggesting that's a good option. I'm just raising that hypothetically to say that I don't think it would be proper for us to lift the moratorium during the committee's work. As I said we hope the committee will work expeditiously and we'll get a report early. In the meantime, I'm just repeating myself, those that were in the pipeline so to speak, are being processed, are being looked after.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for St. Norbert.

MR. MERCIER: Mr. Chairman, the departmental report for 1981 indicates that the department worked closely with the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration in arranging for home study reports to facilitate the legal process of children entering into Manitoba. Could the Minister indicate how many children from outside of Manitoba, preferably outside of Canada, were adopted into Manitoba in the past year?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, we don't have that information.

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

MR. MERCIER: Can the Minister obtain that information or is it not available to his department?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I am advised we can get that information for the honourable member. We haven't got it here, but we'll get it for the member.

MR. MERCIER: I would appreciate it, Mr. Chairman,

if the Minister could provide that information prior to the end of his Estimates or, if not, later.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(c)—pass.

MR. EVANS: I reassure the honourable member we'll try to get it as soon as possible. It's possible we'll have it tomorrow; certainly, if not tomorrow, the next day. So, it'll be made available as soon as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister about the new Indian Child Welfare Agreement that has just been signed. Can he advise the Committee of when that agreement will come into place, come into force, and just how many Indian Bands in reserves in Manitoba will be covered by it and what the mechanics of the agreement entail; that is, from the point of view of the administration of Child Welfare Services by the Indian community itself and the method of funding by the provincial and federal governments?

MR. EVANS: As we announced at the time of the signing, Mr. Chairman, the entire administration that is envisaged in the master agreement will be financed by the Federal Government, the total operation will be federally financed. There are 33 bands involved and what it requires is a subsidiary agreement to be signed by each of these bands.

I might just add that we have in effect a pilot project which was put in place about a year ago, perhaps just a little less than a year ago, with the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council. So, that in effect, that agreement, that type of administration, I think, is sort of a pilot project and the member could look at that and I think that would give you a fairly good idea. It would give me a good idea as to how the others may proceed.

I want to emphasize though it is not incumbent on all of these bands to sign the agreement. If there should happen to be a particular band wherever in Manitoba who are part of the Four Nations Confederacy Organization but do not wish to participate in this, no one will be forcing them or requiring them to be participating. It's strictly optional on the part of the individual band or individual tribal council.

MR. SHERMAN: As I understand it, Mr. Chairman, the agreement is signed between the Four Nations Confederacy and the Provincial Government and the Federal Government. Is that correct? Now if all the relevant bands in the Four Nations Confederacy sign the subsidiary agreements and join the arrangement that would amount to 33 Indian bands in total. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, we can double check that, but we think it's around that number. Some of them are rather small, I would take it, but we do have a list somewhere and we could get it for the member if he wants to see the list of the actual organizations. But, we're going by what we understand is the number under the Four Nations Confederacy umbrella. We don't have any control over who's in or out of that

particular organization, but we believe that it is around 33, maybe to be on the safe side approximately 30, maybe we should say that to be on the safe side. But certainly it involves those bands and tribal councils that are essentially in the southern half of Manitoba and does not include the bands, the reserves that tend to be in what we refer to as Northern Manitoba, however you might define it.

These bands are part of the MKO organization; thus far at least, it has not seemed fit to sign a similar agreement. This may come to pass, but thus far at least they haven't indicated that they wish to sign a similar agreement. But, it's possible that this would happen at some future time.

MR. SHERMAN: Are there eight bands involved in the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Agreement?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes, so this would potentially be approximately 40 bands in central and southern Manitoba; the Four Nations Confederacy plus the eight Dakota Ojibway.

MR. EVANS: Thirty-three minus eight, twenty-five. Mr. Chairman, I understand, included in the 33 are the eight from the Dakota Ojibway. You've got to give us a little bit of leeway here, one or two or three.

I just might add for the member's information that the staff are now working on subsidiary agreements with tribal councils in the southeastern region, the Interlake region and in other parts of western Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: No subsidiary agreements have been signed as yet, is that correct?

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

MR. SHERMAN: Presumably, the pilot project which was launched under the previous government early last summer with the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council was successful and has provided the pattern for this kind of extension of the service and of the arrangement. Is the Minister aware of any similar initiatives that are being undertaken with respect to Indian bands and tribal councils in the northern part of the province?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, as I was indicating earlier, we have no agreement, there has been no clear indication of the wish of any band in the MKO group that wishes to sign this particular subsidiary agreement. This may change at some time but at the moment we're not working on any formal subsidiary agreement with any tribal council or any band which is not represented by the Four Nations Confederacy.

MR. SHERMAN: This service presumably is a social program and deals entirely with Indian Child Welfare. Are there any health components to it, whatsoever? Is there any health element?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, the short answer is, no. Just as a matter of interest, one could speculate that

possibly under this Review Committee headed by Judge Kimelman that it is a possibility, and I'm just speculating at this point and it's sheer speculation, I have to underline, that there may be some consideration by the MKO which will be on the Kimelman Committee. Maybe this will be a natural subject for them to consider if possibly this would come out of that.

MR. SHERMAN: Where would we deal in these particular Estimates, Mr. Chairman, with the question of infant mortality by region and, particularly, infant mortality on Indian reserves and unorganized territories. Technically, I recognize that paranatal mortality and mortality rates are a health problem, but the tables on infant mortality are of course included as part of the report of the Vital Statistics Branch in this department, Community Services and Corrections. I would just like to touch base with the Minister on the question of infant mortality and ask for your direction or his, sir, as to whether we should be dealing with it under this line or a different line.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, if I heard the honourable member correctly, I believe when he wants to question infant mortality problems, this is a matter that would be better dealt with by the Department of Health unless he wants the basic statistics. I imagine the statistics are available in documents or can be made available by special tabulations. If the member would like to indicate specifically — I guess we've already passed Vital Statistics, but no matter, you're asking for data — that data could perhaps be run off by special tabulation, but the administrative responsibility would be in the Department of Health.

Just to remind the member, the Child and Maternal Health Committee, which the Member for Fort Garry was instrumental in establishing, does report to the Minister of Health.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman, I know it's essentially a health subject. This is why I've argued that Vital Statistics should be in Health and not Community Services. I'm not sure that the Minister and his officials agree with me on that, but the fact is though that the mortality tables released by the Vital Statistics Branch appear in a report of this department, and what I'm concerned about are the regional anomalies and discrepancies, particularly with reference to the death rate on Indian reserves and unorganized territories. This is something of course that has concerned Ministers of Health and Ministers of Community Services in Manitoba for some time.

We had in very recent years made some substantial gains in lowering the infant mortality rate in Manitoba largely due to health programs that would be more logically discussed under the Estimates of the Department of Health, but because we've been looking at this Indian Child Welfare Agreement and the kinds of improvements and initiatives that we hoped that it will lead to on Indian reserves, ultimately in the north as well as in the south, I simply raise the question and raise the concern that the infant mortality rate for Indian reserves and unorganized territories is still alarmingly high, certainly not satisfactory as far

as I'm concerned. I'm sure it's not satisfactory as far as the Minister of Health and the Minister of Community Services are concerned. I'm wondering whether the Child Welfare Agreements which are being pursued contain within them in the Minister's view the opportunity and the hope for a more efficient and a more effective attack on this problem, whether those Child Welfare Agreements in the experience of the Minister's officials insofar as child welfare in remote areas is concerned, do hold out the promise of some substantial gains and improvements in the Indian reserve infant mortality rate.

MR. EVANS: I share the member's concern about the higher infant mortality ratios shown on reserves. I guess he was quoting from 4.(b) which is contained in the 1981 Annual Report of this department.

My understanding on infant mortality statistics relate to the mortality of infants more or less in the newborn stage, you know, however you classify or describe that. We're talking about the newborn, we're not talking about a family that's in the process of being raised and then we get into problems of whatever problems there are with the raising of children, or with the family unit, or whatever problems that family unit might have. So I'm not so sure whether the signing of these agreements — I don't know what bearing that will have on this particular problem. It seems to me it really is a layman, Mr. Chairman — that is something that has to be handled somehow by our health people along with the support I'm sure of the Department of Indian Affairs.

MR. SHERMAN: What the Minister says is correct, Mr. Chairman, insofar as his reference to newborn death rates are concerned, but we're also concerned with the paranatal death rate as well as the infant mortality death rate; the figures for infant deaths per 1,000 live births for Indian reserves and unorganized territories are absolutely unacceptable. So I would hope that we can look for some fallout even from these child welfare agreements that will produce an improvement in that sphere.

I'd agree that most of the responsibility lies on the Health side and the Indian Affairs Side. I will take the matter up with the Minister of Health in the Estimates of his department, but we've been dealing with Indian child welfare and these tables in this report deal with the infant mortality rate and paranatal mortality rate of Indians in the unorganized territories. I think the point needs to be made that child welfare no doubt goes beyond absolute and exclusive placement of children; it also extends, as I'm sure the officials of the department would agree, to care in all its aspects of children at risk. Obviously there is a major challenge still confronting us with children at risk in this category although, as I say, preceding successive governments have admitted it, have addressed it and have tried to bring it under control. The tables for the year ended December 31, 1981, indicate that we still have some distance to go in that respect.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the Minister about the new Child Protection Centre at the Health Sciences Centre and the Child Abuse Program and initiatives in that area in general. We had under the previous government begun the expansion of capabilities

at the Health Sciences Centre to deal with the Child Abuse Program and initiatives to put a . . .

MR. EVANS: Excuse me, on a point of order.

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

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I know how easy it is for us to move very easily from one topic to another and I know the honourable member is not doing it intentionally but when we get into the matter of the Health Sciences Centre — we're now on to External Agencies, I'm advised, so the honourable member is talking about External Agencies now — Health Sciences Centre is considered to be external to the department. I believe we're still on (c) the Maintenance of Children, unless the member wanted to go on to the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: No, that's fine, Mr. Chairman, but I want to deal with the child abuse problem and with the Child Protection Centre, and I would take your direction, or the Minister's, sir, as to where it is best examined under these Estimates. I had assumed it came under Maintenance of Children, but it can await a further appropriation line in the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the child welfare system came under some criticism a few weeks ago by a doctor at Children's Hospital. Dr. Charles Ferguson, who was the Director of Ambulatory Care at Children's, and by an inquest that was conducted into the death of a baby that was found dead in what was described in the Winnipeg Free Press as a "filthy north Winnipeg apartment." At that point during a day-long appearance giving testimony at the inquest, Dr. Ferguson cited a number of difficulties that he sees and experiences in terms of the mechanics and the bureaucracy, if you like, of the apprehension process where children at risk are concerned. The inquest was urged by that same pediatrician to set up a review of the child welfare system in Manitoba to examine the questions as to whether a review board should be established and whether, in fact, a final decisive and exclusive say on apprehension should rest entirely with the Children's Aid Society. I wonder if the Department of Community Services and Corrections and, in particular, the Child and Family Services Division have responded or reacted to that particular inquest and to that unfortunate case and whether they are contemplating or, indeed, at this point conducting such a review of the system.

MR. EVANS: First of all, I wanted to remind the member that the inquest hasn't been completed or at least we haven't had the report of the inquest. So, I believe the comments he refers to are the comments made to the inquest by a particular doctor; we will be looking for that inquest report as to the cause of death, et cetera. I'd just might remind the honourable member, or perhaps he was not aware of it, but there is apparently a Child Welfare Review Committee Board which is referred to in legislation but for some several years now there has never been any appoint-

ments to that board. It was deemed advisable to have such a board. I suppose you could say there is legislative authority in place for such a board to be flushed out and made operative, but for whatever reason — I'm not that familiar — that board has never been constituted. At any rate, we'll keep our options open and we'll await this inquest report.

MR. SHERMAN: I know that there is provision for the establishment of such a board under the legislation, Mr. Chairman, I also know that there has been no active or operative board for some period of time. There have been no appointments to it, but this is one of the specific aspects of the whole situation that Dr. Ferguson referred to, in particular. Agreed, the inquest has not completed its work, and the verdict and recommendations of the inquest have not been handed down, but Dr. Ferguson who toils in these vineyards 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has done for some many years and is involved with Dr. MacRae as the Minister knows in the Child Abuse Unit at the Health Sciences Centre was making recommendations of his own to the inquest and had some fairly significant things to say about the situation as reflected in the circumstances of that particular baby's death. My question is whether the department, or the division, the Minister and his officials, at this juncture, regardless of what the inquest says, have any intention of initiating the kind of review that Dr. Ferguson calls for?

Certainly no one is attempting to prejudge the inquest but notwithstanding what the inquest says, I believe that if a person as experienced as Dr. Ferguson, a person who has been exposed to the system to the extent that he has over the years, makes those kinds of recommendations in a day long, virtually day long appearance in testifying at the inquest, then they bear some serious consideration by the division and by the department. Is the division either embarked upon or contemplating that kind of an internal review?

MR. EVANS: There have been various suggestions made along these lines over the years I understand, even a suggestion at some point that there be a children's Ombudsman which could even cover this type of thing. But I believe Dr. Ferguson is in a particular situation, doing the work that he's doing, where he sees the very worst situations of child neglect, child abuse. It is a very serious matter to take an infant away from its natural mother; it's a very very serious matter. No matter how badly that mother has acted in the past, one cannot prejudge how a person will act in the future; however, this decision was made by the appropriate Children's Aid authorities at that time. However, I don't want to get into the details of this particular case beyond that. I just want to say that there should be and we'd like to encourage joint involvement in the decision making, the physicians on the one hand and the Children's Aid social workers on the other. We would like them to go forward in a co-operative manner and indeed my deputy has had meetings with both groups, if you like, trying to encourage joint involvement, but I think we will see what happens in the inquest. I don't want to prejudge the findings of the inquest and certainly we're all concerned about deaths of this nature; there's no ques-

tions about it and we want to have the best apparatus in place that will ensure that we make the right decisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(c)—pass.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, are there additional funds and resources being made available this year for staff training and orientation for family services and Winnipeg homemakers and for increased per diem rates at foster homes and child-caring institutions?

MR. EVANS: Yes, there are provisions for substantial increases; Special Dependent Care, an increase of \$168,100; Regular and Special Rate Foster Care and Homemaker Services, there is an increase of \$884,700; there are various other increases involved as well. There are funds, and this we can discuss under External Agencies, for child abuse and we can discuss this when we get into the External Agencies — the Children's Centre for Child Protection.

MR. SHERMAN: How many Child and Family Service workers do we have at the present time and how many do we contemplate in 1982-83, Mr. Chairman? The Minister supplied me with a breakdown of staff man years for the department in total, but I'm not sure whether the line relative to Child and Family Services has to do with Child and Family Service workers or whether that includes some administration and some term personnel.

MR. EVANS: As the honourable member knows, Mr. Chairman, the CAS, the Children's Aid Society have their own staff although we fund them just about 100 percent, nevertheless, they do their own hiring and firing. They have their own Board of Directors and they make these kinds of decisions.

The northern part of the province, and again as the member should be familiar, Mr. Chairman, is looked after directly by the field staff in the Department of Community Services and Corrections and I can advise him we have 86 Child and Family Service workers providing services through the regional offices. I haven't got the information with regard to CAS in Winnipeg or CAS in western Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: No, it's the departmental ones I wanted, Mr. Chairman. I understand the Minister said there are 86 in that category.

MR. EVANS: Yes, in Northern Manitoba.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I need some advice from the Chair or from the Minister here when we start dealing with the various Children's Aid Societies. Do you want to deal with them under External Agencies or Maintenance of Children? They apply in both categories, both areas.

Mr. Chairman, maybe I ought to put the question in better perspective for the Minister. I'm interested in the budgets for the Children's Aid Societies; for example, Maintenance of Children was budgeted in print for 1981-82 at \$24.5 million; this year it's bud-

geted at \$29 million which is an increase of \$4.5 million. I'm not objecting to that, but I want to know where it's going and I want to know where the various Children's Aid Societies are with respect to their budgets. Now, the Minister may feel that should be dealt with under External Agencies, but since they are agencies that are responsible for the maintenance of children, I'm asking whether we should be dealing with it here.

MR. EVANS: The costs of looking after the children, Mr. Chairman, are in (c). The staff of CAS is in (d); the staff salaries of the Children's Aid Societies is in (d) External Agencies; but monies required directly for the children's welfare are paid under (c), under Maintenance of Children. There's a breakdown which we can give you, if you wish; I've mentioned them partly before; I said Regular and Special Rate Foster Care and Homemaker Services for 1982-83 was \$7,541,100, that's an \$884,700 increase over the previous year; Group Homes \$8,958,300 which is an increase of \$1,015,700 over the previous year; Institutions \$8,500,900 which is an increase of \$1,825,500 over the previous year, quite a substantial increase; and we have Out-of-Province Placements \$616,100, an increase of \$287,600 over the previous year; Special Dependent Care \$2,395,600, which is \$168,100 over the previous year - that's essentially the Family Service of Winnipeg, the homemaking services that they provide; Big Brothers-Big Sisters Organization \$142,200, being an increase of \$59,000 over the previous year; and Probation Placements \$890,000, being an increase of \$307,800 over the previous year.

If you add these all up you'll see the increase in 1982-83 over the previous year is 18.1 percent.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I thank the Minister for that information. I'd like to ask him whether, in this area of Maintenance of Children, whether any of the Children's Aid Societies, for example, Central, Eastern, Western or Winnipeg came in under budget or came in over budget for 1981-82?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, yes, they're basically usually on budget; some are little under, some are a little over, but the 1981-82 fiscal year is not completed yet, and if there is an overpayment then they pay us back; if it's the other way around, if we underbudget and they find that they've got more real expenses that they had incurred, then we have to give them another advance. But I'm advised that generally they are about on target.

MR. SHERMAN: What about Jewish Child and Family Services? They had a funding shortfall a couple of years ago; there was an attempt made in 1981-82 to make that up. Does the Minister have a reading on their position at the present time for 1981-82, the end of which year is just a couple of weeks away and a budget figure for them for 1982-83?

MR. EVANS: The question was whether the Jewish Child and Family Services was on budget this particular year?

MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

MR. EVANS: Well again, we haven't completed the fiscal year so I'm not sure whether we have that information. I can advise the member if he's interested, this is the first statistic that I gave him on Regular and Special Rate Foster Care and Homemaker Services. Some of this is carried on by Children's Aid Societies around the province and so part of that 7.5 million goes through Children's Aid and I can advise them that there is that amount — \$4,360,000 — is paid to the various Children's Aid Societies, including the Jewish Child and Family Services. The Jewish Child and Family Services in 1982-83 are budgeted for \$99,500 which is up over the \$82,400 of 1981-82. So, these are payments made for certain child maintenance that's carried on by these agencies.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, the basic question really, Mr. Chairman, is whether the appropriations being requested for these five agencies in particular, the Children's Aid Societies and the Jewish Child and Family Services for 1982-83, are built from a base that appears to have proven reasonable in 1981-82, or whether they include a catch-up because of budgetary difficulties that any of those agencies are reporting for the 1981-82 year. I recognize that the fiscal year isn't over for another two weeks but the Minister and the department have certainly had contact with those agencies in the past three months which is the final quarter of the fiscal year, and thus the reason for my question, Mr. Chairman.

MR. EVANS: I can just advise the member that under External Agencies (d), we have in that item the monies available for the Children's Aid Society to pay their salaries, and this is where we get into the question of whether they are over or under budgeted. I can give the member information on what we are budgeting for this year as opposed to last year, and as can be expected it includes an increase, quite a substantial increase in some cases, particularly for Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, but this is where we get into the problems of over and under budgeting, I understand, as opposed to payments directly for services rendered for the maintenance of children.

MR. SHERMAN: But what we're dealing with on this line are payments related directly to services provided to children, and those payments add up to certain sums of money and the Minister has outlined those sums of money for the Committee. I can leave the question till the line on External Agencies, Mr. Chairman, but I didn't feel that I was transgressing the lines of the Estimates in asking it, because we're looking at two different types of expenditures; one related to staff on the provision of services related directly to children. Appropriations reflect two things: they reflect cost-price increases, or decreases, as the case may be but in this day and age it's increases, and they reflect increased or reduced caseloads. Hence I was simply trying to satisfy myself that the appropriations being sought under this line for these agencies, were based on a consistency in caseload and budgeting which was drawn from the 1981-82 structure. If the Minister prefers to deal with that under External Agencies I can do so, but I simply want to know whether there have been expansions required in

terms of services because of increased caseloads and as a consequence budgetary difficulties, that are being accommodated through the appropriations being requested this year or whether the appropriations being requested this year on this line simply have to do essentially with cost-price increase.

MR. EVANS: As the statistical increase would indicate to the member, when you talk about an 18.1 percent increase in this category, Line (c), you are talking about more than just inflation, inflation running around 12-13 percent. So, there is roughly, let's say, a 5 percent increase for program expansion. The caseload as such, has remained fairly constant. The number of children in care by placement as of December 31, 1980 was 2,317, and as of December 31, 1981 it was 2,318, so a change of one, virtually static. As a matter of interest in 1979 it was higher; it was 2,512.

I'm not quite sure how this fits in but I have to comment that under the Maintenance of Children, some of the workload has been taken over by the Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services in Southwestern Manitoba, and we said earlier that this is being funded directly by the Federal Government. So, there is a slight change there, but I could indicate to the member some of the increases.

Oh, just a matter of clarification, under (c), as I understand it, these are the monies for the shelter of the children. Under (d), we're talking about the field costs, the staff costs, and so on; so that's the differential. But talking about the maintenance of children; the Children's Home of Winnipeg, which is an agency governed by its own Board of Directors, and provides residential treatment to 36 emotionally disturbed or multiply handicapped children in six residences and it provides day treatment and other services to children who are not in residential care. We're increasing their grant from \$1,981,400 to \$2,412,700.00. This is quite a substantial increase.

Knowles Centre, which is again funded by provincial grants, provides residential services in three on-campus units for 36 children with severe behavioural and emotional problems. The grant is going up from \$1,195,700 to \$1,424,800.00.

Marymount is administered by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and provides residential and day treatment services for emotionally disturbed children. They have four houses that complement the main facility for 65 girls in Winnipeg. They have 8 boys who are also served in a group home in The Pas and the monies we provide also supports an expanding program to develop foster home resources in the North capable of caring for children who would otherwise be placed in Winnipeg, so their funding goes up from \$2,028,900 to \$2,708,300.00.

Sir Hugh John MacDonald Hostel, again with its own Board of Directors, provides residential treatment services for 50 severely disturbed or delinquent adolescents in four residences in the City of Winnipeg and a wilderness camp in rural Manitoba and goes from \$1,469,400 to \$1,955,100.00. So this is our best estimate of the amount of monies we think will satisfy the increased needs of these particular institutions.

I could go over some of the other highlights just picking out a couple of the larger ones. Special De-

pendent Care, that's the family services of Winnipeg, there's an increase there — I don't know whether the member wants all these figures — but there's a substantial increase for private group homes. We've got 291 beds in private group homes serving an average of 262 children and that's going up from four — I'm going to round this off — from \$4.4 million to \$4.8 million. Agency group homes goes up by a substantial amount and so does Juvenile Probation Placements. There's a foster home rate increase which is going to cost us somewhere between \$500,000 and \$600,000, so there's a substantial increase for these agencies and programs.

MR. SHERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the Minister for that information. We hadn't actually got to the Child Caring Institutions at the point at which he began to address my question but he has covered them fairly completely now in terms of the funding increases being sought for 1982-83 over the year just ending. I'd like to deal with those Child Caring Institutions for a moment.

The Children's Home of Winnipeg had some difficulties for awhile. Certainly they had budgetary difficulties in the course of the last few years and I think there was some difficulty in terms of the administration of the Home and the precise control that the Board had over the operations of the Home. I remember some considerable review and discussion of the Children's Home situation at the time I was Minister but I of course was not Minister of this particular Department after November, 1979, so I'm not familiar to any great degree with what has happened to Children's Home since. Can the Minister advise whether those difficulties appear to have been resolved and if the Children's Home is functioning viably from a financial point of view?

MR. EVANS: I heard part of the question but not all of it so I wonder if the honourable member could kindly repeat.

MR. SHERMAN: Can the Minister advise, Mr. Chairman, whether the Children's Home is functioning viably from an administrative and financial point of view? It had some difficulties a couple of years ago.

MR. EVANS: As far as programming goes, Mr. Chairman, we're quite satisfied but there are ongoing discussions about general administrative and financial methods. As I said there's quite a substantial increase on our part for the Children's Home this year amounting to well over \$400,000, about \$440,000 or roughly in that area. This is quite a substantial increase, nearly a 20 percent increase.

I just might add that in total line (c) Maintenance of Children, you'll note that it works out to exactly an 18.1 percent increase. I remind the honourable member quite substantially more than the 11 percent increase that he was referring to in our total budget. As I indicated earlier that 11 percent increase looks like that because of the overbudgeting for the CRISP program last year which was not taken up, so there's 18.1 percent there and you'll see the total for this line is 18.7 percent, so it's quite a substantial increase in funding for Child and Family Services.

Part of the problem with the Children's Home of Winnipeg is that — and I'm not faulting or anything — but they do get some Federal assistance, they latch into Federal programs and we sometimes have a problem keeping up with them.

MR. SHERMAN: The main question, Mr. Chairman, is whether the Children's Home is back on track in terms of administrative and financial efficiency. The Minister has pointed out that they're receiving a substantial increase in the 1982-83 budget. I think the budgeted figure for 1981-82 was \$1,195,000.00. Did they or are they at this point in time, two weeks away from the end of the fiscal year, on budget or under budget or are they over budget? Just a very few years ago they were having substantial deficit difficulties and it wasn't necessarily attributable to the budget figure that had been assigned them. There were difficulties in terms of the management and administration of the Home.

MR. EVAN: Mr. Chairman, we can't advise the member about the 1981-82 financial situation, we just don't have that information. We're working on this now with the Children's Home of Winnipeg. Therefore, the amounts I stated for 1982-83 are sort of a guesstimate based on what we think is an adequate amount.

There are no problems directly, as I understand, in administering their program of Maintenance of Children or indeed the finances involved with that but they do engage in other external programs and day programs, and this I understand is sometimes where they have some problem. They're into educational programs with the Winnipeg School Division, for example. But in terms of the Maintenance of Children directly in the narrower mandate that they have, I believe they're financially all right.

MR. SHERMAN: If the Minister says that he can't advise me of where the Children's Home of Winnipeg stands financially or budget-wise at the present time, I have to assume then that the Board of the Children's Home has not been in to see him or its officials in the last three months. I have to assume then that they're not in any great difficulty.

I will proceed on that assumption, but certainly the question is valid because in the case of previous Ministers, the Children's Home was in, on a number of occasions with considerable difficulties. If the Minister hasn't heard from them, then I hope we can assume that no news is good news.

MR. EVANS: Right on.

MR. SHERMAN: Right on? Well, I just have one word of caution for the Minister of Community Services and Corrections, Mr. Chairman. In that department, no news is not necessarily good news, but we'll proceed on that assumption for the moment. No news, very often in that department, means there is incipient trouble just about to explode but people are keeping it under wraps. Not the department officials, but perhaps somewhere out in the community.

At the Knowles Centre, Mr. Chairman, we were into, fairly recently some long-term planning and I think, if memory serves, there were some difficulties relative to the operation to the facility who would run it, and

whether there was a proper capability to take care of health requirements, whether in fact, there should be any health capability in the Centre. I may be in error in my recollection of the situation at the Knowles Centre, but I put that position as a question to the Minister and ask him whether that was the case, and if so, whether it is still the case?

MR. EVANS: We are moving, Mr. Chairman, to cause this to be a Centre for the treatment of emotionally disturbed children, to provide a very high level of service but that's about it. We are working on that. There are no psychiatrists on staff, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: Are there any psychologists on staff?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: The position that I recall relative to Knowles was that the Centre wanted to be able to provide treatment services to children right on-site within the Centre, and that was going to require psychologists and possibly some other health services.

They were talking about certain specific specialized services. That was part and parcel of sort of a long-term planning and reorganization and reorientation approach that was being pursued at least in the discussion stage, where the Knowles Centre is concerned. It was going to shift the emphasis of the Centre's capabilities somewhat, and the Centre's functions somewhat from that of a conventional child-caring institution to one that provided some specialized services in the health field, particularly as I say, in the psychiatric field although I don't think we ever talked about psychiatrists, we talked about psychologists. —(Interjection)—

The Minister says yes, there is a psychologist now at the Knowles Centre, and I wonder if he could just advise the Committee how far this initiative for specialized service has proceeded, whether there are additional objectives in that vein that are still being pursued.

MR. EVANS: Yes, they are handling children who are more disturbed, and they are planning to take on heavier type of load.

Now I just might add for the information of the member, that the Manitoba Health Services Commission are providing we advise, funding for 25 beds of psychiatric treatment facility for adolescents. This is part of the health system so we may get some help in that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now 4:30 and time for Private Members Hour and so in accordance with Rule 19.(2), I am interrupting the proceedings and we will return at the call of the House.

IN SESSION

MR. SPEAKER: The Honourable Member for Springfield.

MR. ANDY ANSTETT (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of any matters on the Order Paper

with respect to Private Members' Hour, I would ask for leave for Members of the House to proceed into Committee of Supply again and continue on again this evening in Committee.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, if such leave is agreeable, I would also propose that we would adjourn the House at this time and proceed back into Committee of Supply much as we have in the past, although we adjourned at 5:30 after the completion of Private Members' Hour.

So, Mr. Speaker, if there are no objections and that's agreed, I will move, seconded by the Honourable Member for St. Norbert that the House do now adjourn.

MOTION presented and carried and the House adjourned and stands adjourned until 2:00 p.m. tomorrow. (Tuesday)

The House will continue in Committee until 5:30 and then reconvene at 8:00 p.m., also in Committee. (Agreed)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I call the Committee back to order. We were considering Item 4.(c), Maintenance of Children, under Resolution 33.

The Honourable Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has made an interesting point about care of severely emotionally disturbed juveniles or adolescents and I'm interested, of course, in the capability of some child caring institution — in this case, the relevant one we're dealing with is the Knowles Centre — to be able to cope with this problem.

When we get to the item which appears under this line, but a few paragraphs later on in the Estimates preparation book, the question of out-of-province placements is one that I want to touch base with him on, but the point that he just made is an important one and I am very proud to have had some considerable association with it myself.

There is an adolescent psychiatric facility being built that will be adjacent to the Health Sciences Centre and will accommodate 25 severely emotionally disturbed adolescents on a relatively long-term care basis. Can the Knowles Centre accommodate that kind of young person, a severely emotionally disturbed juvenile?

MR. EVANS: The answer to the member's question is no, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to remind the member, too, that this 20-bed facility that we talked of, treatment facility, will have a day program which we can tie into.

The other point I'd make is that the various agencies here, various institutions, can and do obtain a psychiatrist on a fee-for-service basis as, if and when required.

MR. SHERMAN: But is there an intention to give the Knowles Centre the capability of dealing with severely emotionally disturbed adolescents virtually on a one-on-one basis.

MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chairman. We're hoping to get that service out of the Treatment Centre.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, at one point in time there was an additional child caring institution in Winnipeg, it was St. Joseph's Home on Portage Avenue just opposite the Polo Park complex; it was subsequently sold and phased out of the child caring institution stream, but there was consideration at the time given to having it converted into a facility for mentally retarded persons, I think young mentally retarded, and it was to be operated by a Roman Catholic Order of Nuns. Has this taken place?

MR. EVANS: Yes, the facility of course is no longer, but the nuns in question are operating a group home for the mentally retarded, for mentally retarded children.

MR. SHERMAN: Where did the young people who were in St. Joseph's Home go? Were they young people who were simply there under the aegis of the Child Welfare Act; or were there some who were there in connection with the Juvenile Delinquents Act?

MR. EVANS: They were all under the Child Welfare Act. Some went to foster care; some went to group homes; some went back to their families; so they are widely dispersed.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, can the Minister advise the current situation with respect to out of province placements. Approximately a dozen children, as I recall in the last year or two on an annual basis, were in placement out-of-province in facilities for severely emotionally disturbed adolescents in other parts of North America, most of those centres are in the United States. What is the count of such children who are in out-of-province placement at the present time from Manitoba?

MR. EVANS: 20, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: Is there a demand for out-of-province placement from other families; is there a waiting list for that kind of placement?

MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: Just to refresh my memory, because I remind the Minister that I haven't had that much direct contact with this department for two years, what is the mechanism for getting a young person into out-of-province placement? Presumably, most of them would come through the Manitoba Youth Centre and through the authorities responsible for the enforcement of the Juvenile Delinquents Act, is that correct?

MR. EVANS: I'm advised that there is a treatment panel involved and it recommends to the Director of Child Welfare in these cases.

I just might add that if this psychiatric treatment facility does its job or does the job expected of it, it's possible that we might reduce the 20, the 20 children we're talking about of course are people that have particular very special emotional problems, very very difficult case itself. It is possible through the services and the co-operation of my good friend the Minister of

Health that we will cope with this problem and reduce the number.

MR. SHERMAN: Well how long does a young person, who is in the Youth Centre and who is a legitimate candidate for placement in such a facility, have to wait to be processed through the treatment panel and get into such a facility?

I recognize we are treading into Juvenile Corrections here which is also another part of this department but not under this line, Mr. Chairman, but there is a relationship because we're dealing with out-of-province placements. I might say I am familiar with a case or two of young people who are in the Youth Centre and who are in need of this kind of special treatment. Up to this point in time it has not been available in Manitoba; it's not available anywhere in Western Canada, in fact, I'm not sure that it's even available anywhere in Canada so the placements have generally been in the United States; and the new adolescent psychiatric facility will help us cope with the problem, but pending that the only recourse has been this channel of out of province placement.

I wonder if the Minister can advise how long a young person who, for example, is in the Youth Centre, and has had some psychiatric treatment in the Youth Centre, and who is certainly acknowledged to qualify as being in need of this kind of placement, has to wait before they get into that stream. The Minister said a few moments ago that there's no waiting list.

MR. EVANS: Well, I understand that there's really no waiting at the panel level. As soon as the child caring agency or the institution involved advises the panel of the problem, the panel can deal with it very expeditiously. They meet once a week. They normally look to see whether there are other facilities around the country that can cope with the particular child involved and failing that, of course, then they recommend the placement outside of the province. But there is no delay or bottleneck at the panel level whatsoever.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, there was some consideration being given to an increase in the unit rate that is paid to the Big Brothers Organization — I guess the Big Brothers and the Big Sisters — the Minister has referred to the fact that the funding for Big Brothers and Big Sisters is going to be increased this year, but does that include an increase in the unit rate? The unit rate has been \$50.00 per unit since 1975 — I might say that it was the intention of the previous administration to raise that unit rate in 1982-83 — is the new government going to do that?

MR. EVANS: There is a rate for each match and we're raising it from \$50.00 to \$75.00.

MR. SHERMAN: \$50.00 to \$75.00.

MR. EVANS: I might add, in total the Big Brothers and Big Sisters will go from \$83,200 — and this is our best estimate because what we estimate for a payout may not come about because there may not be that many matches or whatever — the organization in total, this is for the Winnipeg, Brandon and Winkler organizations, and two Big Sister organizations in Winnipeg,

this goes from \$83,200 last year to \$142,200 for the year 1982-83, again a very substantial increase.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, the Minister has indicated that the per diem to be paid private group homes and agency group homes will increase in 1982-83 over 1981-82 and he's given us those figures. Have the total numbers of beds available in the private group home spectrum and the agency group home spectrum increased over the past year?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, Mr. Conrad Santos (Burrrows): Minister of Community Services.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I advise that there has been a decrease in the number of beds in these private group homes and the reason is because there has been a drop in the need, or a drop in the demand if you want, for these kinds of facilities.

MR. SHERMAN: There's been a drop in beds in the private group homes. What about the agency group homes? Has there been any change there?

MR. EVANS: A minor decrease.

MR. SHERMAN: The foster home rate increase has been increased according to the Minister's earlier statement to the House, could the Minister refresh the Committee's memory with respect to the size of that increase, the percentage increase, both for the rates that are paid for foster homes and for the clothing rate that is paid for all children in foster care?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, the foster home boarder room rate is increased between 12 and 13 percent, and the clothing rate about 20 percent. I just might add that there is provision for an increase under foster home rates because we have provided for a new majority allowance, age of majority allowance. It was found that children when they reach 18, they leave the child welfare system as they become adults and they are expected to be on their own.

Sometimes it is found that these persons who have just left being adolescents and immediately become adults do not have financial resources to strike it on their own. It was deemed advisable — and I have agreed to provide a bit of money to help them get established on their own — we have provided for a rate of about \$400 per client and it's referred to as a New Age of Majority Allowance. So that is built into this figure of foster home rate increase besides those percentages I mentioned.

MR. SHERMAN: I'm pleased to hear that, Mr. Chairman, that was going to be my next question, whether there was an age of majority allowance? Did I hear the Minister correctly when he said that the age of majority allowance is set at \$400 per client?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, precisely \$402 per client.

MR. SHERMAN: Well, that's a significant assist for those young people in making that transition, I compliment the Minister and the department on that.

Mr. Chairman, in recent years, at least in very recent

years there had been an increase in the number of court order placements in the field of juvenile probation placements and there also was some pressure on the department resulting from the fact that escort costs had remained at pretty much the same level for some time. Can the Minister advise the Committee what the changes are in funding under juvenile probation placements, whether they are redesigned to address an increase in the number of placements and an increase in escort costs?

MR. CHAIRMAN, Mr. Jerry T. Storie (Flin Flon): The Honourable Minister.

MR. EVANS: The short answer is yes, there is a provision. If the member is interested in total, we'll be going from \$582,000 in 1981-82 to \$890,000 in 1982-83. It does reflect a larger number of children using the placement resources.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I got up because I was going to ask a couple of questions relative to External Agencies and we're not at that line yet, we're still on Maintenance of Children. I'm prepared to pass that line, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 4.(c)—pass; 4.(d) External Agencies.

The Member for Fort Garry.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, would the Minister remind us of the number? I think he's given it but I haven't been able to locate it in the assembly of papers that I've got on my desk here, would he remind us of the number of children placed for adoption in 1981?

MR. EVAN: 406, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SHERMAN: I beg your pardon.

MR. EVAN: 406.

MR. SHERMAN: 406. That represents a substantial reduction over previous years, in fact, it reflects a continuing downward trend in the number of placements for adoption, from 553 in 1976 down to 406 in 1981. Does this mean, Mr. Chairman, that fewer children are coming into the prospective adoptive stream or that fewer prospective adoptive parents are making themselves available to the division?

MR. EVANS: There are many parents around who are ready to adopt children, but there has been a reduction in the birth rate which is a common phenomenon in our modern society, and also there's a greater ability on the part of women, in particular, to maintain their children together even though she may be a single support parent, nevertheless, there's a greater ability for that woman to keep her children. So that may be another reason why there is a reduction in the number of children placed for adoption, but there are many many reasons, I'm sure the honourable member could sit down and think of a few additional. There are various reasons; there's no one particular reason.

MR. SHERMAN: There may be many reasons, Mr. Chairman, but I would suggest that a reduction in the birth rate isn't one of them, certainly not according to the Department's own report and vital statistics figures, not between 1976 and 1981. Certainly there is a reduction in the birth rate between 1946 and 1981, but in the last five years there's been no significant difference and yet there's been a continuing decline in the numbers placed for adoption.

MR. EVAN: But adoptions are all ages up to eighteen.

MR. SHERMAN: I grant that, but the Minister suggested that one of the reasons was a reduction in the birth rate; I would agree there are a number of reasons. I was interested in his suggestions as to what some of those reasons may have been. It's encouraging to hear that it's the Department's experience that some single parent mothers are finding it easier now, or at least more practical now, to keep their babies and their children rather than giving them up for adoption.

What's the situation with respect to the waiting list of prospective adoptive parents in the province who are anxious to adopt and qualified to adopt? Is that list greater than it has been in the past? How many couples would there be on that list? What's the average waiting time? Can the Minister give the members some information on that, Mr. Chairman?

MR. EVANS: If we're talking about normal children then there's a great demand by prospective adoptive parents, but there again it's very difficult to put precise time on it. It could be from tomorrow to three years from now; people can wait up to three years depending on the condition of the child. If the child is healthy, normal — whatever normal means — young infant, then there's a great demand. But as the member obviously understands, I'm sure he understands, the children who we've had difficulty in placing and some of whom, incidentally, end up for adoption outside Manitoba are those who do have many handicaps; some being mentally retarded, some being crippled, handicapped; some being members of a larger group that must be kept together, sibling children and so on. For the so-called normal infant, particularly the young baby, very healthy, normal, then there could be a long waiting list as I've said, a long period of time for those prospective adopting parents.

MR. SHERMAN: Are any persons in that position of waiting in what could, at least, be described as frustration and probably be described as disappointment, as a result of out-of-province placement of children?

MR. EVANS: Nothing could be further from the case. The fact is that the out-of-province children, the children who have been placed for adoption out-of-province are the children who have been, I might say, unfortunately, not acceptable apparently to the people of Manitoba; they've been rejected. As the member knows, there's an adoption bulletin that goes out at least twice a month throughout the province, including Indian Reserves and then, failing that, there's the ads in the daily newspaper and, again, people of the province are reminded that there are children avail-

able for adoption. But unfortunately, the people of Manitoba collectively are not apparently prepared to adopt certain of these children so, as a very last resort, and this has gone on for years and the honourable member should know the process quite well, perhaps better than I do, unfortunately then they are placed out of the province; but maybe not so unfortunately. I would advise it's in the better interests of the child to have the child in a permanent adopted home rather than in a foster home. I'm not knocking foster homes, but it generally tends to be better for a child to be placed in a permanent setting rather than in perhaps a very temporary setting, namely, a foster home.

At any rate, there is no shortage of parents if a child comes along who is in the so-called normal, healthy category.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree with the Minister that it's better to place a child in a permanent home than in a foster home and subject him or her to a possible cycle of placements and replacements that can have a very traumatic effect on the development of a child; I agree with what he says in that respect. I just want to satisfy myself and those many hundreds, and I believe they are many hundreds, of childless couples who do qualify as good potential parents, that they are not being forced to wait because of a procedural preference that finds some children who might be likely prospects for adoption by them put into the out-of-province adoption stream. The Minister has assured us that is not the case and I think that's an important assurance, an important point to have on the record.

Can the Minister advise the Committee, Mr. Chairman, how we're doing with our Special Needs Adoption Program?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, I don't have the numbers available but we can advise the member that generally there's been a good response to the advertisements placed in the newspapers.

MR. SHERMAN: It's the intention of the Department I trust, and the division I trust, to continue in that Special Needs Adoption advertising campaign.

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, not only do we want to continue this but possibly provide for expansion of this emanating from recommendations and considerations of the Kimelman Committee that we've just set up.

MR. SHERMAN: How many children would there be — or is it possible for the Minister to answer this question, Mr. Chairman — in the Special Needs category on an average monthly basis waiting for adoption?

MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman, it ranges between 70 and 100. At the moment, it's probably around 70.

MR. SHERMAN: How many such children would be placed on an average basis per month, two or three, or would it be more than that?

MR. EVANS: Our guesstimate is about eight a month

on the average. Is that satisfactory or does the member want additional detail?

MR. SHERMAN: Is the Division aware of any particular techniques that other provinces or other jurisdictions have applied in this field of Special Needs Adoptions that have been significantly successful or that suggest to the Manitoba Government some approaches that we might try here to improve the placement of these Special Needs cases?

MR. EVANS: I don't know that we're aware of anything magical that goes on outside of Manitoba that we could adopt or that we could follow — if that's not a Freudian slip I don't know what it is — that we could emulate. We don't know of anything that's especially good that we should follow — the newspaper ads and I guess a year or two ago there was a TV ad program — it's a matter of making the public aware that the children are available for adoption. I think that's the key.

I'm reminded that there's probably an area of controversy and that is the whole matter of subsidized adoption. It's something that should be explored at least and I hate to think of having to pay people to permanently adopt a child.

On the other hand you could argue that there are people in our society who get family allowances, who get the child-related Income Support Program and many many other credits because they happen to have X number of children, so this is something that could be explored. I'm not really advocating it at this point. I'm just saying that's an area that could be looked into and this could perhaps provide a home for these children in Manitoba as opposed to having them leave the province.

MR. SHERMAN: Do Native children normally fall into the category or classification of Special Needs Adoptions or do Special Needs just apply to disabilities or to situations such as sibling relationships that should not be broken up?

MR. EVANS: No, the criteria isn't being Native. Many of them happen to be Native children but that isn't the category. There could be different reasons; a multiple handicapped person, one who is emotionally disturbed and physically handicapped, retarded — that's another category — a mentally retarded child. There are children who come to us from all kinds of racial backgrounds.

I'm reminded that the major reason for children being placed out — the major not the only — but the major reason for children being placed out of the province because we haven't been successful in placing them in the province is the fact that they are among sibling groups. In other words, there's two or three or four children in one group and we'd like to keep them together. If we are successful in finding a home wherever it is taking that group, then that group has been allowed to go to that home wherever it is, whatever part of this good world in which we live, mainly North America.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, could we look at the Children's Aid Societies and the Jewish Child and Family Service again now under this line? We did look

at them under the Maintenance of Children line having to do with the appropriations being requested for provision of funding for direct provision of service to children. What about the funding provisions being sought here with respect to the staffing establishments of the Children's Aid Societies and the Jewish Child and Family Service?

The increases in the appropriations which the Minister referred to individually earlier and which are incorporated in the overall \$1.5 million increase in the vote for this particular line provided in the 1982-83 Estimates, presumably relate in large part to staffing support expansions in those five agencies, CAS Central, Eastern, Western, Winnipeg and Jewish Child and Family. Could the Minister advise the Committee of the formulation of that increase?

MR. EVANS: I could advise that there have been increases for every Children's Aid Society and for the Jewish Child and Family Service if for no other reason because of inflation but there are increases right along the list here. I'll just single out those who are adding to the staff; the Children's Aid Society of Eastern Manitoba, we're providing for monies so that they might hire one new staff person; the Children's Aid Society of Western Manitoba, we're including monies for three new staff positions, and the Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, we're providing for expansion for five new staff positions, and some additional money for cost of office expansion and some renovations necessary, renovations that began last year I understand. So that, all in all, the External Agencies go from \$7.8 million last year to \$9.2 million this year. These are monies to cover their administrative costs and their field services.

MR. SHERMAN: Where do we stand on the Parent Aid Demonstration Project, Mr. Chairman? Is this one of the External Agencies that is covered by this line?

MR. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, last year the Health Sciences Centre Parent Aid Demonstration Project received \$101,500, or at least that was the amount budgeted, and this year we have \$111,600.00. This is a project working with abusing parents and their children in the home and in the Health Sciences Centre Day Nursery and it's the second year of the demonstration project.

MR. SHERMAN: A Parent Aid Demonstration Project as I recall, has to do specifically with child abuse. Is that correct?

MR. EVANS: Yes.

MR. SHERMAN: Yes. The Minister and his officials are nodding their heads. And it deals with those parents who are involved in child abuse, which leads us into the whole area of child abuse, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the Minister about the special centre, Child Abuse Centre, that has been established, or is in the process of being established at the Health Sciences Centre under Drs. Ferguson and MacRae and I think Dr. Longstaffe. Because it doesn't appear as a specific in the Estimates, could the Minister advise the Committee of the progress to date in establishing this

special centre, and the funding for it, and the nature of its relationship with the Children's Aid Societies and the Child and Family Services Division of this department?

MR. EVANS: I'm pleased that the Member asked the question. The Child Protection Centre is just being set up and as the member knows, it's to co-ordinate, assess and treat abused children and the monies provided for this year are in the order of \$95,000.00, but this is not a complete year. We expect by 1983-84 it'll be more in the nature of \$150,000 that will be required as an operating amount.

MR. SHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, how will the Child Protection Centre function with relation to the Division of Child and Family Services, and the Children's Aid Societies? Is there a liaison in terms of a discipline to be pursued? By discipline I mean science and function, or will the Child Protection Centre operate independently and exclusively with its own clientele?

MR. EVANS: No, Mr. Chairman, they will not work independently in an isolation of all the agencies, and so on. In effect, they will be servicing the whole child welfare system.

MR. SHERMAN: So the Children's Aid Society or the Director of Child Welfare would, on the basis of supportable evidence or indication that they had encountered, recommend to the Child Protection Centre that they act in such a way as to apprehend a child to protect him or her from child abuse. Is that the way it would work? Or is it that the children who are apprehended through the Children's Hospital or through the Children's Aid Societies or wherever, who have suffered from child abuse, will then be referred to the Child Protection Centre? Precisely how is the operation going to function and tie together?

MR. EVANS: It's a two-way street, the hospital personnel may refer to the Children's Aid Society, the Children's Aid Society may call upon the Child Protection Centre. I might also add that the Centre is a co-ordination centre and will assess and treat children and generally give advice, so it has more of a general mandate, not simply the treatment of an abused child but generally to give advice and generally to co-ordinate, and actually, as I understand it, to fit in to the whole system, the whole network that's out there.

MR. SHERMAN: Mister Chairman, I want to go back to Dr. Charles Ferguson again. Now, I referred to him earlier in connection with a proposal for review of the child welfare system. Dr. Ferguson, who is certainly experienced and knowledgeable in this field, has offered the opinion that one of the great difficulties of getting at child abuse, and getting control of the problem and that very tragic social illness, lies in the record-keeping system; that for example, the Children's Hospital keeps very intensive and very detailed records of child-abuse cases that come before them that they identify in their regular pediatric routine, but that many of the agencies, Children's Aid Societies

and other agencies in the field, have a major problem in keeping records. They don't really enjoy a very good tracking system of these children and of these cases. In fact, I think it was Dr. Ferguson who suggested not long ago that many of the child-abuse victims who come before him and his colleagues at the Children's Hospital have been abused before, that they're there in a physically, emotionally, or sexually abused condition for at least the second time, and perhaps for even the third or fourth time.

Will the Centre and will the mechanics for liaison between the Division and Children's Aid Society and the Centre itself referred to by the Minister a moment or two ago, be developing any kind of a format or any kind of a procedure or register for upgrading and intensifying and reinforcing this tracking system so that kid's, who at this very moment as we stand here and debate this item are being tortured, will not have to go through it three or four times before they are identified and before some protection is afforded them?

MR. EVANS: It's a large area of concern that the member is dwelling on. Certainly there is an effort made to have better sharing of information between the various agencies. I am advised that the Children's Aid Society records are available and this Centre that we talked about earlier, the Child Protection Centre, one of its functions will be to assess, assemble, analyze data and information about the children.

There is a problem too in knowing and not knowing just what has been the cause of a child's ailment — the broken bone or the whatever it is, the cut or whatever ailment the child comes into the hospital with — sometimes it is not directly available. The information is not directly available as to the cause of that injury or that ailment or whatever.

I might add that there are problems of sharing of information, not only between the hospitals and the other agencies, but there are problems between the different hospitals. One hospital may not share with another hospital. It goes back to the question of confidentiality in some cases and it goes back to the matter of patients' rights, the right of the patient to have confidentiality. So it's not an easy problem.

It is a problem I suppose, that it's the old conflict of social security and everything it entails versus the right of an individual to live a free life in a democratic society. I mean, to what extent does and should the state move in, in this area? I mean you and I can agree that we need maximum protection of children to prevent abuse but then there is the other problem that arises and that is on the other side of the question of the patients' rights — or the parents' rights maybe I don't know — to families' rights to confidentiality of records.

So it is not an easy problem and it is not just a matter of the hospitals out there versus agencies, there are problems of the sharing of information between one hospital and the other.

MR. SHERMAN: I agree that it is not an easy problem, Mr. Chairman. I know it's very complex and I know that there are a number of conflicting fields of authority and autonomy that are involved but I don't think the Minister needs to be reminded that it is not an easy

problem for the children who are being abused either. The rationale is unarguable. The reasons for establishing a Child Protection Centre are very clear and bipartisan and I think all members on both sides of this House support and endorse the concept.

I am not advocating invasion of privacy but I am advocating protection of those who can't protect themselves in the same way that the Minister would argue that someone must speak for the mentally retarded. There is no disputing that somebody must speak for the mentally retarded.

So the Minister and the rest of us in this House and Dr. McRae and Dr. Ferguson have been doing it for years must speak for the abused child, who can't speak for himself or herself, or who is intimidated to such an extent that even if they could speak for themselves they are afraid to do so.

I don't think that we can go around invading people's privacy before the event but it is certainly desperately important that we prevent the repetition of the event after there is clear evidence that a child is living in an environment where he or she is subjected to abuse. So I would hope that the Minister, while respecting the rights and freedoms that he talks about will also address himself in the mirror and remind himself that he has to protect the rights and freedoms of those children who can't protect them for themselves.

I think that public opinion in that field would be with him, even those who are most strenuously opposed to any kind of intrusion on other members of society; I think would support him in an intrusion that were designed to prevent harm to a small person who could not protect or defend himself or herself. So I hope if the Minister errs he errs on that side and not on the side of so-called protection of privacy and freedom of privacy.

Will the Centre be dealing with such parents as would normally be clientele of the Parent Aid Project in addition to striving to identify and protect the children who were hurt?

Is it part of the function and the terms of reference of this Centre to work with parents who for various reasons, some of them beyond their control, have abused their children? Will they be working with the Parent Aid Program?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member for Ellice.

MR. CORRIN: Yes, I am finding this discussion very interesting, Mr. Chairperson, very interesting in the context of the fact and to the best of my knowledge that there is legislation in this province. As matter of fact I think legislation put on the book say even by the Honourable Member for Fort Garry, when he was then Minister of Community Services that requires the disclosure and it's a punishable offence if someone does not. It requires the disclosure by any person who becomes aware of the abuse of a child to the authorities.

In that context I find it somewhat difficult to understand and appreciate some of his concerns because in this province, as I understand it, a person with that sort of knowledge is duty bound to transmit it to the authorities and presumably if the authorities if they feel that there is a case to be made, will deal responsi-

bly with it. In so doing, if there is a prosecution, if that prosecution is successful, presumption is that there is a public record of evidencing the fact of child abuse in the form of a criminal assault, assault causing bodily harm against a person of a child.

So I'm sympathetic to the ends and purposes expressed by the Member for Fort Garry, but on the other hand, one doesn't know how far one has to go in order to assure the protection of children, when there is in existence legislation which provides that sort of safeguard and security. I felt that when I was on that side that the best defence of the rights of children in this respect, was a vigilant enforcement of the law. In speaking, I can remember one occasion quite clearly in discussion, or almost a debate, I suppose, with the Honourable Attorney-General. We discussed the merits of the policy approach taken by members of his Criminal Branch in prosecuting cases of this sort. At that time I felt quite strongly that a case was a case, and if the facts as were disclosed to the police supported a prosecution, that a prosecution should go forward notwithstanding the consideration of the effects on the family. I felt that the best possible protection and safeguard for children, was a full disclosure of information and a record if necessary, a criminal record, evidence as a result of a successful prosecution in the courts.

So I say to my friends that they can't have it both ways. When they were in government they wanted what I perceived as a very relaxed approach to law enforcement in this area, and in Opposition I say to them that it seems to me to be somewhat — I'm not going to use the work hypocritical because I don't think that's the intention or that there's any sort of deceit involved — somewhat unusual that they should be taking this other position which would seem to require even more disclosure, more intrusion into the domain of public confidence, private information and confidence. So I just want to put that on record, that I see a very distinct reversal in terms of their approach, and in terms of their presentation in this vitally important area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please, the hour is 5:30 I will be leaving the Chair and return at 8 o'clock